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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2023	LS160.9712/US\$1.00	LS163.0494US\$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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Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

Court prepared for 2023 elections

-CJ Yuoh

Speaker optimistic of transparent elections



House Speaker Bhofal Chambers

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Continental News

Burkina Faso expels correspondents from French newspapers

Burkina Faso has expelled journalists from two leading French newspapers, in the latest move against France by

Douce said plain-clothed security officers had visited her house on Saturday and said her accreditation was being withdrawn.

journalists is the latest sign that Capt Ibrahim Traoré's regime is cracking down on French media.

It had earlier suspended broadcasts of two state-owned media outlets, France 24 and Radio France International (RFI).

France 24 was suspended last month after the authorities accused it of being a "communications agency" of the militants by broadcasting an interview with the head of al-Qaeda's North Africa wing, Yezid Mebarek, who is also known as Abu Ubaydah Yusuf al-Anabi.

France 24 described the allegation as defamatory, saying it had never invited the al-Qaeda leader to speak directly on its programmes, and had "simply reported his words in the form of a column, ensuring the necessary distance and context".

In December, RFI was suspended after being accused of broadcasting false reports, which it denied.

Burkina Faso was once a staunch ally of France, but the military regime has been turning its back on the former colonial power.

Instead, it is seen to be strengthening ties with Russia in a bid to defeat militant Islamists who have wreaked havoc across the region.

In February, French troops pulled out after the regime asked them to leave. BBC



Burkina Faso has been taking a tough line against France since Capt Ibrahim Traoré (C) took power last year

Burkina Faso's military junta.

Sophie Douce of Le Monde and Agnès Faivre of Libération arrived in Paris after being given 24 hours to leave.

The expulsions follow the publication of a Libération investigation into a video which showed children being executed in military barracks.

The authorities described it as manipulation disguised as journalism.

The two newspapers condemned the expulsions as a major setback for press freedom in the former French colony.

Douce's reporting "obviously ended up seeming unbearable" to the military regime that seized power in a coup last September, Le Monde's Director Jérôme Fenoglio said in a statement.

Libération said the investigation by Faivre into children and adolescents allegedly being killed in a military barracks was likely to have displeased the authorities.

"These restrictions on freedom of information are unacceptable and the sign of a power that refuses to allow its actions to be questioned," it said.

The expulsion of the

Oscar Pistorius parole bid collapses in South Africa

Oscar Pistorius's bid for parole collapsed in South Africa after it was revealed he had not yet served enough time to qualify for early release.

The 36-year-old former Paralympian is serving 13 years for the murder of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in 2013.

The parole board met to hear evidence, including from Pistorius and Ms Steenkamp's mother.

But instead of giving a decision afterwards, embarrassed officials admitted their timings had been wrong.

Earlier this week, they had received, but ignored, a letter from South Africa's top appeals court, which explained that Pistorius needed to spend another year and a half in prison before he could be considered for parole.

The hearing at Atteridgeville prison, a low-security facility in rolling fields just outside the

city of Pretoria, should never have happened.

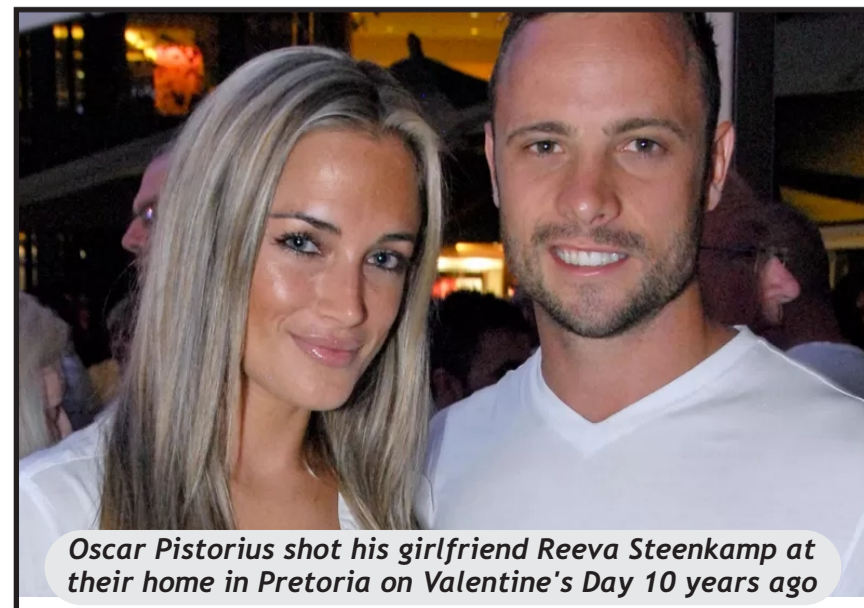
For weeks, officials had insisted the amputee former sprinter was eligible to apply for parole, having served half his sentence.

The confusion stems from the fact that Pistorius's time in prison has been broken up by appeals and by a period of house arrest.

There is disagreement about where to draw the halfway line.

Pistorius's family have expressed dismay and are seeking legal clarification.

It has been an emotional day for the Steenkamp family, who have welcomed the fact that Pistorius will not be yet be freed. BBC



Oscar Pistorius shot his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp at their home in Pretoria on Valentine's Day 10 years ago

China's loans to Africa worry World Bank President David Malpass

The president of the World Bank has told the BBC that he is concerned about some of the loans China has been making to developing economies in Africa.

David Malpass says the terms and conditions need to be "more transparent".

It comes amid worries that countries including Ghana and Zambia are struggling to repay their debts to Beijing.

China says that any such lending is done within international rules.

Developing countries often borrow money from other nations or multilateral bodies to finance sectors that will grow their economies such as infrastructure, education and agriculture.

However steep increases in interest rates in the US and other major economies over

Accra, she said "America will be guided not by what we can do for our African partners, but what we can do with our African partners".

While highlighting a new nickel processing facility in Tanzania Ms Harris said the project would be supplying the US and other markets by 2026 and that it would "help address the climate crisis, build resilient global supply chains, and create new industries and jobs".

That collaborative approach was praised by Mr Malpass who said the competition between the world's two biggest economies was "maybe healthy for developing countries" as it provided different options.

"What I encourage strongly is that they be transparent in their contracts. That's been one of the problems; if you write a contract and say 'but don't show it to anybody else', that's a minus. So get away from that."

There was also a warning that "for governments in Africa, they



World Bank President David Malpass has been in Niamey this week promoting education as a tool for economic development

the last year are making loan repayments more expensive because lots of that borrowing is done in foreign currencies such as US dollars or euros.

It is a particularly acute problem for developing economies who can struggle to find the extra money that is required as the relative value of their own currency falls.

It is a "double whammy and it means that [economic] growth is going to be slower", says Mr Malpass.

Tackling that challenge and its consequences was one of the main reasons for this week's visit by US Vice-President Kamala Harris to three African countries. It is a visit that comes with big commitments of financial support to Tanzania and Ghana.

There is a growing rivalry with China for influence in the continent, whose abundance of natural resources include the metals, such as nickel, crucial for the batteries needed for technology such as electric cars.

Speaking in Ghana's capital,

shouldn't be offering collateral as an inducement to make a loan, because it locks it up for generations. That's been happening with China."

Beijing has become one of the biggest sources for loans to developing economies in recent years. A new study led by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy shows that globally China lent \$185bn (£150bn) in bailouts to 22 countries between 2016 and 2021.

Mr Malpass said the problems were not unique to Chinese financing but things were improving.

"If you think of the history of Western lending, sometimes it's not for the full benefit of the people in the countries [being lent to]. Even World Bank loans haven't always been for the best that could have been done in a country."

"So what we're trying to do, and I think everyone should be trying to do, is improve the quality of the lending.

"One of the techniques is to unbundle the loan, meaning if there's an investment project, let's say you're building a train, describe the project and what the cost will be. And then separately, arrange the financing. BBC

EDITORIAL

Minister Ansu Sonii's US\$3 billion request is lip service

US\$3 BILLION recently requested by the minister of education D. Ansu Sonii, to put Liberia's education system on par with international standards is just not realistic, but mere lip service to such an important sector. The amount being requested by the minister is over three hundred times the country's budget, which is unattainable in this century and perhaps century to come.

IT, THEREFORE, presupposes that Liberia may not even get on par with countries in the subregion lest to talk of global standards.

What minister Sonii is not saying or failed to acknowledge is lack of political will by government to improve education in Liberia. All that is being said about tuition-freed public universities, payment of WASSCE fees, and free public schools are cosmetic. The crust of the challenges in the sector are still glaring and enormous.

WE NEED a complete overhaul of the education curriculum from primary to tertiary level with vigorous move towards staff development and competence. As it is presently, all that we have are round pegs in square holes.

THE EDUCATION minister is not telling Liberians what he is doing with money being allotted for education in the national budget, when public schools across the country are dilapidated, leaving poor students to learn in an uncondusive environment with poor-quality lesson presentation due to unqualified staff.

THIS YEAR, US\$50 million has been allotted in the national budget for education. What will this amount be expended on when thousands of supposedly teachers in public schools are not on payroll, but are yet expected to remain professional?

AMID THE poor state of the education system, universities and colleges are springing up everywhere under the watch of the ministry of education. Attempt by the Commission on Higher Education recently to apply the standard or demand qualifications require for those serving as presidents and vice presidents of universities in the country was aborted by minister Sonii. The ministry does not need US\$3 billion to enforce this simple policy.

HOW DO we improve performance of students, particularly 12th graders writing the WASSCE when the Head of WAEC Liberia Dale Gbotoe is lamenting on dismal performance in the sciences that should be crucial area of concentration in our schools? What plans are there to tailor the curriculum towards WASSCE and prepare teachers to present lessons that would address this deficiency?

