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VOL. 13 NO. 050 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 05, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



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**NEG wants GPP**

**petition dismissed**



NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah



ANC leader Mr. Cummings

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**salary harmonization**

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# Continental News

## Somalia, Cuba Resume Diplomatic Relations After 46 Years

Somalia and Cuba have agreed to resume diplomatic relations after 46 years, Somalia's minister of foreign affairs has

ambassadors who submitted credentials to Somalia's president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, on Tuesday. Somalia's Jama met the Cuban

Ethiopian government during the war.

Somalia's former foreign minister, Ahmed Isse Awad, said Somalia and Cuba do not share cultural and geographical relations but adds the country cannot "self-imprison" to what happened in the past. "If they (Cuba) sent us an ambassador and want to improve relations with us it's a gain," Awad said. "I don't think it's in our interest to relive past hostility." Awad said Somalia currently enjoys good diplomatic relations with both Ethiopia and Russia. The immediate concern for Cuba may be winning the release of two Cuban doctors abducted by the al-Shabab militant group in northern Kenya in April 2019. Awad said when he was foreign minister in the previous Somali government, he was contacted by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla about the two hostages.

"I used to tell them that they are safe, they have not been killed and that they work as doctors for those who are holding them," he said. He said he told Cuba that Somalia will, "to the best of our ability," play a role in securing freedom for the two doctors.

Awad said al-Shabab has not officially made any demands for the doctors. The group has previously released foreigners it held hostage after alleged ransom payments. VOA

ambassador on Monday ahead of Rodriguez's meeting with Mohamud. "Honored to receive the credentials of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Amb. Juan Manuel Rodriguez," Jama said. Rodriguez is also Cuba's ambassador to Kenya.

Somalia broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1977 during the war between Somalia and Ethiopia. The Cuban government under Fidel Castro sent thousands of Cuban troops to assist the Soviet-backed

said. Abshir Omar Jama confirmed the diplomatic rapprochement in a Twitter post on Monday.

"Having established diplomatic relations between 1972-1977, we welcome the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba governed by cooperation and mutual respect," he wrote.

Cuba's ambassador to Somalia, Juan Manuel Rodriguez, was one of three



Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, left, receives credentials from Cuba's ambassador to Somalia

## UN Calls for Urgent Help for Malawi Cyclone Survivors

The United Nations and humanitarian partners in Malawi are calling for \$70.6 million to help more than a million people who were affected by Cyclone Freddy. The storm, which also hit Mozambique and Madagascar, killed hundreds of people and displaced more than 650,000 in southern Malawi. The U.N. says the flash appeal will provide shelter, nutrition, health, water and sanitation for those hardest hit by the crisis.

The appeal comes on top of the \$45.3 million called for earlier this year by humanitarian partners to respond to a cholera outbreak, bringing the total revised flash appeal to \$115.9 million.

cyclone would have been less had the country done a better job of managing its natural resources. "We have almost lost all the forests. Our land is degraded," he said. "What we have already started doing as a committee is to lobby the government to come up with deliberate policies where they should distribute these gas stoves for free to people living in cities and towns. Because if you look at the charcoal market, it is found in cities."

The committee donated gas-powered stoves to cyclone victims living in a camp in Blantyre on Sunday to dissuade them from using charcoal. "If we can't do that then these calamities are here to stay," Chilenga said. "And each year out, year in, we shall be coming here donating food items to people staying in camps, which is what we don't want as Malawians."



People walk past homes damaged by Cyclone Freddy in Chilobwe, Malawi, March 17, 2023.

The U.N. says the funds would enable it to work swiftly in support of the Malawi government-led response to assist communities affected by Cyclone Freddy and cholera. U.N. resident coordinator in Malawi Rebecca Adda-Dontoh said Malawians have mobilized to support one another in this time of tremendous need, and the appeal aimed to step up solidarity as the international community.

The cyclone destroyed many bridges and cut off roads in Malawi, making many areas reachable only by boats and aircraft.

Government statistics show that the cyclone left at least 676 people dead, and the death toll is expected to rise, as more than 600 others are still missing. Werani Chilenga, chairperson for the committee on natural resources and climate

change in Malawi's parliament, said the devastation caused by the

The U.N. said in a statement that the appeal aims to provide an integrated response – including shelter, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and protection – for those hardest hit by the crisis.

Reverend Moses Chimphepo, director for preparedness for the Department of Disaster Management Affairs in Malawi, said the government is now working on helping survivors move away from disaster-prone areas and start a new life. "With the food which the government is providing, we are trying to put together a package and mobile (mobilize) enough resources and then give it to the district councils so that they can give to those people who are willing to move," he said. In the meantime, Malawi Vice President Saulosi Chilima has asked city authorities in Blantyre to override a court ruling that allowed residents to build unauthorized homes in hilly areas. Thousands of people in Blantyre had their houses washed away and hundreds of others were killed when Cyclone Freddy caused mudslides on hills in Chilobwe Township. VOA

## Study: Emissions Cuts Can Slash Heat Deaths in Mideast, N. Africa

Meeting world targets to limit climate change would avert hundreds of thousands of heat-related deaths in the Middle East and North Africa, scientists said on Tuesday, urging the region to adapt better.

A modeling study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal found slashing carbon emissions to limit the rise in Earth's average temperature to two degrees Celsius would reduce heat-related deaths in the region by 80 percent compared to a high-emissions scenario. The regional focus on the heat risk came as Dubai prepares to host the United Nations COP28 climate summit in November. Countries have pledged to limit global warming to 1.5C under the Paris climate accords, prompting efforts to switch to low-carbon energy sources. In the highest-emissions scenario without cuts, around 123 people per

100,000 in the region would die per year from heat-related causes by the end of this century, according to the study, led by specialists at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. That would be 60 times greater than the current heat-death rate and far higher than in other regions of the world.

Of the 19 countries analyzed,

Iran was expected to have the highest annual death rate under a high-emissions scenario – 423 deaths per 100,000 of population. Lead author Shakoor Hajat told AFP temperatures were projected to be very high in parts of Iran. Aging will also occur at a faster rate there than in many other countries in the region.



Ambulances wait to aid people who collapse from heat at Amr Ibn al-As mosque, in old Cairo

# 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 Avram Alpert

## Reviving Hope for the Humanities

**H**AMBURG - At a recent conference of German and American literary scholars, I suggested that our high-level discussions would matter only if we helped change students' lives. It is not enough to tell students how the skills developed in reading literature can "transfer" to other parts of their lives. Rather, we must help them become better interpreters of each other, so that they can become better friends, family members, and citizens.

I had anticipated that this argument would meet with skepticism or insistence that studying great works of literature is important for its own sake. To my surprise, the response went much further than that, and even included an accusation that I was condoning "tyranny." The idea that we might teach people how to live well, I was told, wrongly assumes that we ourselves know how to live well, and that we are right to impose our views on others.

There is some logic to this concern. After all, far-right politicians in many countries are currently trying to impose their values on students by banning certain subjects and books. But I was not advocating for university instructors to tell people how to live. My point was simply that we should help our students connect the classroom to their daily lives through meaningful reflection. The heated response I received speaks volumes about how some humanists have abdicated their historic role: to help people find meaning.

Too many teachers nowadays avoid engaging in serious conversations about living well. With the future of humanities instruction in doubt, this is a grave mistake. We urgently need to reconnect the humanities classroom to the age-old quest for a meaningful life, not least because there is deep yearning for this kind of education. From 2013 to 2019, sales of "self-help" books increased annually by 11% - and that was before they became an even bigger hit during the pandemic. Psychological treatment for stress and anxiety continues to rise, with reports of year-long waitlists just to see a therapist. In many countries, there simply are not enough mental-health services to meet the demand.

Moreover, as universities have gradually ceased to be centers for deep conversations about life, people have been creating their own forums for humanistic engagement. Groups like the Catherine Project, Night School Bar, and Premise are bringing people together outside of universities to hold wide-ranging discussions about life and art. It is little wonder that when universities do offer these kinds of classes, students respond. Three of Yale University's most popular courses are about happiness, death, and how to lead a life worth living. Unfortunately, these are the stand-out exceptions that prove the rule.

In the absence of thoughtful guidance, people will increasingly seek meaning elsewhere, and not always in healthy or fruitful ways. Social-science research demonstrates that when people feel adrift or deprived of meaning in their lives, they become more susceptible to authoritarian leaders. Open-minded humanists should

probably worry less about the "tyranny" of helping people find meaning, and more about how the lack of meaning can lead to actual tyranny.

Given that there is massive demand for humanistic knowledge, why has such teaching been marginalized in the university? One reason is rooted in the Enlightenment's ideal of disinterested knowledge. Modern scientific investigation was supposed to free itself from "interests," especially misguided quests to deny science and follow religious dogma. But as science freed itself from oppressive theology, it also moved away from the search for meaning. Scientists rightly wanted to explain what was empirically verifiable, and there was no mathematical formula for how to live well.

Humanistic research also went down this path. For example, many scholars stopped trying to understand what poetry can teach us about how to live, and focused instead on offering formal, sociological, and historical accounts of poetry's role in human society. But as worthwhile as such research may be, it became too dominant, unwittingly leading to an academic monoculture of knowledge production that marginalizes the bigger questions of life.

The good news is that we can re-engage with these bigger questions without recreating the problems of the past. Considerate classroom discussions of big humanistic questions can help everyone (students and instructors alike) better understand what a good life can be; and the knowledge of modern scholarship about topics like ecology, identity, narrative, and interpretation can be valuable aids in adding depth and relevance to these discussions.

The coming years may offer humanists a major new opportunity to reinvent themselves as the people who can best help students explore the wonders and challenges of human existence. Since the start of the pandemic, when so many people began to question economic pieties about the increasingly career-oriented nature of college, universities around the world have reported a resurgent interest in humanistic study. In the current academic year, for example, the number of declared humanities majors at the University of California, Berkeley, surged 121% compared to last year.

To be sure, these are preliminary figures, and we will have to see if the trend continues. But even a small uptick represents a crucial opportunity for the humanities. Even as we avoid "tyrannically" imposing our own assumptions on our students, we should be equally wary of neglecting to help them understand how to live well on their own terms.

The humanities can do that, and it is an instructor's job to show students how. Our classrooms should be places where the thorniest issues of life are considered, debated, and reimagined; where meaning and purpose are kindled and cherished; and where everyone can work together to understand and appreciate the fullness of life. It falls to us to ignite new enlightenments, where we combine the best of our scientific knowledge with the wisdom to make a meaningful world for all.

## OP-ED

By Nico Muzi, Robin Willoughby

# The Food-System Revolution Is Coming

**L**ONDON - Disruption is coming to the agriculture sector. Around the world, livestock farmers are leaving the land, policymakers are targeting the harmful environmental and social effects of industrial meat production, and consumers are shifting away from meat to embrace healthier, more sustainable alternatives. With the sector approaching a crossroads, decision-makers in government, industry, and civil society will need to heed the lessons from major transitions in other industries and start preparing.

The preparation will require a careful inventory of farmers, workers, and consumers' needs. While farmers are growing older and leaving the land for other pursuits or retirement, the agriculture sector is struggling to attract new entrants - and not just in richer industrialized countries. For every farm manager under 40, there are three over the age of 65 in Europe; and from Sub-Saharan Africa to Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, the number of older people living in rural areas is increasing while the number of young people declines.

At the same time, farms are becoming larger, and small farm operations are being squeezed. Owing to the challenging economics of farming and the power of a small number of giant industry incumbents, farms are being consolidated in the name of efficiency and economies of scale. As a result, the European Union lost more than one-third of its farms, and 40% of its livestock farms, from 2005 to 2020. Policymakers are thus left to consider whether and how to protect family farms, and how to avoid the risks of animal-welfare violations, poor working conditions, and diseases that are inherent in industrial livestock farming.

Policymakers are also waking up to the compelling body of evidence about industrial meat production's environmental harms. While agriculture accounts for nearly one-third of all greenhouse-gas emissions, livestock alone (particularly cattle) contribute nearly 15%. Moreover, animal agriculture is the main cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss. Forests are razed to free up land not just for animal grazing but also for the additional crops needed to feed those animals. Beef production alone takes up some 60% of land used for agriculture, even though it contributes less than 2% of total calories consumed globally.

In Spain, factory-farm pollution has become so pervasive that pig manure has contaminated nearly one-quarter of all ground and surface water in the country. No wonder regulators are urgently seeking ways to target livestock pollution and produce more on less land. Given the increasing risk that infectious diseases will spread from animals to humans (zoonoses) through industrial livestock farming, the impetus for tighter regulation will only grow.

While livestock and agriculture have traditionally been excluded from most emissions-reduction schemes, policymakers in Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand are already working to close this gap, and many other countries will soon follow suit. The question now is not whether there will be increased regulation of the livestock industry, but what shape and form it will take. Farmers and companies alike should be prepared to adapt to changes that are now inevitable.

Finally, consumers, too, are shifting away from meat and dairy. Over the past decade, the average person's meat consumption has decreased by almost 17% in the United Kingdom and by 11% in Germany. Notwithstanding a recent slowdown, there is still growth in the uptake of alternative proteins - a food source that produces only a tiny fraction of the negative environmental and animal-welfare effects of traditional meat products. Plant-based meat and milk sales are already trending up across the board in the EU, but also in countries like Thailand and South Africa. When these products reach taste and price parity with meat, their uptake by consumers could accelerate very quickly indeed.

Public policy also has a role to play. Livestock farming tends to be heavily subsidized in many countries, owing to the sector's low margins and high levels of debt. As sales fall, declining revenue is likely to have significant welfare implications for farmers and other workers tied to the industrial meat-production systems.

Given the complexities of these interacting trends, policymakers and corporate leaders need to start getting in front of this issue now. The experience of other sectors that have begun decarbonizing - not least energy - shows that a planned and guided transition is always better than an ad hoc, unmanaged process.

One need look no further than last year's farmer protests in the Netherlands or New Zealand to see how abruptly climate policies can be disrupted when workers and communities feel left out. Unfortunately, we still have only a limited understanding of how best to integrate policy and corporate action to reduce food-system emissions while also protecting livelihoods. Since resisting change is not an option, policymakers and corporate leaders would do well to start thinking about how they will manage it in the coming years.

## OPINION

By Simon Johnson, Lukasz Rachel, Catherine Wolfram

# Learning to Squeeze Russia's Energy Revenues

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - As its full-scale invasion of Ukraine enters its 14th month, Russia is counting on the West to lose interest. With fewer headlines about the war, public support for taking costly steps to sanction Russia is waning. In one crucial area, however, the G7 and the European Union have figured out how to impose significant harm on Russia in a way that also supports the global economy. It is time to tighten this pressure on the Kremlin.

Before February 24, 2022, almost half of the Kremlin's revenue came from taxes on oil and gas exports, and it raked in more money whenever global commodity prices increased. As the tanks rolled, oil prices surged, and cashflow for the Kremlin followed suit. Through much of 2022, Russia reaped an enormous windfall from the war premium on oil, effectively financing its invasion. Meanwhile, high oil prices posed a major threat to a global economy gingerly trying to emerge from the pandemic.

The problem was that Russia exported so much oil that conventional tools for imposing sanctions on an oil exporter wouldn't work. Implementing a broad-scale embargo on Russian oil could have caused global oil prices to spike, hurting countries far and wide. And, to the extent that Russia would have been able to sell around the embargo, every barrel it exported would become more valuable, perhaps pushing revenue even higher than before.