MINISTER SONII should be talking about ways in addressing pressing challenges confronting the sector than requesting money that he has no plan for. Instead, it is political will that is lacking.

IT DID not take Ghana quarter of a billion to have its student pass the recent WASSCE with the highest overall score in the entire subregion. This enviable achievement was as the result of dedication, sincerity, and love for country.

UNLESS WE Liberians stop paying lip service to critical areas such as education, health and security, among others, we are not going anywhere as a nation.

COMMENTARY

By Ricardo Hausmann

Dodgy Climate Finance

CAMBRIDGE - Suppose you wanted to impress the entire world with your generosity. Donating a ton of gold to charity would certainly attract a lot of attention. But suppose you had only a kilogram of gold. How would you achieve the same effect? After all, a ton sounds much better - a thousand times better, actually - than a kilogram. In that case, you could say you are donating a ton of gold and sugar and remain vague about the proportions.

This is precisely the tactic now playing out in the world of climate finance. During November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, South Africa launched its Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, based on \$8.5 billion in grants and loans from the United States, the European Union, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. A week later, the US, Japan, the EU, and several other governments pledged \$20 billion to accelerate Indonesia's transition from coal to clean energy.

The goal of these financing packages is to enable an inclusive net-zero transition. Indonesia and South Africa still rely primarily on coal-fired power plants that can produce cheap electricity for many years to come but also emit massive amounts of greenhouse gases. Having accumulated significant debts building these plants, the national power companies (and the governments that would be tasked with bailing them out) depend on earnings from cheap electricity production to manage debt-servicing costs. To reduce emissions, wealthy countries are seeking to encourage Indonesia and South Africa to invest in renewables so that dirty plants can be decommissioned sooner.

This is a laudable goal. But the announcements misrepresent the amount of assistance being provided. While it may seem that South Africa and Indonesia have been given billions of dollars, wealthy countries are effectively promising to provide gold and sugar while deliberately trying to hide the fact that they are actually offering mostly sugar.

Announcements of new Just Energy Transition Partnerships typically speak of an indeterminate blend of grants, concessional and ordinary commercial loans, World Bank loans and guarantees, and private-sector equity. But these forms of financing could not be more different from one another.

Suppose, for example, that the billions of dollars mentioned in one of these announcements were given to Indonesia or South Africa as a grant. In that case, after the money has been disbursed and used to build new clean-energy generation capacity, the recipient country would be left with an old coal-fired plant it does not use, a new plant for which it owes nothing, and the old, coal-related debt it must

service.

By contrast, if the country receives a commercial loan, it will be left with both the old and new debts but with just one plant to generate the revenue needed to repay them. To be sure, Indonesia and South Africa can access financial markets independently. But to self-fund decarbonization, they would have to keep a lid on the total amount of debt that they take on and cut back on other borrowing. For this reason, including grants and commercial loans in the same package is akin to adding sugar to gold.

Concessional loans are a bit different. While the recipient country would be left with two loans and just one operating plant, the debt is less onerous because it is cheaper than what the government could have obtained on its own. Such loans are typically counted in terms of the net present value of the implicit subsidy, which is a function of the loan's maturity and the difference between the market rate and the concessional rate (none of which are public).

Guarantees are somewhat similar. For example, if a country or a multilateral institution such as the World Bank guarantees a loan, the recipient government obtains a benefit equal to the difference in the interest rate at which it can borrow on its own and that of the guarantor. In the case of Indonesia, for example, this difference is barely 153 basis points vis-à-vis the US, meaning that the subsidy component is a small fraction of the guarantee's face value.

Like commercial loans, equity investments should not be counted at all, even if the investors have signed on to the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero initiative. While equity investors take on more risk, they also expect higher returns. That would force recipient countries to service their old coal debts and pay high dividends to make the equity investment viable.

Lastly, while World Bank loans are slightly cheaper than what South Africa could get independently, there is presumably a limit to how much it could borrow. Just Energy Transition programs must be accompanied by increased World Bank lending to recipient countries. Otherwise, these countries would need to refrain from making critical investments in water, education, and infrastructure. This would not help them reduce their net-zero transition costs.

In sum, announcements of Just Energy Transition Partnerships use economically meaningless amounts that merely sound big. Unless this practice is stopped, future programs will contain less gold and more sugar. Just as the world has improved carbon accounting, it must do better at determining the efficacy of climate finance.

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Wanted: Vladimir Putin

LONDON - The internet has recently been flooded with AI-generated images of Russian President Vladimir Putin being put on trial or incarcerated. But while the images are fake, international criminal justice is becoming a reality. On March 17, after years of being mired in controversy and crisis, the International Criminal Court surprised the world by formally indicting Putin and issuing a warrant for his arrest.

The ICC's specific charge - that Putin is responsible for the unlawful abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia, in violation of both the Rome Statute and the Geneva Conventions - addresses only a fraction of the offenses he has committed. Putin and his inner circle are morally, and probably legally, responsible for countless war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of genocide. Yet, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky observed, the warrant represents "a historic decision," not because it guarantees an arrest or trial, but because it sets a new precedent.

Although Putin is not the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the ICC - he shares this dubious distinction with despots like former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi - he is certainly the most prominent. After all, unlike Russia, Sudan and Libya are not permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

To be sure, some skeptics have dismissed the warrant as being merely symbolic, noting that many leading global powers - including the United States, China, and India - are not even parties to the ICC. Russia itself does not recognize the authority of the court (the Kremlin declared the warrant "null and void"), and the Russian constitution prohibits the extradition of its citizens. As a nuclear power and a major global supplier of hydrocarbons, Russia has ample means with which to threaten anyone who seeks to bring its leaders to justice. Former Russian President Dimitri Medvedev has already mused about launching missile strikes on the ICC building in the Hague.

Yet it is indisputable that ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan has broken new ground, shaking up the long-running debate among legal scholars about whether international law really counts as law. For most states, might ultimately makes right, which is why the nineteenth-century positivist legal theorist John Austin referred to international law as "law improperly so called." Even more moderate legal philosophers like H.L.A. Hart were suspicious of international law, referring to it as a "set of rules" rather than a "legal system."

Persistent doubts about the authority of international law stem from the fact that it typically plays second fiddle to national will. In the case of the Putin indictment, Ukraine has accepted the court's jurisdiction over its territory; but by choosing to assert its authority over a non-member state's nationals, the ICC is sending a message that consent to its jurisdiction is not decisive. Moreover, by challenging the dangerous, longstanding notion that heads of state should be immune from prosecution, the ICC is chipping away further at the centrality of state sovereignty.

Coming 13 months after Russia's unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the ICC's actions signal a decisive shift both in the war and in international law. Having been issued to raise awareness, increase vigilance, and "prevent future crimes," the warrant is intended to rouse the international community's moral imagination. But more than that, the act of specifying the crimes committed against the Ukrainian population is an important component of restorative justice.

The ICC's investigation into Russian war crimes was prompted by requests from around 40 of its 123 members, and the warrant now requires all members to detain Putin and hand him over to the Court if he sets foot on their territory. While the odds of this happening are low, the case of Slobodan Milošević, the former Yugoslavian president who died in ICC custody, demonstrates that the threat is not empty.

In the interim, Putin will be an even greater international pariah, substantially limited in his ability to take to the world stage. His attendance at the BRICS summit in South Africa in August or the G20 summit in India in September would create a vexing diplomatic dilemma for his hosts. The warrant forces the international community to pick sides (as the United States, Germany, and Japan have already done, in favor of the ICC), and it sends a clear message to other heads of state (not to mention Putin's cronies).

The ICC warrant is thus a rare moment of moral clarity for the international community. Among other things, it demonstrates to those in the Global South that its jurisprudence is not entirely lopsided - an understandable view given the past focus on African leaders and the failure to investigate possible war crimes committed by Western forces in Afghanistan and other countries.

But the ICC's future success will depend on whether it can consolidate its gains and dispel the West-versus-the-rest narrative that Putin is trying to leverage. The ICC must embrace true multilateralism and, as I have argued before, develop a genuinely global jurisprudence to maintain its legitimacy. International law is often compared to the Wild West, because there is no global sheriff. But regardless of whether Putin ends up in handcuffs, the ICC's "Wanted" poster represents a step in the right direction.

OPINION

By Owen Gaffney

Tax the Rich to Save the Planet

STOCKHOLM - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued a final warning to humanity: unless we halve greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, we will have no chance of capping global temperatures at 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Achieving that target will be extremely challenging, but it is both possible and affordable - if we ensure that the world's wealthiest pay their fair share.

Inequality has skyrocketed in recent years. During the pandemic, as more than 160 million people were pushed into poverty, the world's ten richest people doubled their fortunes. The wealthiest 10% of the global population now rake in 52% of global income and hold 77% of global wealth, while the poorest 50% claim just 8% and 2%, respectively.

The gap continues to widen. Billions of people are suffering from rising living costs and stagnant wages, and with recession looming, prospects for achieving greater prosperity appear bleak. The world has never been so wealthy, yet most people endure chronic economic insecurity. This is a recipe for deeply polarized, dysfunctional societies, democratic decay, and a dangerously unstable world.

Economic inequality is reflected in climate inequality. As the IPCC notes, the 10% of households with the highest per capita emissions - that is, the wealthiest households globally - contribute up to 45% of consumption-based household GHG emissions. The bottom 50% - four billion people, many of whom face severe energy insecurity - contribute just 13-15%.

Here, too, the gap is continuing to widen: the richest 1% - 63 million people earning at least \$109,000 per year - are the fastest-growing source of carbon emissions by far. And this is happening at a time when, every month, the world is burning through more than 1% of its remaining carbon budget for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

But the discrepancy in emissions is only part of the story. As the IPCC's new report highlights, there is overwhelming scientific evidence showing that an equitable approach to climate action, in which the benefits and burdens of the needed transformation are distributed fairly, is vital to build social trust, without which the 2030 target will be all but impossible to meet.