The price cap on Russian oil - implemented by the G7, the European Union, and Australia for crude oil starting December 5, 2022, and for petroleum products starting February 5, 2023 - was designed to thread the needle, keeping Russian oil on the market while reducing the profits flowing into the Kremlin's coffers. If Russia kept exporting at its historic pace, global oil markets were more likely to remain stable. But with reduced oil revenues, the Kremlin would find it harder to buy tanks or ammunition for its brutal war or increase pension payments to placate the population or keep the ruble stable. The EU, which historically imported about half of Russia's crude oil and over 90% of its petroleum products, banned imports from Russia when the price caps entered effect, making it even harder for the Kremlin to find export markets.

Specifically, since December 5, companies in the G7, the EU, and Australia cannot provide services for any oil shipment from Russia unless the price paid is below the cap. If the oil shipment travels on a Greek tanker or is insured by a British firm, that service provider must be able to produce an attestation that the price paid is below the cap (currently set at \$60 per barrel for crude oil). Service providers from the coalition of countries imposing the cap have long been important for Russian oil exports. For example, before the cap was imposed, over 90% of Russian oil exports were insured by a company located in the EU, the United Kingdom, or the United States.

Much evidence suggests that the price cap is working as designed. Russian oil continues to flow, and oil markets appear unconcerned about a loss of Russian supply. When Russian officials announced on February 10 that they would remove about 5% of Russia's oil from the market in March, the market was unimpressed. Prices rose by less than 3%. Overall, since the price cap was imposed, Russian crude oil shipments have risen slightly, and the price has been largely stable.

Moreover, the price cap appears to be depleting the Kremlin's coffers. The price for Russia's Urals grade crude - which historically went to destinations in Europe - fell sharply relative to global prices just as the price cap and EU embargo came into effect.

The price cap does not apply to all Russian oil exports. If the oil is carried on a Russian-owned tanker, insured by a Chinese company, and does not involve services from any of the coalition countries, the price cap is not binding. Much of the oil that comes out of Russia's Eastern ports headed for China does not involve G7 and EU services. Even for these trades, though, the price Russia received fell relative to global benchmark prices, suggesting that the cap provides leverage to buyers even if it doesn't apply to a particular trade.

Global oil markets are opaque, and some suggest that reported prices do not reflect what Russia is receiving. The ultimate proof that the cap is working as intended is that Kremlin statements and actions suggest that revenues are down. For example, in early February, Russia's finance ministry announced a threefold increase in foreign-currency sales to make up for lower oil revenues. And, according to data from the ministry, government oil revenues in January 2023 were nearly 60% lower than in March 2022, just after the invasion.

We have suggested formalizing the process for adjusting the caps with a dedicated policy committee that meets at regular intervals to assess the effectiveness of the cap and announce further tightening, as appropriate. The US Treasury's sanctions enforcement agency, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and its counterparts in other G7 countries, the EU, and Australia, also must ensure that oil monies aren't flowing back to Russia through other channels.

Meanwhile, excess funds earned from Russian oil exports last year are still on deposit in foreign-currency accounts, including at Gazprombank. Now would be a good time to freeze those accumulated balances, in effect imposing an ex post price cap. This would not discourage continued oil exports, because new revenues would not be subject to the freeze, so long as the sales take place at or below the price cap.

The US and its allies achieved a profound feat of economic statecraft by designing and implementing a novel mechanism to deprive Russia of revenues it was likely counting on to fund its brutal war. Now it is time to increase the pressure on Russian public finances.

# 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.

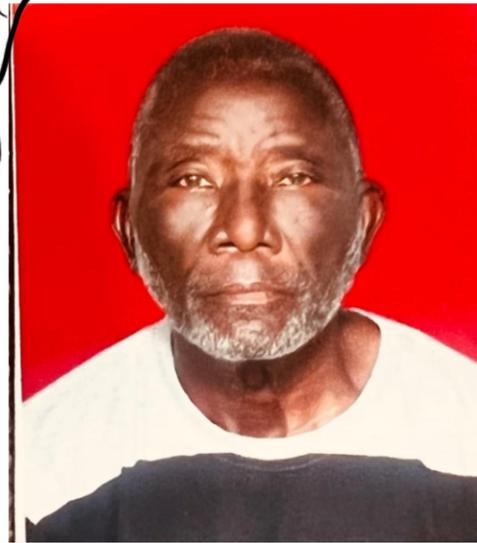
According to the state law: "A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway." That means if snow is falling off your vehicle, you are breaking the law. If you don't clean the snow off your vehicle, you could be fined up to \$100 per offense.

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.

# DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



R.I.P

Johnny Wleh Teh

It is with the saddest regret that we announce the death of Mr. Johnny Wleh Teh, which occurred at about 9 a.m. on April 1, 2023 at the Fidelity Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

Our dear father has passed away after a battle with illness, and we feel at peace knowing that he can rest now. Thank you for the continued visits, cards and support during this difficult time for our family. We will memorialize our beloved father at Abraham Roberts Funeral Home, opposite Stephen Tolbert Estate, on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 2 o'clock by celebrating his wonderful life. Please join us if you would like to remember Mr. Johnny Wleh Teh with us.

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, the remains of our loving father and best friend will be taken to Fish Town City, River Gee County. All funeral activities to be announced will be held in Fish Town and Teajliken respectively.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the home town of our late father, Mr. Johnny Wleh Teh, Teajliken.

The family will also receive your condolences at the home of his son Cllr. Kunkunyon Wleh Teh at R2 Community, Margibi County, Cellphone numbers: 0777110011 or 0778163031. You may also contact the above numbers for further information that you may need.

The late Mr. Teh was a retired registered nurse, social worker and community leader who served humanity for over fifty (50) years in various communities. He worked at several places including Cavalla Rubber Plantations (CRC) Hospital in Pleebo, Maryland County; Nero Village Health Center (Ivory Coast); J. J. Dossen Memorial Hospital in Harper, Maryland County; Gbeapo Health Center in Karnweaken, River Gee County, and Putuken Health Center in Putuken, Cheadepo District, River Gee County.

Signed:

- Mr. Kentan Teh (Brewerville, Montserrado County)
- Mrs. Wleyoh Teh Browne (Caldwell, Montserrado County)
- Mrs. Abigail Snohn Teh-Harmon (Minneapolis, U.S.A.)
- Mrs. Benecta Jarbo-Jartoe (Baptist Seminary, Montserrado County)
- Rancy Kloteh Teh (Fish Town, River Gee County)
- Miss Bayonon Teh (New Georgia, Montserrado County)
- Cllr. Kunkunyon Wleh Teh (R2 Community, Margibi County)

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SITTING IN ITS JANUARY TERM A.D. 2023



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BEFORE HIS HONOUR:.....SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PERSIDING:

IN RE: THE PETITION OF RACHEL HARMON LEEWAY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNESVILLE DRY RICE MARKET, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE ISSUED FOR HER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REGARDED AS RACHEL HARMON.

#### COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

WHEREAS, Petitioner herein named in the entitled cause of Action, RACHEL HARMON LEEWAY, having filed a petition with Affidavit attached thereto, requesting an Order from this Honorable Court to have her name formally and legally changed from RACHEL HARMON LEEWAY to "RACHEL HARMON".

WHEREAS, AFTER THE Court having thoroughly examined Petitioner's and having been satisfied of the truthfulness of the allegations set forth:

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

That Petitioner's Petition is hereby granted and the name of the aforesaid Petitioner is now formally and legally changed from RACHEL HARMON LEEWAY to "RACHEL HARMON"

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE. This order shall be registered in the office of the REGISTRAR OF DEEDS FOR MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, and shall also be published twice in the recognized newspapers operating in the Republic of Liberia, within twenty days from today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT'S SEAL:



GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 10 DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 2023  
Scheaplor R. Dunbar  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PERSIDING  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL LAW COURT  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME: 03-022 PAGE (5) 00010517

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Supreme Court Reserves Ruling In Constitutionality of Voters Registrations

The Supreme Court of Liberia has reserved ruling following legal arguments by lawyers representing the

and D. Legal arguments were heard by the five Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia, including Chief Justice Sie

registered voters not in their constituencies, and that Voters Registration card issued by the NEC bears no constituencies name as required by the Liberian Constitution. State Lawyers argued that the Liberian Constitution empowers the National Legislature to set the Threshold and as such the NEC can't force the Legislature to do so.