This aligns with our assessment at Earth4All. We predict that, unless concerted action is taken, inequality will continue to grow throughout this century, leading to rising social tensions and unrest - and making it far more difficult to tackle existential crises like climate change.

Concentration of wealth leads to concentration of power, with the wealthiest actors enjoying disproportionate influence over elections and public policy. This undermines trust in democracy, making it more difficult for governments to make long-term decisions that serve the common good. More egalitarian countries tend to have higher levels of trust in government, in addition to better outcomes when it comes to education, health and longevity, obesity, child mortality, crime, and the environment.

As the IPCC report makes clear, averting the worst effects of climate change demands a profound economic transformation in the next decade. But that transformation can succeed only with broad public support, based on a new social contract that ensures a fairer distribution of wealth and income.

Specifically, by 2030, Earth4All proposes that the wealthiest 10% in all countries should be claiming less than 40% of national incomes, with their share remaining on a downward trajectory thereafter. Past experience shows that progressive taxation on both income and wealth for individuals and corporations would be an effective means of achieving this.

This means targeting the assets of the extremely wealthy wherever they are held, including in tax havens, and developing and sharing national registries of assets held in different forms. Governments should also hike taxes on luxury-related consumption that drives GHG emissions, such as the use of private jets.

In addition, we recommend implementing a universal minimum corporate-tax rate that is close to the global average of 25% - far higher than the 15% rate agreed by the G20 in 2021. Multinational corporations should be subject to the same tax rates as domestic companies, with unitary taxation of global profits based on the share of sales, employment, and assets in each country.

We also propose taxing windfall profits in sectors like energy. While the world has confronted an energy crisis driven by the war in Ukraine, fossil-fuel companies should not have been able to pocket hundreds of billions of dollars in profits. Likewise, governments must close international tax loopholes and eliminate outside subsidies on fossil fuels - now topping one trillion dollars annually - once and for all. The IPCC estimates that removing subsidies could lower GHG emissions by up to 10% by 2030.

More broadly, governments should use progressive taxation to discourage share-buyback schemes. At a time when the world needs innovation to facilitate economic transformation, inflating shareholders' gains must not come before investment in research and development.

Crucially, whatever additional revenues are generated by progressive wealth and income taxes must be used to protect the most vulnerable groups, support those who are displaced by the green transformation, advance gender equality, and overhaul energy and food systems.

By easing social tensions and improving well-being, progress on inequality would make democracies more stable and resilient, enabling them to respond to shocks more effectively and make rational long-term decisions for the common good, not least with regard to climate change. But, as the IPCC has made clear, time is running out.



By Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

“Liberty Hijacked” Is a Dangerous Book for Liberia’s Unity and Fragile Peace

Either the book “Liberty Hijacked” is presumably the author’s grand narrative to reinvent the wheels of 1847 history or he wants to simply dismantle sellers’ (Americo-Liberian) historical foundation as portrayed by his deep and undeterred incinerations to distort and undermine pre-history in modern Liberia.

Though the book received countless blessings and enormous auspiciousness by way of unhindered praises from the Ministry of Education through its envoy, the Executive Director for the Center of Excellence for Curriculum Development and Textbooks, Mrs. Julia K. Sandiman-Gbeyai the chief launcher, it was excitingly another business as usual for a book that is poised to divide both indigenous and Americo-Liberians in modern Liberia.

Interestingly, the author may have written from the perspective of an influential rising indigenous leader of change who now portrayed himself as the fearless redeemer of indigenous Liberians from the age-old shackles of settlers’ divisive rules, discrimination, and segregation.

The author revealed strategically that the settlers (Americo-Liberians) robbed indigenous Liberians of their share of “Liberty”. In his views, the denial of Liberty was a terrible weapon of divisiveness and disunity among indigenous Liberians.

Mr. Kai is also in blatant denial of the essence and the definition of 1847: “Love of Liberty Brought Us Here.” Liberty” meant the right to self-rule, property ownership, and freedom of Liberty, sovereign nation, Free State, and even the political jargon of Liberia that incorporated indigenous as Liberians. How, then, did this divide indigenous Liberians?

Which part of the “Liberty” was, or is divisive and discriminatory too, indigenous Liberians in modern Liberia? “Liberty Hijacked” is a hazardous book for modern Liberia. The book has the propensity to undermine Liberia’s unity and the fragile peace in multiple ways. For example, Mr. Kai lamented “A history of how the loss of Liberty divides Liberia here in Monrovia.” The author failed to authenticate the “growing discriminatory policies, suppressive laws, regulations, and bad practices that negatively impacted indigenous Liberians” because of the “Liberty.” He also said: “Christian churches kept Liberian indigenous divided,” which applauds.

This attempt is to undermine Christianity from the cradle of Liberia’s inception. Was Liberia built on Christian principles? It was the very indigenous who embraced Christianity. How, then, was Christianity used to divide Indigenous Liberians in Liberia, Mr. Author? This information is unhealthy for Liberia’s fragile democracy after a 16-year bloody and brutal civil war. The author further insinuated that the settlers inflated substantial historical wounds on native Liberians through the American Colonization Society (ACS), another element of unchecked fallacies and misleading facts.

Liberia has been divided and polarized since the 1980 coup up to the present. The coup ushered in Liberia’s polarization, deep division, and gross indifference between indigenous Liberians and the settlers’ descendants (Americo-Liberians). The coup did witness the vicious killing of 17 settler descendants, drove thousands and thousands into exile, and properties seized/destroyed. In contrast, others remained silenced in their distress for a protracted period. The coup uprooted the historic foundation of the Americo Liberian, destroyed their heritage, and wiped out their entire hegemony in Liberia, which still leaves fresh memories in the minds of Liberians while then publishing such a divisive book.

The 80s coup had a devastating effect on Liberians and then the settler’s 130-year rule combined. The immigrants are on record for economically marginalizing Liberians. Aside from that, they did not kill indigenous Liberians in their mass. They did not destroy Liberia’s physical infrastructure. They did not at any time drive masses of indigenous Liberians into exile, destroy their properties, or seize their wealth.

The coup later accumulated into civil wars of reprisal that took the lives of over 150,000 Liberians, something still fresh on the minds of indigenous and settlers’ descendant Liberians, which made the publication of this, book untimely. The author defines Liberty as a weapon of division, discrimination, and segregation that deprives indigenous of the would-be Liberty, which is contrary to what Liberty truly means.

The book cannot be called a history book. It is more of an indigenous propaganda book intended to put indigenous and Americo-Liberians at loggerhead. The author discredited past histories and termed them as “propaganda material.” On the contrary, the author’s book will encourage division, segregation, discrimination, and disunity among Liberians at home and abroad. The book could spark a new ethnic, sectarian war between Americo-Liberians and indigenous Liberians.

The book is a mere propaganda tool intended to open new wounds in Liberia that would definitively put indigenous against sellers (Americo-Liberian). In the case of “Liberty hijacked” being taught as a curriculum in schools in Liberia, the book will indoctrinate and poison the minds of indigenous children against settlers’ (Americo-Liberian) children, which will not be healthy.

The book would no doubt breed additional hatred, bitterness, division, and high feelings between and among young Liberians, potentially leading to another revenge war in classrooms among natives and settlers’ descendants across Young Liberians. It will morally corrupt the minds of young Liberians across Liberia. The book should be banned o in Liberia.

What is astonishing is the author’s blatant insensitivity to A’s historical works and enormous initiatives. The author grossly seized the publications of Doris Banks Henriens, Joseph Saye Guannu, and J.H McPherson to the dismay of ordinary Liberians.

No part of those history books ever brought about division, segregation, and resentment against indigenous Liberians. Why the author should classify these Liberian historical contributions as “propaganda materials” is appalling, degrading, and self-conflicting in many ways.

Liberian writers should not be rendering vindictive judgment based solely on inherent tribal prejudice, professional sentiment, or political misgivings without any iota of material evidence with historical connotations.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Getting tough on Monrovia Waste Management

Citizens’ indiscriminate throwing and piling of garbage along major roadways and street corners in the City of Monrovia have continued unabated in disregard to the city’s zoning code.

Citizens throw or pile garbage on major road shoulders and street corners at random with impunity in total disregard for the zoning code, which was put in place to preserve the modernity of the city some decades ago.

Monrovia, a city established in 1822, barely 25 years before the Declaration of Independence in 1847, passed its City Ordinance laws decades later in the 1970s, as the city experienced its population growth.

In 1950, the City of Monrovia’s population was estimated at 35,150 people. According to the World Population Review, by 1970, the city’s population had grown by 6.28% from a steady growth rate of 2.78% in 1951 and subsequent years recording 164,121 people.

With such an increasing growth in the city’s population in 1970, city authorities passed the City Ordinance No.1 law, which forbids littering in the streets to maintain its tidiness and protect the health of all.

Although this law remains enforced today, the current city authorities do not seem to be implementing it. The pile of garbage along roadways and street corners even on construction sites is appalling.

These piles of garbage are usually seen in front of homes close to the shoulders of the road or across the roadways near private homes and market halls as the disgusting odor spreads through the air, while local city authorities look the other way.

Unfortunately, these very citizens whose home and business fronts are used to pile garbage laughed the country to scorn when it is rated as the dirtiest city in Africa.

There seems to be no patriotism among citizens. Most Liberians even the non-tax paying ones believe it is the duty of the government to go as far as even cleaning the mess from their homes.

Therefore, piling dirt on major street corners and roadways seems like telling the city’s government “it is time to come and clean the mess we have created”- a sign of indiscipline at the highest.

The problem is even compounded by community garbage collectors licensed and unlicensed by city authorities. They collect garbage from private homes for minimum fees but have no designated dumpsites for their collections.

Most of the garbage they collect is dumped at night in unexpected places. Again doing so in disregard to the City Ordinance law, while private homes and businesses close by look in the other direction.

In other jurisdictions, for example, private businesses and homes adjacent to the sidewalk or major roads are responsible for helping keep the environment clean and safer for everyone.

Holding private homes and business owners close by these unauthorized dumpsites accountable for garbage piles would serve as a deterrent. They could help keep the place clean and safer by carrying out citizens’ arrests of violators and turning them over to city authorities for prosecution. This would help in keeping the city clean too.

In Michigan, USA, for example, residents and businesses are required to clear sidewalks adjacent to their property of snow and ice within 12 hours of the end of a snowfall, failure which leads to a fine-And God helps you that no one makes an accident or sustain personal injuries due to your failure to keep the front of your home or business clear.

Michigan snow removal laws include local law, sometimes called local ordinances, as well as state statutes. State statutes apply to everybody.

First, according to state statute, when removing snow, you cannot “deposit or cause to be deposited snow, ice, or slush onto or across the roadway, or on the shoulder of the roadway that obstructs the safety vision of a driver.” In short, when removing snow from your property, you can’t put it in a place that obstructs someone’s safety vision.

According to the state law: “A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.” That means if snow is falling off your vehicle, you are breaking the law. If you don’t clean the snow off your vehicle, you could be fined up to \$100 per offense.

The City of Monrovia has similar ordinances in its code. Unfortunately, it has either refused to implement such against private homeowners along roadways. Sometime last year, the New Dawn was fined US\$1000 for allowing people to dump garbage at the back of its offices by a joint GSA and MCC Taskforce headed by GSA Director Mary Broh. The paper’s offices were closed, and the fine was paid before it was opened.

The New Dawn immediately erected a wall to prevent garbage collectors from dumping dirt at the back of its offices. The place has remained clean since then. This is what responsibility does.

Until the city government move to implement its city ordinances, garbage will continue to swamp the city.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah urges citizens avoid electoral violence

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

With some of his partisans smarting under heavy criticism for provoking the recent violence in

amid allegations of corruption, money laundering, and extrajudicial killings levied against his administration by the US Government in its 2022 Human Rights report.

But speaking to reporters on

to vote) and Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol Nora Finda Bundoo among others, encouraged citizens to register for the pending elections to vote for leaders of their choice saying, it is their constitutional right to do so.

“Your Vote is your right. The right to choose your government, and your leaders. So, in order to be able to exercise that right, you must first obtain your voters’ registration card, and you must be peaceful and orderly,” President Weah stressed.

The pending October 10, polls have much at stake, with President Weah facing former close rivals in the 2017 runoff election, former Vice President Joseph Boakai, and Opposition Collaborating Political Party (CPP) leader Alexander B. Cummings among dozen other candidates.

“The best way to hold the Government accountable to you is to choose them yourself,” and you must exhibit patience while standing in the long line to get your card. So, that you may be part of the process of choosing your own leaders,” he reiterated.



Pres. Weah at polling center

Electoral District #10, President George Weah has urged citizens to shun election violence as they go thru the new Biometric Voters Registration exercise ahead of the October 10 general and presidential elections.

President Weah is seeking his second six years term

Friday, March 31, 2023, following his registration at the RLJ Kenedja Elementary School, off the Roberts International Airport Highway in District #6, Mr. Weah urged citizens to demonstrate good behavior and avoid violence.

Mr. Weah, accompanied by his wife Clar Weah (not eligible

Doctors battle Glaucoma at JFK

Doctors at the Liberia Eye Center at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center are battling Glaucoma, a disease that has become the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Liberia.

The disease is something that most Liberians are unfamiliar with across the country. The thought of going blind is frightening, yet this is the reality for many Liberians who are unknowingly battling with glaucoma.

Globally, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide. It is estimated that more than 70 million people worldwide have glaucoma, and this number is expected to increase to 111.8 million by 2040.

The disease causes damage to the optic nerve and can lead to irreversible blindness if not detected and treated early.

The prevalence varies by age, ethnicity, and geographical region, with higher rates reported among people over 50 years of age and those of African descent.

Run by L.V. Prasad Eye Institute of India, the Liberia Eye Center's data shows that the eye center sees approximately 15,000 patients annually.

Of those patients, 3,000 to

4,000 are cases of glaucoma, with most in advanced stages.

The eye center at JFK also sees many patients with other eye diseases, such as cataracts, the most common age-related eye disease.

Other common eye issues include dryness in the eye and pterygium, which is a flesh growth on the eye's surface, and patients with retinopathy, including hypertensive retinopathy, which is due to



blood pressure problems.

The risk of getting glaucoma, according to experts, is higher among certain groups of people. This includes those with a history of glaucoma in the family, adults over 50 years of age, African

race, myopia (short-sightedness), and diabetes mellitus.

“It is a silent attacker that catches people off guard and then results [in] potentially irreversible blindness,” said Dr. Niranjan K. Pehere, an ophthalmologist at the Liberia Eye Center at the JFK Medical Center.

The treacherous aspect of this disease, according to Dr. Pehere, is its asymptomatic

nature. Dr. Pehere said it leaves people completely unaware until it reaches an advanced stage.

The prevalence of Glaucoma, Pehere said, is relatively high in Liberia, with approximately 7% of the eye

EU identifies backbones of GOL's infrastructure

By Lewis S Teh

The Project Officer at the European Union (EU) Mr. Gerald M. Fuller, says the EU has observed that road connectivity and electricity are the backbones of the Government of Liberia's infrastructure so, it strongly supports the realization of these priorities in both sectors.

“Let me commend the Government of Liberia for having placed particular emphasis on the Pro-poor Agenda for development by focusing on infrastructure in the country; the two sectors - road and electricity are the backbone

children who can and will benefit from electricity to complete their education and to all for the increase in security that electricity brings along”, he adds.

According to the EU Project Officer, with 63 million US dollars, (52 million euros), the EU has financed the “Monrovia Consolidation of Electricity” to support the Government of Liberia's efforts to provide sustainable and stable electricity to all citizens.

He narrates that one of the contracts under the program secured a total envelope of 2.8 million euros for 3 years long technical assistance in capacity building and institutional support



LEC workers planting electrical pole

of these infrastructures”, Mr. Fuller notes.

He made the observation recently in Monrovia at the launch of policy regulations for licensing of electrical professionals and contractors, including electrical wiring and wiring code by Liberia the Electricity Regulatory Commission, LERC.

Speaking on behalf of EU Ambassador to Liberia, Lauren Delahouse, Mr. Fuller described the launch of the three new regulations as a milestone for the energy sector of Liberia.

He says it will have a harmonized electricity technocratic setting with regulated wiring system via the wiring code, considering that Liberia has to be regionally integrated into its neighboring countries' electrical coding system.

“I wish to emphasize and bring to your attention the benefits this represents in promoting social and human development for women, who will have access to a better quality of life, for

to the LERC and the ministry of mines and energy.

Fuller continues that the scope of the action was to have in place a functioning electricity regulatory framework that allows tendering and awarding of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution of licenses and related contracts in major settlements, including rural areas.

The EU strongly believes that expansion of the electricity sector must be affordable and for this to become true, a solid private sector is necessary. Mr. Fuller stresses that since a stable and well-regulated environment in the energy sector is a precondition to attracting the private sector, the technical assistance to support the LERC and the ministry of mines and energy is of paramount importance for the whole energy sector of Liberia.

The LERC is the lead entity for facilitating the transformation and development of the electricity sector to attract investment, improve availability and adequacy as well as quicken the pace of access to electricity in a liberalized sector.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CECPAP begins TOT w'shop in Zwedru

The last of three-cluster training of trainers (TOT) workshops organized and facilitated by the Center for Conflict Prevention and

respectively. They will converge in Zwedru City today for a two-day TOT training session.

The Center in a release says the workshop is being held

areas, including boarder communities to respond to risk associated with potential issues arising from voter trucking in the ongoing biometric voter's registration.

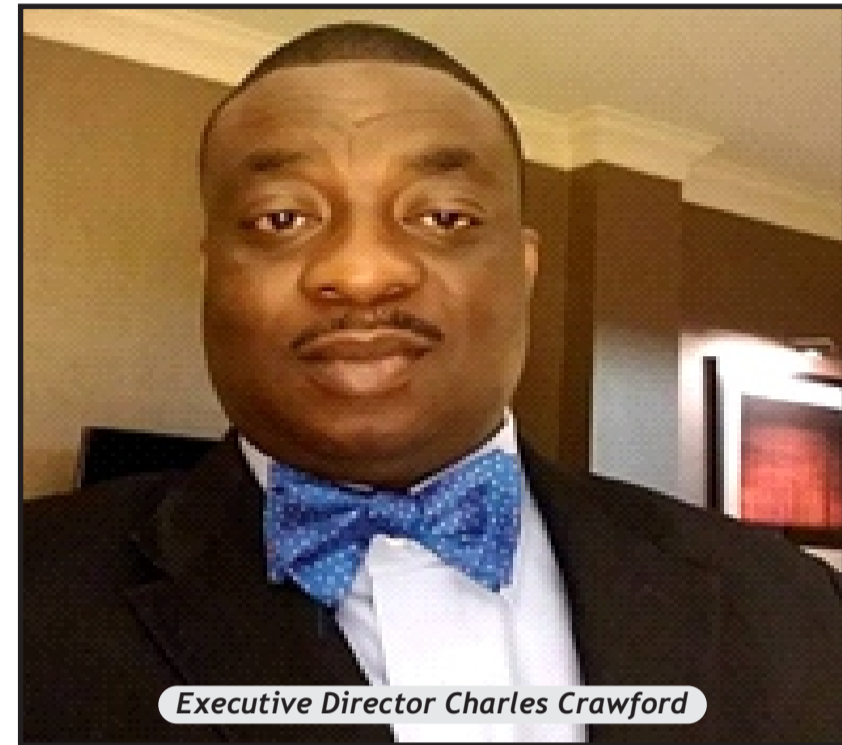
The release details that the Zwedru's workshop will teach participants on various topics such as Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment Through Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling, Community Policing, Anti-Voter Trucking and Basic Border Management, Election Integrity, and Analyzing Social Media News Content, among others.