State lawyers said in the absence of the Threshold, the NEC proceeded to use the current 73 constituencies to conduct the Voters Registration.

However, in counter arguments, CPP lawyers said the used of the current 73 constituencies was wrong, since in fact the law limited its used to only the 2011 elections.

CPP said while the NEC could not force the Legislature to set the Threshold, the NEC could have still proceeded to reapportion constituencies based on the provisional results of the just ended 2023 National Census which put the country's population at 5.2 million.

Following hours of arguments and counter arguments, the Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Youh reserved ruling until further notice.



Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), the National Elections Commission (NEC), and the government in the alleged unconstitutionality of conducting Voters Registration before reapportioning of constituencies.

The CPP of Mr. Alexander Cummings had petitioned the Supreme Court on March 17, accusing the NEC of proceeding with the conduct of the Voters Registration in contravention of the Liberian Constitution Articles 80 E, C

Nyene Youh, with the NEC represented by former Liberia's Solicitor General Michael Wright's, while the government was represented by acting Solicitor General Nyenatee Tuan of the Justice Ministry and the CPP represented by Counsellor Aloysius Toe and others.

During legal arguments, CPP lawyers maintained that the NEC has proceeded wrongly to conduct Voters Registration without reapportioning constituencies, that NEC

## EFFL sounds alarmed on threats to Liberia's Democracy

**-Launches checkpoints to restore Rule of Law**  
By: Kruah Thompson

The leader of Liberia's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFFL) has sounded a warning bell over the state of democracy in the country.

Emmanuel Gonquoi's concerns stem from what he believes are deliberate attempts by the current administration to undermine the rule of law and stifle political position.

Speaking to reporter at his Paynesville residence on Monday, April 3, 2023, Emmanuel Gonquoi, says President Weah has violated the constitution on many occasions, so EFFL is here to erect checkpoints aimed at correcting his mistakes and safeguarding the future of Liberian's democracy.

Gonquoi's decision to establish checkpoints is both a symbolic and practical move aimed at challenging violations and sending a message of defiance to the Weah administration.

On March 14, 2023,

President Weah issued Executive Order #117 mandating all public officials to resign their position if they desire to contest in the 2023 presidential and legislative



election. Something EFFL CIC calls a violation of the code of conduct.

"And that is one of the reasons why we took a broad step to issue a writ of

prohibition against the president's executive order," he said.

Making the disclosure at his Paynesville Congo Town residence on Monday, April 3, 2023, the EFFL CIC revealed that Weah Government is

noted for many constitutional breaches and could endanger the democracy of the country if no step is taken to stop his

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## ECOWAS organizes an experience sharing workshop for Gender Experts from Member States

A workshop for gender experts, focal persons of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre from the 15 ECOWAS Member States, has commenced this Monday 3rd April 2023, in Saly-Mbour, a town 80km from Dakar, Senegal. The main aim of the workshop, holding from 3rd to 5th April 2023, is to evaluate the role and performance of the gender focal points and to identify ways to build capacity to enhance their performance in supporting the implementation of EGDC programmes in Member States under ECOWAS Vision 2050. The workshop was officially declared open by Prof Fatou Sow Sarr, ECOWAS Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs.

emphasized the importance of gender for key sectors of ECOWAS such as trade, free movement of persons and goods, political and social activities, socio economic development programmes, etc.

In her keynote address, delivered on behalf of Mrs Sandra Oulate Fattoh, Director of the EGDC, Mrs Salimata Thiam, the Principal Programme Officer, Gender, gave a brief history of the ECOWAS Gender Centre. She also recalled that "The main purpose of EGDC's Gender Focal Points is to get closer to stakeholders in the Member States and to create the appropriate framework for executing the centre's mandate...in the context of the new ECOWAS Vision 2050...To follow up on the adoption of its new 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, the EGDC



In more specific terms, the workshop aims to facilitate an update of the database of Gender Focal Points and a multiyear planning of programmes, projects and activities of the EGDC to be carried out in the Member States. Furthermore, the workshop affords an opportunity to introduce the content of ECOGO (Ecowas Gender Observatory), which is an information sharing and awareness creation platform. It is being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and aims to strategically position the EGDC as an agency of reference responsible for implementing ECOWAS Gender Policy.

Besides the Gender Focal Points from Member States, representatives of ECOWAS Institutions, Specialised Agencies and Directorates, Civil Society Organisations and technical partners such as UN-Women, UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Spanish Cooperation, are also taking part in this workshop.

After welcoming the participants, H.E. Stephan S. Sambou, Head of the ECOWAS National Office in Senegal

has deemed it necessary to reconnect with the Gender Focal Points to share new programme implementation strategies.

Subsequently, representatives of technical partners, notably Spanish Cooperation and UN-Women, delivered their respective solidarity messages. Speaking, Javier Vega, Coordinator for Spanish Cooperation, Senegal emphasized his country's choice to orient and anchor its feminist policy on the AU 2063 Agenda and on MDG 5 (gender equality and empowerment), before reaffirming his institution's commitment to pursue cooperation with ECOWAS and the EGDC.

The workshop was declared open by Prof Fatou Sow Sarr, ECOWAS Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs. In her opening remarks, she pointed out that ECOWAS had very early on affirmed its commitment to the global agenda promoting gender equality and women empowerment. "We have in each of our Member States, national gender development mechanisms, Gender Focal Points, women and youth groups and organisations extremely committed to the fight against social inequalities and to strengthening women leadership in politics, the economy and society.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## AfDB to promote youth entrepreneurship in Liberia

A visiting team of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in the country has been meeting with officials of financial services, address unemployment and promote self-reliance. Headed by Mr. Solomon Quaynor, Vice President for tenure for repayment, while its non-financial services will provide capacity building, mentorship and financial skills to help entrepreneurs and



Mr. Solomon Quaynor (2nd Left) with Liberian officials

Government, including Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and the private sector about establishing a Youth Entrepreneurship and Investment Bank (YEIB) in Liberia.

The proposed bank will primarily fund Liberia's Youth Entrepreneurship program aimed at enabling youths across the country to have access to financial and non-

Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, the team arrived since Monday, 3rd April on a three-day official visit, and has been holding high-level strategic discussions with Liberian authorities and other development partners including the private sector.

According to the delegation, financial services will focus on provision of loans with zero interest rates and longer

encourage youth entrepreneurship. The proposed project and will cover three core components namely; an Angel Investment Fund, a Credit Guarantee Fund and a Technical Assistance Fund.

The AfDB delegation further revealed that the Angel Investment Fund will support

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## Over 3,000 Liberians receive skills training

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh  
Over three thousand young men and women, including the less-privileged have completed a six-month empowerment skills training under the auspices of a local group, Thomas' Foundation.

Addressing the second batch of 3,800 graduates over the weekend, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation Michael Thomas, encouraged young people to make use of skills acquired to change Liberia and the world.

Mr. Thomas said the objective for establishing a vocational training institute in the country is to help enhance capacity of young people, who he described as future leaders.

He stressed that Technical Vocational Education Training or TVET program helps to facilitate socio-economic development by enhancing the capacity of individuals to adopt practices that are socially worthwhile, adding the development of a workforce enables people to use opportunities for a decent job, working with high productivity and protecting the environment.

The CEO, who is an aspirant for Montserrado County Electoral District #4,

urged the graduates to see the knowledge attained as a medium for self-employment and economic empowerment.