It is being facilitated by CECPAP with funding provided by UN Peacebuilding Fund. The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supervising the implementation of the project.

Meanwhile, CECPAP has been successful in conducting two cluster TOT workshops in Tubmanburg, Bomi County and Gbarnga, Bong County, respectively for participants from six counties, including Grand Cape Mount, Gbapolu, Bomi, Lofa, Nimba, and Bong. **Press Release**

under the theme: Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia.

The training session seeks to build capacity development for joint security actors, local authorities, women, and youth groups to reinforce peace corridors in identified hotspot



Executive Director Charles Crawford

Peacebuilding (CECPAP) kicks off today, Monday, 3 April in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, southeast Liberia.

According to CECPAP, cluster three training of trainer's workshop will bring together participants from Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Maryland counties,

VP Taylor warns against cut in education budget

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor is urging the Liberian Legislature, especially the Senate, not to reduce the national budget for education, which currently stands at Five Million United States Dollars.

Vice President Taylor says the Government of Liberia has made a commitment in line with ECOWAS protocol to ensure that budget of member states for education does not reduce, but instead, progresses towards 25 percent minimum.

She notes that the Weah administration's focus is on education that's why Five Million has been allotted in the national budget to enhance the sector.

"I'm happy that Senator Prince Moye of Bong County, who is the chairman on education is here; the Senate should not reduce the ministry of education's budget but rather increase it so that the ministry can carry out its functions by providing quality and modern education for Liberians", the Vice President explains.

She made the call in Ganta, Nimba County at a

week-long Joint Education Sector Review organized by the ministry of education with support from several development partners.

Liberia's Education Minister Ansu Sonii, said the ministry needs US\$3 billion, about three hundred times the country's budget to take education in Liberia to international standard.

Minister Sonii boasted that his leadership has brought more improvement in the sector, compared to previous

Senator Prince Moye, pledged to work with both houses of the Legislature for more budgetary allotment to the ministry, and praised

Minister Sonii for the level of improvement he has made since taking office.

However, Senator Moye stressed a need to observe people, who refer to themselves as teachers in the classroom, noting that most of them are not trained teachers, as come from different professional backgrounds but



VP Taylor

ministers.

The senate chair on education, Bong County

due to lack of jobs they force themselves in the education sector.

EFFL wants Executive Order #117 scratched

By Lewis S Teh

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) a newly certificated political party, has petitioned the Supreme Court of Liberia to immediately halt the implementation of President George Weah's Executive Order #117 that calls for presidential appointees desiring to contest in the October 10th election to resign not later than April 7, 2023.

The EFFL recently filed before the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition, challenging the constitutionality of the President's move which, according to the group, seeks to undermine the already existing Code of Conduct (COC) for public officials.

The writ, filed before Associate Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisaye, Chamber Justice of the Supreme Court, prays the Justice to issue a preliminary injunction, to block the Weah

legal effect.

"We, request Your Honor to declare Executive Order #117 illegal and should have no force and legal effect. It is the contention of the petitioner that laws are not retroactive and therefore not applicable to anyone appointed by the President of Liberia at this point in time, since the publishing date is December 29, 2022, and the election date of October 10, 2023, is ten (10) months and, as such, ten (10) months cannot be equated to one-year threshold," the party argues.

EFFL: "It is also the contention of the petitioner that the December 29, 2022 Act amending Section 5.2 and 10.2 of the 2014 Code of Conduct has prospective effect and therefore cannot be equated to any governmental appointees in the pending October 10, 2023, General and Presidential Election."

The objective of the Code of Conduct is to dissociate the fiduciary duty of trust, integrity and loyalty owed by public officials to the people from their personal



EFFL leader and officials

administration's effort to create a way out for presidential appointees to contest any elected position during the coming elections.

President Weah on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, issued Executive Order #117, mandating all appointed officials of the government aspiring to contest elective positions to resign.

The President's mandate, which is an amendment made to the 2014 Code of Conduct that was signed on March 14, 2023, is in compliance with Section 5.2 but excludes Section 5.8 of the very Code that prohibits all employees of the Executive from taking an active part in political campaigns.

However, the issuance of the Order is a partial implementation of the most talked about code of conduct that mandates all presidential appointees to resign a year prior to elections.

In its petition, the EFFL calls on the Supreme Court to declare executive order #117 illegal and that it should have no force and

desires to contest elections at the expense of public resources, it further notes.

It reminds that the Act provides that all officials appointed by the President including all cabinet ministers, deputy and assistant cabinet ministers, ambassadors, ministers consuls, superintendents of counties, and other government officials, both military and civilian, pursuant to Article 56(a) of the 1986 Constitution and others who desire to canvass or contest for an elective public office within the Government of Liberia, shall resign his or her position one (1) year before the date on which the election for the post for which he/she intends to contest.

EFFL however observes that President Weah has just issued the Order with just seven months to the conduct of elections on October 10, 2023 and that the amended Act can't prevent public officials from contesting in said elections and, thus mandate the resignation of all such persons effective April 7, 2023 – his reliance being the constitutional power vested in the Executive Branch of Government.

Français

Pour l'opposition, le Recensement national est un vrai fiasco

Les Libériens se rendront aux urnes en octobre avec un résultat provisoire du recensement national déjà discrédité avant même le résultat final en raison de l'incompétence flagrante et des divergences qui ont caractérisé l'opération.

brutale exponentielle de la population des comtés du sud-est du Libéria d'où est originaire le président Weah est la goutte d'eau qui a débordé le vase. Les partis politiques de l'opposition mettent en cause un manque criard de crédibilité dans l'ensemble de l'opération de recensement national.

électorales aient été définies comme l'exige la Constitution.

L'article 80 de la constitution libérienne exige qu'immédiatement après un recensement national et avant les prochaines élections, la NEC procède au découpage des circonscriptions électorales selon les nouveaux chiffres.

Dans leur pétition, les partis politiques de l'opposition ont



Les résultats provisoires publiés par le Liberia Institute and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) évaluent la population du pays à 5,2 millions d'habitants, contre 3,5 en 2008, soit une forte augmentation de 1,7 million d'habitants, ce qui équivaut à un taux d'augmentation de 50,4% en douze ans.

Mais l'augmentation

Le 9 mars, dix partis politiques de l'opposition ont adressé une pétition commune à l'Assemblée législative libérienne pour lui demander de ne pas valider les résultats du dernier recensement.

La Collaboration des Partis politiques (PPC) a récemment saisi la Cour suprême pour demander la suspension de l'opération d'inscription biométrique des électeurs jusqu'à ce que de nouvelles circonscriptions

rejeté le résultat préliminaire du recensement et ont demandé au parlement et à la NEC de ne pas utiliser les chiffres qui émanent du recensement.

À noter que le LISGIS a annoncé que les résultats complets du recensement sont attendus en mai. Il reste à savoir si les chiffres à venir

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire veulent prendre des mesures sécuritaires à leurs frontières

Le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire ont convenu de renforcer la sécurité et la surveillance des frontières avant les élections présidentielles et législatives prévues en octobre.

Le responsable de la communication du Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), Abraham Dorley, a détaillé le plan lorsqu'il s'est adressé aux médias le jeudi 30 mars 2023.

Selon lui, les deux États d'Afrique de l'Ouest sont unanimes sur le fait que la sécurité des frontières est indispensable à l'organisation des élections pacifiques.

Il a fait savoir que les deux pays ont décidé de collaborer étroitement pour protéger l'intégrité des frontières contre les menaces extérieures.

Toujours selon M Dorley, le Service d'immigration prend au sérieux les rumeurs sur la transhumance des électeurs

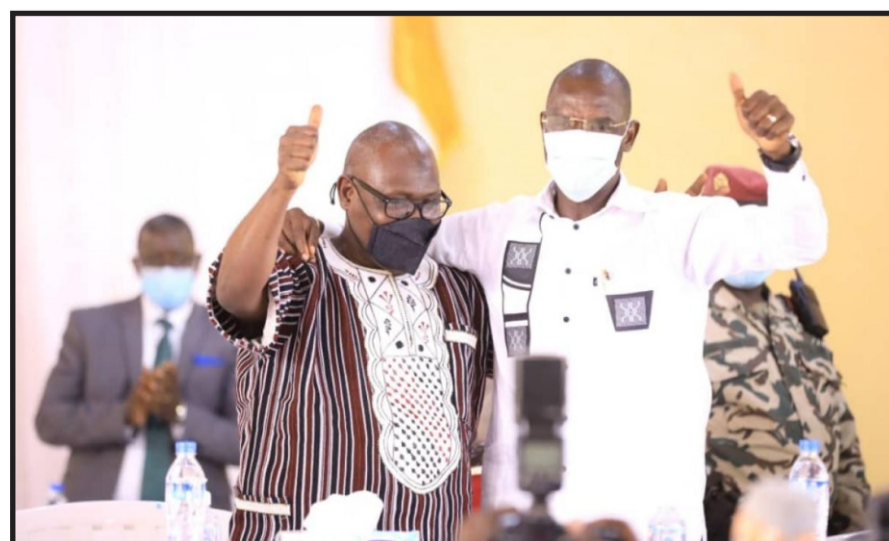
d'une circonscription électorale à l'autre pour des raisons politiques. Le service, selon lui, travaille avec la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour résoudre le problème.

Plus tôt cette année, le ministre libérien des Affaires intérieures, Varney Sirleaf, a conduit une délégation libérienne dans la capitale économique et commerciale ivoirienne, Abidjan, pour discuter de la coopération entre le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire.

Le Libéria s'inquiète de la

violence électorale, alors que le pays se rend aux urnes pour élire un président. Le président sortant George Manneh Weah et plusieurs dirigeants de l'opposition se battront pour la plus haute fonction du pays en octobre.

L'ancien vice-président libérien Joseph Nyumah Boakai et l'ancien directeur de Coca-Cola Alexander B. Cummings vont affronter M. Weah qui vise un second mandat.



Éditorial

Il faut avoir confiance en soi

Les Libériens semblent avoir conclu le résultat de enrôlement biométrique des électeurs dirigé par la Commission électorale nationale avant même le début de l'opération le 20 mars. Ils jettent malheureusement le doute sur la capacité de la Commission de faire preuve de transparence. Certains ont même perçu que le processus est conçu pour frauder les prochaines élections. Quelle absurdité !

Pour des raisons étranges, nous Libériens, semblons obsédés par la méfiance ou le cynisme à peu près dans tout ce qui nous concerne. Nous croyons à tort que seules les personnes qui ne sont pas des nôtres sont crédibles. Si nous cultivons continuellement une telle perception, alors nous n'avons pas besoin d'exister en tant que peuple, car nous ne croyons pas que quelque chose de bon puisse venir de nous.

À cause de cette façon de penser négativement, la Commission électorale nationale est contrainte de rassurer les sceptiques en expliquant que l'opération d'enrôlement est conçue pour détecter les fraudeurs potentiels qui veulent se faire enrôler plus d'une fois. «Le système d'enrôlement biométrique est conçu de manière que les enrôlements doubles soient détectés lors du processus d'arbitrage biométrique à travers le système de gestion central. Les informations des électeurs doublement inscrits seront désactivées», a dit la NEC.

Des rumeurs font état d'enrôlements doubles. Mais la Commission a expliqué qu'à la fin de la première phase du processus, toutes les données des 1 065 centres d'enrôlement des électeurs dans les comtés de Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi et Montserrado seront synchronisées par les serveurs biométriques où le processus de déduplication commencera.

«Le système est très efficace pour comparer des millions d'échantillons biométriques, ce qui facilitera la détection de toutes les doublures dans la base de données. Toute personne qui se fera enrôler deux fois ou plus doit régler ses problèmes avec la Commission avant que ses informations puissent être incluses dans la liste des électeurs», a dit la Commission dans un communiqué.

Selon la NEC, se faire enrôler plus d'une fois est un crime. Se faire enrôler plus d'une fois est un risque inutile, car le système biométrique va détecter les coupables qui seront poursuivis en justice.

La Commission a indiqué en outre qu'elle a adopté le système biométrique pour disposer d'une liste électorale crédible, dépourvue de doublure. « C'est pourquoi nous prenons les empreintes digitales et l'image du visage », a-t-elle dit.

Que devrait faire de plus la Commission pour gagner et conserver la confiance du public, face aux défis sérieux ?

Il est temps que les Libériens croient en eux-mêmes et en leur pays, car quelle que soit la bonne volonté qui vient de l'extérieur, nous seuls pouvons le faire pour nous-mêmes. Il s'agit d'un état d'esprit que nous devons changer, si cette nation doit progresser.

Cela ne signifie pas que là où il y a des problèmes, ils ne doivent pas être portés à l'attention de la Commission pour une réparation rapide. Mais insinuer que les cinq commissaires de la NEC, dont la présidente Davidetta Brown Lansana, ne savent pas ce qu'ils font, est injuste.

Certains vont même jusqu'à accuser la commission de refuser délibérément aux citoyens la possibilité de s'enregistrer sur la base de leurs noms. Mais sachez qu'il est du ressort de la commission d'enquêter sur les identités suspectes de concert avec la sécurité, y compris le service d'immigration du Libéria. Il appartient au porteur d'une telle accréditation de prouver sa citoyenneté avec l'aide des dirigeants de la communauté et des anciens.

Il faut permettre à la NEC d'exercer ses fonctions statutaires plutôt que d'accabler et d'accabler ! Cela n'est pas du patriotisme et de l'amour du pays. Si la NEC réussit, le Libéria réussit et s'il échoue, nous échouons en tant que nation.

Français

Pour l'opposition, le Recensement

seront utilisés pour résoudre les problèmes constitutionnels soulevés par les partis politiques.

L'imbroglio pourrait affecter le résultat des prochaines élections étant donné que ces résultats sont déjà contestés.

Un ancien employé de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS), M. Alex Williams, quelques jours après la publication du résultat provisoire du recensement national du logement et de la population de 2022, a qualifié de complètement erronés les chiffres publiés. Il dénonce une opération institutionnellement contraire à l'éthique, inadéquate et qui manque de test de statistique scientifique de base.

M. Williams a fait valoir que la principale source de

a une couverture de 97% de la population comme indiqué dans leur communiqué, ils font une analyse comparative de la population du pays.

« La raison pour laquelle LISGIS utilise cela comme base pour dire que la population est de 5,2 millions d'habitants est que, professionnellement, si vous voulez être paresseux, vous donnez le nombre qui est étroitement lié à la projection d'autres organisations internationales.

Mais ce qu'ils doivent comprendre, c'est que la source fondamentale qu'ils utilisent est l'ONU et que l'ONU s'appuie sur le Bureau national des statistiques pour les données », a dit M. Williams.

Il a en outre expliqué que les chiffres communiqués aux Nations Unies via LISGIS sont ce qu'ils vont utiliser pour faire une projection et sur la base de ces projections, ils vont les neutraliser pour projeter la population du pays.

« La source fondamentale de



croissance démographique de LISGIS provenait des estimations des Nations Unies. D'où, selon lui, la nature complètement erronée des chiffres annoncés.

Invité par la radio Spoon FM à l'une de ces émissions le 25 février 2023, M. Williams a expliqué que les résultats provisoires du recensement de 2022 sont des chiffres que le bureau national des statistiques a présentés aux organisations internationales parce qu'ils sont tenus de présenter un rapport annuel ou semi-annuel.

« J'ai lu le communiqué de LISGIS et j'ai même écouté le patron par intérim de LISGIS lorsqu'il annonçait les résultats provisoires, indiquant une couverture de 97% de la population. J'étais assis et je me demandais ce qu'ils disaient. C'est scientifiquement erroné et institutionnellement contraire à l'éthique », a-t-il expliqué.

M. Williams a révélé que si LISGIS insiste sur le fait qu'il y

ces données provient de LISGIS eux-mêmes. J'ai déjà un problème avec l'ONU et si vous allez sur ces sites Web, vous verrez que la principale source de ces populations de données provient de l'ONU. Et l'ONU prend ces données de LISGIS », a-t-il allégué.

M. Williams a déclaré que si vous vous fiez à ces données pour faire une analyse comparative de la population du Libéria parce que c'est ce que disent d'autres organisations internationales, alors c'est erroné parce qu'elles n'ont fait aucune enquête sur le terrain.

Il a dit qu'aucune organisation internationale n'est investie de l'autorité de faire une enquête sur les travaux sur le terrain, mais qu'elle s'appuiera plutôt sur les statistiques nationales pour valider toutes les enquêtes et données destinées à un usage officiel.

« Parce que le Libéria a ce problème de ne pas avoir de données de qualité et suffisantes, par exemple, si nous devons projeter la population de notre pays, nous avons besoin de variables d'état civil, de décès, d'immigration et de migration.

À Treichville, le PPA-CI de Laurent Gbagbo courtise la jeunesse ivoirienne



En Côte d'Ivoire, la fête de la Renaissance s'est achevée hier soir. Cette fête initiée par le parti d'opposition du PPA-CI, célèbre l'acquiescement définitif par la CPI de Laurent Gbagbo, il y a deux ans. Pour l'ex-président ivoirien, c'était surtout l'occasion d'aller à la rencontre de ses militants, et notamment des jeunes.

Samedi était organisée une rencontre au Palais de la Culture de Treichville. Le parti de Laurent Gbagbo tente de courtiser les jeunes avec des promesses pour les élections locales de cette année.

Wilfried N'Gbakre est entrepreneur. Il s'est inscrit sur les listes électorales tout récemment et devrait voter pour la première fois cette année. Jusque-là, ce jeune de 28 ans ne s'intéressait pas à la politique. Mais la figure de Laurent Gbagbo le séduit. Wilfried est donc venu avec sa liste de doléances pour améliorer la situation des jeunes. « Les jeunes ont besoin de travailler. Il faut les garder, comme ça ils n'iront pas dans d'autres pays », selon lui.

Plusieurs jeunes militants du PPA-CI ont fait le déplacement en groupe, de l'intérieur du pays, pour écouter leur leader.