He also challenged them to become light and voice of the world by making a difference and speaking against societal ills like violence, drug abuse and rape, among others, emphasizing that these vices must be avoided.

ambition that he would live on for the rest of his life.

"I am a tailor, but I came here and acquired knowledge on driving and heavy duty driving and I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn something new, which I will live on for the rest of my life. I'm super excited", Mr. Henry expressed.

The Thomas Foundation is an initiative by Atty. Michael



Few of the graduates expressed excitement for the opportunity offered to them by the Foundation to gain skills, describing it as a dream come through.

William Henry, 29, applauded the Foundation, for what he terms a life-changing

Thomas, to help young Liberians improve their lives through TVET education.

The graduates acquired practical skills in electricity, plumbing, nursing, 3D floor making, and driving, among others. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## NEC asks S/Court to dismiss CPP petition

By Lincoln G. Peters

The National Election Commission has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss and trash a petition filed by opposition Collaboration Political Parties (CPP)'s requesting the court to compel it to demarcate constituencies before conducting the ongoing Voter Registration exercise, arguing that it lacks legal substance.

The Court on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, reserved ruling in the petition following arguments from both NEC and CPP lawyers.

At the hearing on Tuesday, CPP lead lawyer, Cllr. Aloysius Toe argued that NEC is acting in violation of Article 80 "C, D and E" of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia by conducting the BVR without demarcating constituencies after the census.

Cllr. Toes explained that

Wright noted.

Meanwhile, after carefully listening and following both legal arguments, the Supreme Court reserved ruling in the matter.

"Finally, after carefully listening and following the legal argument, we reserve ruling in the matter. You will be duly notified about the next hearing. This case is now adjourned" Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh stated.

Last month, the CPP filed a petition asking the court to address the constitutionality of the NEC's conduct of Voter Registration without the demarcation of the constitutional electoral constituency following the conduct of the national census.

CPP accused the electoral house of attempting to conduct Voter Registration in the absence of demarcated electoral districts.

In the petition, it contended that following the conduct of the 2022 national census, demarcated



Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

according to the constitution, immediately following a national Census, and before the next Presidential and legislative elections, the NEC is mandated to reapportion constituencies by the new population figure with each constituency obtaining at least twenty thousand registered voters.

This he stated NEC has failed to do as has been mandated by the constitution.

But in counter-argument before the full bench of the Supreme Court, NEC lead lawyer Cllr. Jenkins Wright argued that the NEC is functioning without the threshold being set up by the National legislature.

Cllr. Wright informed the court that NEC had not violated any provision of the Constitution as mentioned by the CPP in their petition and argued by their lead lawyer.

"However, we (NEC) prayed this court and your honor to dismiss the petition filed by my colleague (CPP) because this lacks legal substance," Cllr.

electoral districts should reflect changes in the country's population.

The CPP said its petition before the Supreme Court is not intended to delay the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

"The CPP is not seeking the intervention of the court to delay the elections," it said.

"We know that Liberians cannot wait to end their sufferings by decisively voting out and bringing to a democratic end the multiple failures in [the] leadership of the George Weah-led administration," it continued.

The CPP said like many Liberians, it is concerned about the constitutionality of the action of the NEC to conduct voter registration after the conduct of a census without constitutionally demarcating constituencies into which a voter is to be registered.

The lawsuit aims to prevent the electoral body from conducting voter registration in constituencies that have not been appropriately

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# Français

## Présidentielle 2023 : Le début de l'audience sur la plainte de l'opposition à la cour suprême

La Cour suprême du Libéria ouvrira les audiences sur la requête de l'opposition qui veut que la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) procède d'abord au découpage des circonscriptions électorales

déposé une requête devant le tribunal de grande instance pour lui demander d'examiner la constitutionnalité de la conduite de la NEC en ce qui concerne l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs sans procéder à la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales à la suite du

gouvernement, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Justice (MoJ), et de la NEC explique pourquoi il ne devrait pas accéder à la demande de la CPP.

La Cour a ordonné le jeudi 23 mars 2023 à son maréchal de notifier aux autorités de comparaître et de déposer leurs rapports le mercredi 29 mars 2023 à 9 heures.

"Il vous est ordonné par la présente d'informer les parties à la cause d'action susmentionnée ou leur(s) représentant(s) légal/(légaux) que l'honorable Cour suprême de la République du Libéria entendra les arguments dans ladite cause le 4 avril 2023 à l'heure de 10h00, et qu'ils sont sommés d'être présents", a déclaré le tribunal.

La Cour a convoqué les parties près d'une semaine après que la CPP eut déposé sa requête pour contraindre la NEC à procéder au démarcage des circonscriptions électorales avant de passer à l'opération d'inscription des électeurs qui est déjà en cours.

Composée de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) de M. Alexander B. Cummings et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



avant d'entamer l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs en cours.

Le mois dernier, La Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP), une coalition de l'opposition, a

recensement national.

La plus haute cour du pays a fixé au 4 avril 2023 la date à laquelle les parties rivales doivent engager une plaidoirie dans l'affaire à 10h00.

La Cour suprême veut que le

## La NEC promet de ne pas perdre son temps sur les recours électoraux farfelus

La Commission électorale nationale du Libéria (NEC) rejettera tous les recours et toutes les plaintes inutiles relatives aux élections générales et présidentielle et dont l'objectif est de retarder le processus électoral.

La commission électorale a mis en garde contre toute tentative de retardement du processus électoral de la part des avocats et des politiciens.

S'exprimant lundi au nom de Madame Davidetta Brown-Lasannah, présidente de la Commission Electorales Nationale, lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle de l'Association nationale du barreau libérien (LNBA) au complexe ministériel de l'EJS à Congo Town, le commissaire Boakai A. Dukuly a fait savoir que la NEC ne perdra pas son temps sur les recours électoraux inutiles.

« Cette fois, nous ne permettrons aux avocats de nous faire garder son dossier trop longtemps. Nous vous renverrons au juge en chef. Parfois, j'entends la Cour suprême dire que vous êtes

censé décider de cela avant de l'envoyer ici. Nous savons qu'une fois que vous (la Cour suprême) l'avez décidé, il est décidé que c'est pourquoi nous le faisons », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a également plaidé auprès des avocats qui comparaîtront devant la commission lors des audiences relatives aux différends électoraux de 2023 pour qu'ils soient conscients du délai légal prévu pour régler les questions électorales devant la NEC. Il a déclaré que les demandes répétées de maintien retarderaient le processus

électoral et jetteraient le blâme sur la commission.

« Nous vous en supplions, nous n'avons que 30 jours pour entendre et régler les questions et préoccupations électorales. On me dit que la Cour suprême vivrait dans les sept jours pour statuer sur les affaires si elle recevait tous les documents. Donc, vous devez être prêt à le faire pour nous, nous vous en supplions. La présidente sera heureuse que vous vous joigniez à nous

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ANC leader Mr. Cummings

NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lasannah

## Éditorial

### 3 milliards de dollars pour améliorer le système éducatif

Le ministre de l'Éducation, D. Ansu Sonii, a demandé 3 milliards de dollars américains récemment pour moderniser le système éducatif du Libéria et le mettre au même niveau que les normes internationales. Cette demande n'est tout simplement pas réaliste.

Le montant demandé par le ministre est cinq fois supérieur au budget du pays tout entier. Nous pensons par conséquent que cela ne sera réalisable au cours de ce siècle et peut-être au siècle prochain.

Cela présuppose donc que le Libéria ne peut même pas se mettre au même niveau que les pays de la sous-région, encore moins des pays du monde.

Ce que le ministre Sonii ne dit pas ou n'a pas reconnu, c'est le manque de volonté politique du gouvernement pour améliorer l'éducation au Libéria. Tout ce qu'ils disent sur la gratuité des universités publiques, le paiement des frais d'examen n'est rien que de la parole. La croûte des défis dans le secteur est toujours énorme.

Nous avons besoin d'une réforme complète du programme d'enseignement du niveau primaire au niveau universitaire.

Le ministre de l'Éducation ne dit pas aux Libériens ce qu'il fait avec l'argent alloué à l'éducation, étant donné que les écoles publiques du pays sont délabrées, les élèves apprennent dans un environnement peu propice, les cours sont d'une mauvaise qualité en raison du fait que le personnel n'est pas assez qualifié.

Cette année, 50 millions de dollars américains ont été alloués à l'éducation. Comment ce montant sera-t-il dépensé pendant que des milliers de soi-disant enseignants des écoles publiques n'ont pas de salaire, portant on s'attend à ce qu'ils fassent preuve de professionnalisme ?

Avec le mauvais état du système éducatif, les universités et les collèges surgissent partout sous le regard du ministère de l'éducation. La tentative récente de la Commission de l'enseignement supérieur d'appliquer la norme ou d'exiger les qualifications requises pour les présidents et vice-présidents des universités du pays a été avortée par le ministre Sonii. Le ministère n'a pas besoin de 3 milliards de dollars pour appliquer cette simple politique.

Comment pouvons-nous améliorer les performances des élèves, en particulier les élèves de 12e année qui sont en classe d'examen quand M. Dale Gbotoe, directeur d'examen, se lamente sur les performances lamentables dans les matières scientifiques qui devraient être le domaine dans lequel nous concentrons nos efforts dans nos écoles ? Quels sont les plans pour adapter le programme et préparer les enseignants à présenter des leçons pour combler cette lacune ?

Le ministre Sonii devrait parler des moyens de relever les défis urgents auxquels le secteur est confronté plutôt que de demander de l'argent pour lequel il n'a aucun plan.

Il n'a pas fallu au Ghana un quart de milliard pour que ses élèves réussissent le récent WASSCE avec les notes les plus élevées de toute la sous-région. Cette réalisation enviable est le résultat de son dévouement, de sa sincérité et de son amour pour son pays.

Si nous, Libériens, n'arrêtons pas de faire semblant de parler de domaines critiques tels que l'éducation, la santé et la sécurité, entre autres, nous n'irons nulle part en tant que nation.

# Français

## Présidentielle 2023 : Le début de l'audience sur

d'une faction du Liberty Party (LP), la CPP accuse la commission électorale de passer outre les instructions constitutionnelles. Selon elle, après le recensement national de 2022, la composition des circonscriptions électorales devrait refléter les changements de la population du pays.

« La CPP ne demande pas l'intervention du tribunal pour retarder les élections. Nous savons que les Libériens sont impatients de mettre fin à leurs souffrances en votant de manière décisive contre le pouvoir et en mettant démocratiquement un terme aux multiples échecs dont l'administration George Weah s'est rendue coupable », a dit la coalition politique.

La CPP s'est dite

préoccupée, comme beaucoup de libériens, par la constitutionnalité de l'action de la NEC qui procède à l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs après un recensement sans faire le démarcage des circonscriptions électorales conformément à la constitution.

La population du Libéria, selon les résultats provisoires du recensement, s'élève à 5,2 millions, soit une augmentation de 50,4% par rapport à l'époque où elle était de 3,5 millions.

Cela représente un gain de population de plus de 1,7 million de personnes en l'espace de 14 ans, avec une croissance urbaine en hausse de 52 % et une croissance rurale en baisse de 48 %.

Cependant, la CPP estime que si la NEC est autorisée à procéder à la première phase de l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs à l'échelle nationale sans tenir compte du résultat du

## La NEC promet de ne pas perdre son temps

pour discuter et éduquer sur la loi électorale », a déclaré M. Dukuly.

« Maintenant, c'est l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs. Par conséquent, tout recours en rapport avec les élections ne ferez que nous faire perdre notre temps. Nous vous demandons de bien vouloir vous conformer à ce que le statut prévoit. De plus, nous voulons que vous prêtiez une

de deux jours au cours du week-end. Le programme a réuni plusieurs délégués et participants, dont des membres du corps diplomatique, des juges actuels et passés et des juges associés de la Cour suprême, ainsi que des avocats.

Le programme s'est déroulé sous le thème : « Au-delà de la rhétorique et de l'impunité : loi, gouvernance et élections de 2023 - La base de la nécessité démocratique au Libéria ».

Le premier jour, le vendredi 31 mars, il y a eu une session CVE sur des sujets allant du différend électoral, du dépôt, de l'audience et de l'arbitrage. Cela a été prononcé par l'ancien juge associé Micah Wilkins Wright et Me Arthur

Tamba Johnson.

En conséquence, les tendances et perspectives de la Cour suprême dans le règlement des questions électorales ont également été présentées par l'ancien ministre de la Justice Benoît Sannoh.

Lors de la clôture, une autre session CVE sur le sujet : "Étapes constitutionnelles et statutaires préparatoires à l'organisation des élections", a été prononcée par l'ancien juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh.

## Abidjan | Ouverture de la 14e Conférence des présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections de la région Afrique de l'APF, avec la participation du Maroc



Les travaux de la 14ème Conférence des présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections de la région Afrique de l'Assemblée parlementaire Francophone (APF), se sont ouverts, lundi à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire, avec la participation d'une délégation marocaine de haut niveau.

La délégation marocaine, conduite par le vice-président de la Chambre des Représentants, M. Hassan Benomar, comprend Mohamed Ghat, président du groupe du Rassemblement national des indépendants (RNI), Ouallal Hossein du groupe du Rassemblement National des Indépendants, Mme Latifa Lablih, présidente de la Commission du contrôle des finances publiques et membre du groupe Authenticité et Modernité (PAM), et Chafik Hachim-Amine, du groupe istiqlalien de l'unité et de l'égalitarisme.

Cet important événement international, qui se tient les 3 et 4 avril, constitue une occasion pour les représentants des parlements membres de se rencontrer, de se concerter, d'échanger et d'ouvrir de larges horizons de dialogue dans le but de renforcer les relations et les efforts des parlements dans l'espace francophone.

Plusieurs questions centrales seront abordées et débattues par les participants à cette 14ème Conférence, notamment la situation politique et sociale dans les pays francophones d'Afrique et les crises politiques dans certains pays comme le

Burkina Faso, la Guinée, le Mali, le Tchad, et la Tunisie.

D'autres thèmes seront aussi au menu des discussions, à savoir "Les défis de la gouvernance démocratique et de la sécurité en Afrique francophone", "La sécurité alimentaire à l'épreuve des crises politiques, sociales et économiques", et "La protection des écosystèmes forestiers et la lutte contre désertification en Afrique : réflexions sur les politiques publiques et les initiatives parlementaires des dix dernières années".

L'ordre du jour comprend également des axes liés aux missions de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, notamment en ce qui concerne la révision des statuts, la présentation des travaux du comité sur la mise en place d'un fonds de solidarité de la région Afrique de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie. La conférence abordera de même le phénomène de l'absence prolongée de certaines sections africaines aux travaux des instances de l'APF, et fixera le lieu et la date de la 15ème Conférence des présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections. En marge des travaux de la 14ème Conférence, qui seront sanctionnés par l'adoption du communiqué final, la délégation marocaine aura des entretiens avec d'autres délégations présentes dans l'objectif de renforcer la coopération parlementaire bilatérale et multilatérale.