Il y a aussi de nombreux sympathisants, qui ne sont pas membres du parti. À l'image d'Abrow Obed. « On a besoin d'un programme concret, on a besoin de sentir la jeunesse grandir. » Sur scène, c'est Me Habiba Touré, l'avocate personnelle de Laurent Gbagbo et membre du comité scientifique, qui dévoile quelques propositions du PPA-CI envers les jeunes. « Et c'est parce que vous voulez des solutions maintenant qu'à l'occasion des élections locales, ce sera l'occasion pour le PPA-CI de mettre en œuvre des mesures urgentes, afin que la jeunesse ait

pu juger et voir : est-ce que le PPA-CI tient ses promesses ? Est-ce qu'on peut leur faire confiance pour 2025 ? Chaque candidat du PPA-CI devra obligatoirement intégrer des jeunes dans les conseils municipaux et régionaux. »

Du réalisme face aux jeunes Les jeunes sont surexcités, malgré plus de 4 heures d'attente. Laurent Gbagbo s'installe enfin sur son fauteuil : et il insiste en précisant avoir apporté les chaises baoulés de son salon. Il précise qu'il lui manque juste son jus de coco. De quoi, détendre l'atmosphère, qu'il veut conviviale.

Le débat est modéré par un journaliste. Puis quatre jeunes du public saisissent le micro pour transmettre leurs préoccupations. « Je suis au carmel, mais j'ai effectué le déplacement tellement cet événement me tenait au cœur. Pourquoi nous la jeunesse ivoirienne devrions-nous avoir confiance en votre leadership au détriment des leaders des autres partis politiques ? », interroge une étudiante.

Laurent Gbagbo répond avec un brin de réalisme. « On n'est pas obligé de faire confiance à tel homme politique ou en tel autre. Les hommes politiques sont comme des commerçants. Chacun vend sa marchandise.

Toi tu viens au marché, tu regardes, tu achètes ce qui te plaît. »

L'ancien président donne son avis sur les violences électorales, le panafricanisme, la décentralisation... et il conclut en donnant quelques conseils. « Il faut se battre. Ce que je vous souhaite, à chacune et à chacun, c'est d'arriver au sommet. »

Mali : l'ONU s'inquiète du sort des déplacés internes dans le centre du pays

À Mali, le Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires de l'ONU (Ocha) s'inquiète du sort de déplacés internes dans le centre du pays.

Le 23 février 2023, le village de Kani-Bonzon, situé dans la région de Bandiagara, a subi l'attaque d'un groupe armé. Cet assaut a provoqué le déplacement forcé de plus de 1 600 personnes et près d'un millier d'élèves se sont retrouvés déscolarisés.

C'est une situation humanitaire alarmante, indique Amy Martin, chargée du bureau Ocha au Mali : « Les gens sont dispersés dans plusieurs villages autour de Kani-Bonzon et certains sont même arrivés dans la ville de Bankass. Cet événement a fermé les écoles ; donc, cela prive les enfants à leur droit d'éducation. »

« Zone instable »
« Il y a des dégâts matériels, comme



les enlèvements de troupeaux de bétail emportés par ces gens qui ont attaqué le village, poursuit Amy Martin. Pour les enfants qui sont déscolarisés, on parle de plus de 930 élèves qui sont affectés. Depuis des années, cette région du centre est une zone instable où souvent les communautés sont attaquées ».

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Violent storm leaves residents homeless

By Patrick N. Mensah
Maryland County

Several citizens in Webbo knowroken, River Gee County have been made homeless

Sources say, over sixteen houses were destroyed in Webbo knowroken including the only government high school in the area.

Webbo knowroken is the 3rd

Speaking following the incident, several victims including citizens of the district expressed frustration over the incident as they wonder where to get funding from to rebuild their homes.

Most of the storm victims are said to have moved in with family members but are worried as to how long these relatives can accommodate them.

The victims are calling on the government and humanitarian organizations to come to their aid by providing building materials.

Residents say learning activities at Webbo High school are said to be on a standstill due to the destruction of the school building.

Webbo high school is amongst many High schools across the country that were recently renovated by the Government of Liberia.

biggest city in District #3, River Gee County, and has an estimated population of 10,000 inhabitants.



following a violent storm that hit that part of the country over the weekend of March 24.

MIA, partners set up County Councils nationwide

-Fulfil Local Government Act of 2018

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) has begun the establishment of County Councils in the 15 political sub-divisions of the country. The County Council is a requirement of Chapter 2.2 of the Local Government Act of 2018 (LGA).

The exercise is in collaboration with the Governance Commission, with funding from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through part of the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSP).

According to a press release from the Ministry of

Internal Affairs, Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf commissioned a team headed by Deputy Minister for Research and Development Planning Honorable Olayee S. Collins to visit each county in order to work with county Administrations to verify nominations from the various county-based institutions that are required by the LGA to be represented on the County Council, and to ensure the laid down protocols were followed in order to avoid problems.

Other members of the team include Mr. D. Emmanuel Wheinyue, Technical Focal Person in the Office of Internal

Prior to its departure from Monrovia, Minister Sirleaf requested the team to ensure the full adherence to the provisions of the LGA. The Internal Affairs Minister disclosed that following the establishment of the various County Councils, the Ministry and partners would embark on training of the members along with county Administrations.

The County Council is a requirement of Chapter 2.2 of the Local Government Act of 2018.

The County Council is mandated by LGA promulgate County ordinances, rules and regulations for the promotion of peace, unity, reconciliation, maintenance of public order, and security, and the delivery



the Internal Affairs, the exercise kicked off in Grand Gedeh County on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, as part of phase one which includes Rivergee, Maryland, Grand kru, Sinoe, Rivercess and Grand Bassa Counties.

Affairs Minister, Mr. Actebeouson Nyema, Program Manager of Governance Commission and Mr. Augustus M. Zayzay, National Program Coordinator of the Decentralization Program at UNDP, among others.

of basic public goods and services consistent with law.

One of the key responsibilities of the County Council will be to impose local taxes, rates, duties, fees and fines within limits prescribed by the Legislature.

"You have no choice but to do it right"

-UN Resident Coordinator mandate LNBA, NEC to ensure transparent elections

By Lincoln G. Peters

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Christine N. Umutoni has urged the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA), National Election Commission (NEC), and Judiciary Branch of government to execute free, fair, and transparent elections here saying, they have "no choice but to do it right."

Delivering the keynote address at the LNBA annual General Assembly held in Monrovia at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town under the theme: "Beyond Rhetoric

and NEC should ensure that there is an environment of peaceful, free, fair, and transparent elections.

She told the LNBA that such commitment also includes people trusting the legal system that is credible enough to support any plan that may arise.

She furthered that the LNBA has a major role to play as a stakeholder in setting the political agenda and discourse of Liberia during this 2023 Presidential and legislative elections.

The theme for this annual General Assembly, "Beyond Rhetoric and Impunity: Law, Governance and the 2023 Elections-



Ms. Christine N. Umutoni

and Impunity: Law, Governance and 2023 Elections-The Basis for Democratic Necessity in Liberia" Ms. Umutoni, observed that the coming elections can either advance or push the country backward democratically.

She warned that the October 10 presidential and legislative elections are a defining moment and retest for Liberia's democracy as it represents the will of the people.

She explained that if the country gets the process right it will prove Liberia's democratic maturity to the outside world.

"In my opinion, the country has no choice, but to do it right. To achieve this, Election must be transparent, inclusive, and accountable and there must exist equitable opportunity to compete," she added.

The UN Resident Coordinator argued that political participation is a legal right, which includes the right to nominate, and elect representatives to hold public office in accordance with the principle of equal opportunity to participate in public and private meetings and the right to form and join political parties.

Ms. Umutoni said the LNBA

the basis for Democratic necessity in Liberia" is really the call for an election based on the law and tenants of governance and promoting the situation where there is no impunity and will go beyond rhetoric.

Ms. Umutoni also cautioned lawyers to engage in non-partisan activities and commit to maintaining electoral integrity. This said mentioned that lawyers must ensure that electoral disputes are resolved in accordance with the rule of law and in a peaceful manner.

The UN envoy disclosed that on Tuesday, April 4, political parties will be signing the Farmington Declaration committing to peaceful elections and which entails the resolution of electoral disputes through the legal system.

"Therefore, we hope that the signature of the Farmington Declaration is not a signature on paper but that it's in the DNA of every political party and politician to abide by this declaration and for those in the legal system to take people to account for what they have signed for. Liberians have made several Democratic gains, election plus other political process remain pivotal to politics of the country governance" she noted.

Court prepared for 2023 elections

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh says the Supreme Court of Liberia is well-built, fortified, and judicially poised to hear and dispose of all election disputes regardless of their magnitude.

She gave the assurance

“However, I will be remiss if I don't utilize this occasion to re-echo the need for party litigants, political parties, and independent candidates to safeguard themselves with the best and astute lawyers who will exert their very best,” she urged.

She noted that this warning aligns with the Supreme Court's

amid the storm, she said the Supreme Court is well-built, fortified, and judicially poised to hear and dispose of all and every election dispute.

She warned that if a lawyer fails to perfect their appeal, the Supreme Court, via a motion from the opposing party will dismiss the case.

She added that if the case is shrouded with mere allegations, speculation, and doubts, rather than evidence, the Supreme court will reject the claim.

“As the election draws closer, let it be known that this bench will only be moved by strong and convincing evidence and not political ideologies, crowds, or recently created political slang of strongholds,” she said.

“The supreme court has consistently held that the concept of a candidate claiming stronghold over a particular election geographical locale, finds no factual or legal basis in Judicial proceedings as it's completely doubtful, speculative and uncertain,” Chief Justice Yuoh explained.

The Liberian National Bar Association over the weekend climaxed a two-day Annual General Assembly at the EJS Ministerial complex in Congo Town.

The program brought together several delegates and participants, including members of the diplomatic corps, current and past justices, Associates Justices of the Supreme Court, and lawyers.

The program was celebrated under the theme: "Beyond Rhetoric and Impunity: Law, Governance and the 2023 Elections - the basis for democratic necessity in Liberia."



Chief Justice Yuoh

over the weekend while addressing members of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town.

“The Supreme Court is well built, fortified, and judicially poised to hear and dispose of all and any election disputes regardless of their magnitude ... We are resolved to dispense Justice evenly without fear or favor,” Chief Justice Yuoh said.