## Changement climatique | Le Maroc plaide à Nairobi pour un espace juridique africain commun

Le Royaume du Maroc a plaidé, lundi à Nairobi, pour un espace juridique africain commun pour relever les défis liés au changement climatique. Intervenant à l'ouverture du 3ème Symposium régional sur l'Ecologisation des systèmes judiciaires en Afrique (03-05 avril), Mme Imane Elmalki, chef de division au Conseil supérieur du Pouvoir judiciaire (CSPJ), a souligné la nécessité de réaliser l'équilibre entre les besoins du développement durable et la protection de l'environnement dans l'ensemble des projets de réforme, et ce, dans le cadre d'un cadre juridique commun. La question de l'environnement est un élément fédérateur pour les pays africains et consacre l'appartenance continentale et le destin commun, a indiqué Mme Elmalki, également Conseillère à la Cour de cassation, notant que l'environnement est un bien commun et une responsabilité collective de toutes les nations, qui nécessite l'implication de l'ensemble des acteurs, en définissant les responsabilités de



chaque intervenant.

Les pays africains font face aux mêmes problématiques, à savoir la désertification, la sécheresse et le changement climatique, a-t-elle noté, faisant observer que le citoyen africain est passé du stade de l'adaptation à son environnement à la recherche de meilleures opportunités dans un meilleur environnement.

Elle a, dans ce sens, insisté sur l'importance de moderniser le système juridique en l'adaptant aux engagements régionaux et internationaux, ainsi que sur l'importance d'assurer les moyens humains, logistiques et de gestion permettant de mettre en oeuvre ces engagements, se disant pour une approche préventive et répressive pour « endiguer l'hémorragie environnementale ».

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Forest and Carbon Harvesting: The Case of Liberia

By S. Karweaye

According to the UN data, deforestation produces around 12-20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and the UN's Redd (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) scheme is viewed as an effective way to cut emissions by buying carbon credits, or "offsets", from developing countries who keep their forests standing. The Paris Climate Agreement recognizes REDD+ and the central role of forests in Article 5.

The UN plans to preserve the world's forests by allowing owners to trade the carbon stored in endangered forests on condition the trees are not felled. The plan aims to slash 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions that come from deforestation and is one of the few aspects of a global deal to fight climate change. Ghana was the second country in Africa after Mozambique to receive payments from a World Bank trust fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

On March 2023, the Government of Liberia (GOL) and the newly founded United Arab Emirate (UAE) -based entity, Blue Carbon, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to implement carbon removal projects in forest sector under Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement. According to the GOL press release, the MOU was cemented following the recent visit of President Geoge Weah to the UAE.

Blue Carbon was established in 2012 by Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktoum, a member of the Dubai Royal Family and Chairman of the company. According to the company website, the Dubai-based company's mandate is to create environmental assets, nature-based solutions and register carbon removal projects. Commenting on the MoU with Liberia, Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktoum said, "We are honored to sign this MoU with The Republic of Liberia. This bilateral association marks another milestone for Blue Carbon to enable government entities to define their sustainable frameworks and help transition to a low-carbon economical system, thus reaching their Net Zero goals in compliance with the transferability of credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement."

The UAE, Opec's third-largest oil producer, aims to become carbon neutral by 2050 after submitting its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in September 2022 in response to the Paris Agreement, which increases the country's 2030 climate target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 23.5% to 31% of a business-as-usual scenario for the year 2030. The UAE intends to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the year 2030 by 31%, relative to the BusinessAs-Usual (BAU) scenario. Consistent with the approach, the country has planned to invest \$163 billion in clean and renewable energy over the next three decades in order to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Recently, the UAE invested more than \$50bn in renewable energy projects across 40 countries, and it plans to double that over the next decade. In February 2023, Blue Carbon and the Government of Tanzania through the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) signed an MoU. In the same month, Blue Carbon signed (MoU) with Zambia through the

Ministry of Green Economy and Environment to implement carbon removal projects in the forest sector under Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement. The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties, or Cop28 as it is informally known, will be held in the UAE next year. The meeting, which followed on from Cop27 in Egypt last November, will try to find solutions to the threats posed by climate change.

So the information that Blue Carbon of UAE signed \$50 billion solely with Liberia is FALSE. The 50 billion is part of the renewable energy project across 40 countries and not Liberia alone. Blue Carbon agreements with Liberia, Zambia, and Tanzania are geared towards developing forestry-based carbon removal projects in these African countries to generate carbon credits. These agreements fall under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which allows international trade in carbon credits used to meet countries' targets set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Why Liberia?



Liberia is home to 43 percent of the remaining Upper Guinean forest, which also covers parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast. It's home to endangered forest elephants, pygmy hippos and western chimpanzees. It is estimated that one-third of Liberia's 5 million people live in the country's forests. Liberia is a densely forested country, a resource it could potentially use as a major source of revenue to pay to protect its forests and reduce emissions.

However, Liberia's forest sector is vulnerable to corruption, which is exacerbated by weak institutional capacities of the government agencies in charge of these sectors and a lack of enforcement of existing laws. Since 2000, some 22% of the nation's tree cover has been lost to deforestation, largely due to pressure from logging and small farms.

Liberia is ranked 174th, out of the 180 countries of the world and the least in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a score of 24.90 on the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI). Thus, corruption affects environmental regulations by introducing a bias, not only in the adoption process but also in the implementation process and the application of these regulations. Illegal logging is rife. In Liberia, a country marked by high levels of corruption, polluters or the extractors of natural resources can escape environmental regulations by offering bribes to the administrative authorities responsible for environmental regulation.

An unpublished report from an investigation into logging in the Liberian rainforest found illegal operations "on a significant scale," with multiple missteps or breaches of law by the government agency charged with protecting those forests. According to the report, in 2018, a logging company in Grand Bassa County called Renaissance Group Inc participated in illegal logging of \$4 million in tropical

hardwoods in Grand Bassa County by a company called the Renaissance Group Inc. Liberia's Ministry of Justice commissioned a forensic investigation by international experts. The investigation led the Foreign Development Authority to 1,640 illegally harvested ekki logs in a lot owned by Renaissance Group Incorporated. The report outlined a string of irregular and questionable decisions made by top FDA officials following that discovery, including the imposition of a fine against Renaissance amounting to just \$5,000 – a tiny fraction of the timber's market value.

The investigation said this token fine was part of a pattern of negligence by the FDA's Weah-appointed director, Mike Doryen, and other senior personnel at the forestry agency, who were described as having committed "serious breaches of Liberian law" in their response to the case. According to the justice ministry investigation, SGS, an independent auditing group that holds an EU-funded contract to monitor Liberia's timber trade, expressed concern over the minimal fine in a letter to the FDA. The agency then imposed an additional \$100,000 fine on Renaissance – still far more lenient than Liberian forestry laws mandated. Based on the total value of the timber and the severity of the violation, the panel that carried out the investigation said the logs should have been seized and Renaissance should have paid a fine of around \$1.75 million.

The investigating panel said there was "sufficient evidence to conclude that illegal logging on a significant scale" had been carried out by Renaissance. It recommended the logs be confiscated and that Weah convene a special presidential committee to further examine the government's response to the case. Neither recommendation was implemented by President Weah.

According to Liberia's renowned newspaper, Daily Observer, in January 2023, Renaissance Group Incorporated won a controversial lawsuit in Liberia, when a court ordered forestry officials to allow a shipment of illegally harvested ekki logs to be exported. Liberian environmental groups say the ruling is emblematic of a breakdown of the laws regulating the country's logging sector under the current president, George Weah, and exposes its rainforests to serious threat. In March 2023, the paper revealed "kewa Group of companies, a Nigerian firm operating in Margibi and Grand Bassa County at the time, forged another company's document to acquire a new logging contract."

In 2007, a British company Carbon Harvesting Corporation (CHC) approached the Government of Liberia to negotiate the allocation of a 400,000-hectare forest carbon concession - a fifth of Liberia's rainforest - to sell carbon credits to clients who want to offset their carbon emissions. A Global Witness investigation of the financial, social, and environmental risks involved in the proposed deal revealed regular payments were made to Liberian government officials and a politician via a middleman. According to Global Witness, the British company's proposal to rent out one-fifth of Liberia's forests for carbon offsetting could have bankrupted the impoverished Liberian state because under the contract, if Liberia's forests had failed to deliver the full estimated number of carbon credits, based on a minimum target price of around \$13.5 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, it could have been liable to make up the difference to a maximum of \$2.2bn.

CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

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# NEC asks S/Court to

# Cummings vows to reverse salary harmonization

reapportioned to reflect population growth.

million, an increase of 50.4 percent when compared to

in the space of 14 years, with urban growth up by 52 percent and rural growth down by 48 percent.



Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

Liberia's population, according to the provisional census results stands at 5.2

when it was 3.5 million. This represents a population gain of over 1.7 million people

However, the CPP alleges that if the NEC is allowed to proceed with the first phase of its nationwide voter registration exercise, without considering the census result, it would be a violation of Article 80 of the Constitution of Liberia.

"The CPP has filed a petition before the full bench of the Supreme Court concerning the constitutionality of the action of the National Elections Commission to conduct voters registration without constitutionally demarcating constituencies into which a voter is to be registered," the CPP said. -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Alexander B. Cummings, says government harmonization policy, which caused drastic reduction in salaries of public sector employees, has deepened the suffering, and rendered more Liberians poorer.

Cummings said such bad and corruption prone policy by the administration of President George Weah amounts to wickedness.

He vowed to rescind the wrongful harmonization and restored salaries at even better levels by a CPP Government.

He said more Liberians are suffering and living far below the poverty line than any other time in the history of Liberia.

Cummings said, President Weah's five years rule has rendered most Liberians economically worst off than ever.

He made the observation following a tour of the Kakata and Vai Town general markets in Kakata, Margibi County on April

to guarantee protection of their goods and businesses.

Kakata market officials said rising crime rates is not only a serious security threat to their personal safety, but also a hindrance to their businesses, especially at night-time. They also pleaded for loans to sustain and grow their businesses.

Responding, Mr. Cummings assured the marketers that within the first one hundred days of a CPP Government, he will ensure that Liberian businesses including marketers have access to credit facilities to grow and expand their businesses.

He said a CPP Government will prioritize the interests of Liberians and urged every marketer of voting age to register and vote in the October 10 Presidential elections.

He said a CPP Government will mark the dawn of a new era of transparency, and irrespective of political affiliations, will afford all Liberians equal rights and access to jobs and opportunities, unlike the CDC government that has monopolized every aspect of public

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# AfDB to promote youth

youth entrepreneurs who have ongoing businesses to expand at commercial levels and meet market demands, while the Credit Guarantee Fund will assist in addressing collateral for financial support, thereby facilitating access by youth entrepreneurs to funds for business, and the Technical Assistance Fund will support business development services and capacity building for entrepreneurs to develop and sustain their businesses.

The proposed YEIB will be funded by the AfDB and Mastercard Foundation on a gender balanced basis in support of government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

When approved and subsequently operationalized, Liberia will be the third African country to benefit from the program after Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor welcomed the initiative and pledged the Government's unwavering support to ensure that the youth of Liberia are empowered.

Speaking to journalists

early Monday prior to their meeting with VP Taylor and other stakeholders, AfDB Vice President, Solomon Quaynor and the Bank's Country Manager in Liberia, Benedict Kanu, hailed the Bank's long years of development collaboration with Liberia through both the public and private sectors.

They reiterated the institution's commitment to particularly boost private sector growth and development, amid global economic challenges caused by the impact of COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war.

The African Development Bank Group, in 2020, appointed Mr. Solomon Quaynor as Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization.

An American citizen, Mr. Quaynor brings over 25 years of experience in development finance and investment banking.

He is an emerging markets specialist with experience in investing across financial institutions, Technology, Media, and Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Energy, Manufacturing, Agribusiness

and Services.

Besides, he was Senior Advisor to IFU (a Danish Development Financial Institution) for sub-Saharan Africa, including serving on the investment committee of a West African private equity fund; and was senior advisor to boards of medium corporates in Africa, as well as international companies exploring market entry in Africa.

Liberia was instrumental in the creation of the African Development Bank and is also a founding member of the Bank, having joined in 1964 with the late Dr. Romeo A. Horton crafting the vision for the formation of the Bank. The AfDB remains one of Liberia's key development partners.

Its current portfolio in the country comprises 14 ongoing and recently approved operations with cumulative commitments amounting to US\$ 376.96 million, dominated by road transport and energy infrastructure.



ANC leader Mr. Cummings

3. Marketers at the Kakata and Vai Town general markets complained of the lack of electricity amidst rising crimes and ineffective security service

service and resources.

Cummings vowed to form a government of inclusion based on the merit system, and will lead by example, with zero tolerance for corruption.

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# EFFL sounds alarmed on

torrent Rule.

He claims, the EFFL does not have the legal authority to hold him accountable for issuing executives orders, but they will ensure that he received a writ of prohibition whenever they make a mistake.

"The president can issue another executive order today that could forbid the existence of LACC, GAC, and the Secretarial. We are beginning to sense that the

executive branch is becoming even more powerful than that Ministry of Justice," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gonquoi revealed EFFL as a registered institution now has a stake in the modern politics of the countries and they will begin to erect the necessary checkpoint and correct the mistake going forward.

Democracy under president Weah's administrator has been questioned by many political pundits and student groups.

And from what may be taken if the writ of prohibition is accepted by the Supreme Court the EFFL may issue another writ against the executive for violating the code of conduct.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR: NANCY E. SAMMY ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF KUTU K. MOORE PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "KUTU MADAM KANNEH."

### COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru her legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from Kutu K. Moore to "Kutu Madam Kanneh."

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true identity name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on December 14, 1953, in Koluma, Grand Cape Mount County, Republic of Liberia, and that she was born unto Mr. Oldman Kanneh and Madam Ma Kaine (all deceased), and that the change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly and that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Kutu K. Moore be changed to Kutu Madam Kanneh beginning this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of June, A. D. 2022. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT SEAL:



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2022.

NANCY E. SAMMY ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT MON. CO., R.L.

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO VOLUME 09-022 PAGE(S) D0009833

REGISTRAR, DEEDS AND ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO., R.L.

sept 2022 10:00 AM

## 27 political parties commit to violence-free election

By Lincoln G. Peters

Twenty-seven political parties in Liberia signed a commitment Tuesday, 4 April 2023 for a free, fair, transparent, and non-violent election this October 2023. The document is named the Farmington River

biometric voter registration exercise. Montserrado Country electoral district #10 appears to be the hot spot for election violence for now, given recent incidents between pro-government supporters and those backing opposition lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah.



Declaration. The signing ceremony was held at the Farmington Hotel in Margibi County. The program was organized by the National Elections Commission and its partners. The signing ceremony was graced by several diplomats including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Liberia is headed to the polls this October, and elections violence has already begun with the ongoing

Among the 27 political parties that have signed up for the Farmington Declaration are the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the main opposition Unity Party (UP). Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, UP leader and former Liberian Vice President spoke of the cardinal ingredients that must be considered to avoid a high probability of not having a violent-free election.

"Together with our international partners and mainly the government, we

must ensure that these elections are CREDIBLE and in addition monitor the indicators that would lead to the election not being credible, free, fair, transparent and non-violent," said Amb. Boakai.

"It is, therefore, of key importance that we emphasize and prevent the triggers of violence rather than just stating that we want violence-free elections," Amb. Boakai cautioned.

Amb. Boakai extended thanks and appreciation to the United Nations, ECOWAS, all those International and Local Partners, and all Political Parties that have affixed their signatures to the Farmington Declaration.

He said it will reaffirm their commitment to non-violent, free, fair, and transparent elections in October of this year.

According to him, it was at that same venue, the Farmington Hotel, where they signed a commitment to a non-violent election in 2017. "I am glad to report here that the 2017 Legislative and Presidential elections under the auspices of the Unity Party-led government were largely free of any major violent incident and one the most acclaimed transfer of power occurred."

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