She said to move beyond the art of the grandstanding stage of good governance, and astute statesmanship, words must be matched with substantive actions.

opinion on River Gee County Senator Jonathan Boye Charles Sogbie, versus National Elections Commission (NEC) 2016 and the March 2017 Abu Kamara versus NEC cases.

She noted that in 'our' legal sphere, allegations must be supported by factual evidence.

She said the Supreme Court docket attests that even in a quiet moment, the storm of election cases or challenges is quietly brewing at the National Elections Commission.

Chief Justice Yuoh observed that they are quietly gathering strength, velocity, and force and preparing to dash on the shores of the Supreme Court docket like a monstrous wave.

Like the beacon of light

Starts from page 6

Doctors battle Glaucoma

patients he sees annually affected. Dr. Pehere explained that the cases are often very advanced, with treatment only intended to preserve the remainder of vision.

“If we go by the data in our clinic, 7% of the patients that come to us have glaucoma.”

Dr. Pehere is just one of the few ophthalmologists in Liberia, a country with a population of over 5 million people.

“If we compare this with other clinics, I mean clinics outside Africa, it is usually three to four percent.”

“So this indicates that there is a lot more glaucoma in the communities. The thing about glaucoma that we see here, almost 70 to 80 percent of cases are very advanced in both eyes and somebody has to escort them to the clinic.”

“We then sadly have to

give the bad news that it is already in the advanced stage and there is nothing we can do about it; so that is the current scenario of glaucoma over here.”

The disease known as the silent thief of sight is estimated to affect a considerable number of Liberians who are unaware of their condition because of its asymptomatic nature.

The challenge then is the limited awareness of the disease and its risk factors. This means many Liberians may not realize that they have the condition until it has progressed to the point of vision loss.

“Glaucoma though does not have a definitive cure, if detected early enough, can be managed effectively by trained eye Doctors,” said Dr. Benetta Collins Andrews, a Specialist Paediatrician and the current

Chairperson at the Liberia Medical and Dental Council.

She joined Dr. Niranjana Pehere in the interview to promote awareness as part of activities marking World Glaucoma Week.

She said if appropriate measures are not taken to control the disease, one might just suddenly go blind which is sadly irreversible.

“The percentage of glaucoma in the country would be higher than the clinic data of 7%, but it is still a matter of concern considering that most cases are in the advanced stage,” Dr. Andrews warned.

Dr. Andrews is encouraging all health workers and the general public to take advantage of the excellent services at the Liberia Eye Center to do their comprehensive eye examination from which she has benefited.

Chambers assures Legislature's support for transparent elections

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has spoken of the Legislature's role in promoting sound election policies and voters' participation.

Speaker Chambers said it is incumbent upon the Legislative body of any country to ensure the promotion of free, fair and credible election processes, as well as the sustenance of democracy.

Chambers made the comments last week via phone on the House's Public Affairs program "Today in the House" on ELBC from the United States 2023 Democracy Summit in Washington, DC.

He boasted of Liberia's preparedness to conduct transparent elections this year, owing to the numerous measures set to ensure unhindered electoral processes.

Speaker Chambers also highlighted the role of the Legislature in promoting anti-graft initiatives, as well as peace-building, among other things.

Mr. Chambers said his participation in the U.S. Democracy Summit 2023 will

measures put in place to have the people effective in the political processes in Liberia," he noted.

Speaker Chambers informed other members of the Legislature from around the world that democracy itself is the heart of the process, but there are other things to complement and sustain democracy.

He pointed out that there were other issues discussed at the Summit including global peace, global security, the role of the Legislature in supporting international democratic commitments and preserving democratic norms.

Other areas discussed are Legislatures' roles around the world in countering corruption.

Meanwhile, Speaker Chambers has lauded USAID Group, the National Democratic Institute and the IRI for their involvement in the process.

The summit is hosted by the U.S. House of Representatives, co-implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) with funding from USAID.

The Legislative Track of the



Speaker Chamber

greatly help Liberia's democracy.

He stated that he was elated that this convocation was called, to include members of the Legislature around the world and other experts.

“And we want to say we're happy there were several issues discussed. I was one of the panelists that spoke on free and fair elections, and the role of the Legislature in promoting sound election policies and voter participation,” Speaker Chambers stated.

“So I spoke on that when I said how Liberia was driving in that direction because there were

second Summit for Democracy, specifically designed for global legislators brings senior legislators from across the world.

The legislative track of the second Summit for Democracy started from Tuesday March 28-30, 2023. Approximately 60 senior elected representatives at the leadership level convened in Washington, DC to participate in a number of in-person sessions.

These engagements provide opportunities for reform-oriented members of parliament to connect and learn more about their shared responsibilities and democratic practices.

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BVR will not be extended

-NEC declares

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has declared that there will be no extension of the ongoing Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) in the

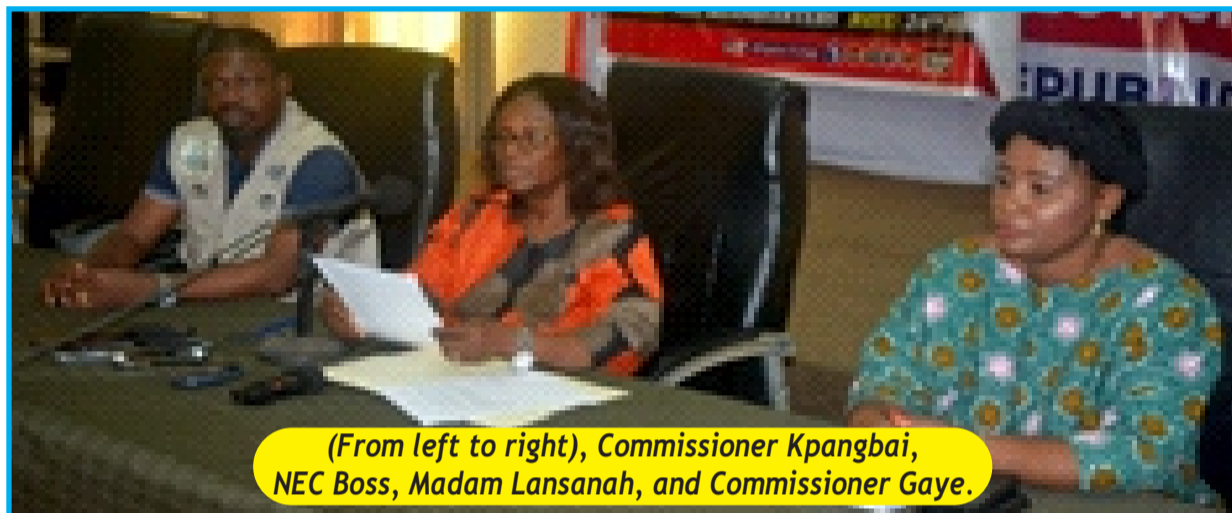
She said the contract is a generic one drawn for one month, from 18 March 2023 to 17 April 2023.

The Chairperson said the eight days from 9 April to 17 April will be used for temporary BVR staff to compile reports, retrieval of equipment and materials deployed to the field,

centers to ensure that eligible voters registered.

Chairperson Browne Lansannah said there is no need for eligible voters in the Phase One counties to panic, as those who show up at the registration centers within the period will be registered.

Meanwhile, NEC has



(From left to right), Commissioner Kpangbai, NEC Boss, Madam Lansannah, and Commissioner Gaye.

Phase One counties of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Bomli, and Gbarpolu.

Speaking at a news conference Friday, Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansannah clarified that the contract end date of 17 April 2023 for temporary BVR staff does not in any way indicate that voter registration in the Phase One counties will be extended beyond 9 April 2023.

and processing of payment for staff.

“Let me reiterate that the BVR in Phase One ends on 9 April 2023 and there will be no extension,” Madam Browne Lansannah emphatically declared.

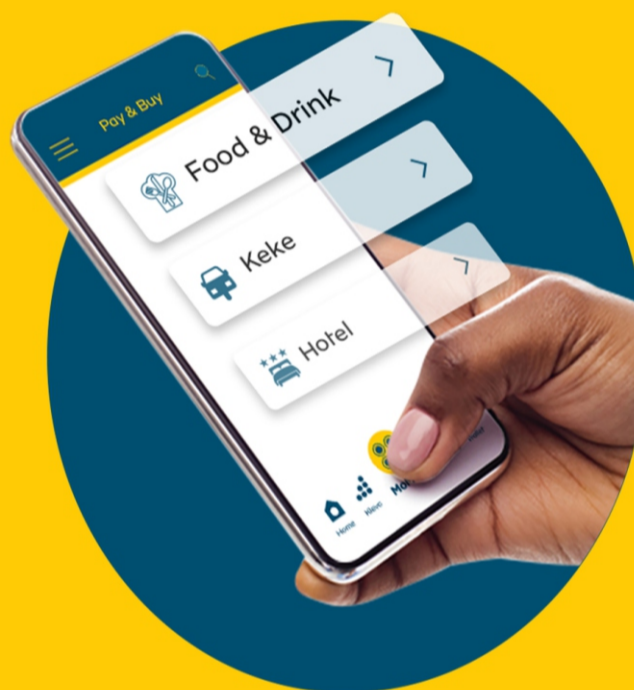
She urged Liberians 18 years and above to use the remaining 9 days to complete their registration and assured that more voter cards will be deployed at registration

terminated the services of Antoinette Yancy, one of its Temporary Staff, who served as a Registrar at the Namuwa English and Arabic School in District #10, for acts inimical to her status as a BVR staff.

Ms. Yancy was terminated following an investigation that established her involvement in activities that had the propensity to undermine the integrity and credibility of the commission.

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