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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023	LS161.5474/US\$1.00	LS163.5211/US\$1.00

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

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Continental News

South Africa's Gupta extradition bid from UAE fails

South Africa's bid to have two brothers from the wealthy Gupta family extradited from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has failed. Atul and Rajesh Gupta are accused in South Africa of profiting from their close links with former President Jacob Zuma and exerting unfair influence.

strict standards for legal documentation as outlined in the extradition agreement between the UAE and South Africa" that came into force two years ago.

Some of the paperwork was either incorrect, in the case of the fraud charge, or missing, in the case of the corruption charge, the statement adds.

The decision was made in

government would appeal against the decision.

In recent weeks there have been media reports that the brothers were no longer in custody and had been spotted in Switzerland.

The justice ministry could not confirm this or whether the brothers, who had been granted South African citizenship, had acquired passports from the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.

The news is a blow for South Africa's fight to bring the Guptas to justice.

An official inquiry, known as the Zondo commission, took four years to probe allegations of high-level corruption under the Zuma presidency, exposing how billions of dollars were looted from state coffers.

It found that the brothers, who once enjoyed unfettered access to power that became known as "state capture", tried to influence political and economic decisions.

Many of the most serious allegations focus on their relationship with Mr Zuma, who was president of South Africa from 2009 until he was forced to step down amid a storm of corruption allegations nine years later.

The Gupta family is accused of using their close links with Mr Zuma to win business contracts, influence high-profile government appointments and misappropriate state funds.

Mr Zuma, along with the Guptas, denies the allegations.

South Africa negotiated an extradition treaty with the UAE in 2021, three years after the brothers fled the country. BBC

Uganda's Mary Goretti Kitutu to spend Easter in jail over roofing-sheets scandal

Ugandan cabinet minister is to spend Easter in jail after being charged over a scandal involving the theft of thousands of metal roofing sheets.

They were intended for vulnerable communities in the north-eastern Karamoja region.

Mary Goretti Kitutu Kimono, the minister for the region, pleaded not guilty in court but was denied bail.

At least 10 other senior government figures are alleged to have received some of the stolen corrugated iron.

These include the vice-president, the prime minister, the parliamentary Speaker and other ministers, according to the inspector general of government.

"I have understood the charge and it's not true," she responded in court, speaking firmly.

She has been charged alongside her brother, Michael Naboya Kitutu, who pleaded not guilty to receiving 100 of the corrugated iron sheets.

The minister's court appearance was highly anticipated. On arrival, she covered her head and face with a piece of cloth to shield herself from the clamouring media.

Her lawyer had applied for bail, arguing that she was a high-profile senior citizen, had medical complications and would not interfere with prosecution witnesses.

But the prosecution fought for her to remain in custody, telling the court that Mrs Kitutu had prevented her mother, in whose house some sheets were recovered, from recording a statement to the police.

Her sister-in-law, niece and



Atul Gupta (L), one of the brothers accused of having a corrupt relationship with former President Zuma (R)

The justice ministry said it had learnt with "shock and dismay" about the move.

The brothers, who deny any wrongdoing, fled after a judicial commission began probing a major corruption scandal.

The Indian-born Guptas were arrested in the UAE last June and extradition talks with South Africa began.

But the UAE said that it turned down the extradition request on a technicality.

In a brief statement, quoted in the Emirates News Agency, it said that a review "found that the request did not meet the

February but it was only communicated to South Africa on Thursday, South African Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said.

"The reasons provided for denying our request are inexplicable and fly in the face of the assurances given by Emirati authorities that our requests meet their requirements," Mr Lamola is quoted by South Africa's Mail & Guardian newspaper as saying.

The UAE government says the "South African authorities are able to resubmit the extradition request with new and additional documentation".

Earlier, Mr Lamola had said his

Dozens killed in 'barbaric' Burkina Faso attacks

Some 44 people have been killed after two deadly attacks in northern Burkina Faso on Thursday, officials have said.

The twin attacks happened in the villages of Kourakou and Tondobi in the Sahel region, near the Niger border.

No group has admitted to carrying out the attacks, but jihadist violence is common in the area and officials have blamed "armed terrorist groups".

Militant groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS) are known to operate in the region.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Sahel region, Rodolphe Sorgho, said the assailants behind the "despicable and barbaric attack" had been "put out of action".

Other villagers were reportedly injured in the attacks, but it is unclear how many. Mr Sorgho said "actions to

stabilise the area are under way".

One resident told the AFP news agency that "a large number of terrorists burst into the village" and that he heard gunfire all night long.

"It was on Friday morning that we saw that there were several dozen dead," he said.

AFP has also reported that the killings were in retaliation for the

lynching of two jihadists who had tried to steal cattle a few days earlier.

Thursday night's killings happened close to the village of Seytenga, where dozens of people were killed last June.

Burkina Faso and its neighbours have faced protracted jihadist insurgencies since 2013. BBC



Lawmaker Mary Goretti Kitutu Kimono arriving at court

Some of them told a parliamentary committee investigating the corruption scandal, involving 14,500 missing iron sheets, that they had not asked for them.

The prime minister has apologised and urged other officials to return the sheets. Speaker Anita Among told the house that she had returned the ones she had received.

One minister was recently forced to remove some from the roof of his goat shed, local media reported.

Karamoja has for decades faced persistent droughts and flooding when it rains, leaving many in the semi-arid north-eastern region dependent on aid.

Mrs Kitutu will remain in custody until next Wednesday. It is alleged that instead of distributing the roofing materials to Karamoja communities, she gave them to her relatives and officials.

daughter-in-law, all alleged to be involved in the scandal, are on the run.

Mrs Kitutu rose to prominence as an environmental scientist, and was involved in mapping her home region in Mt Elgon, which is prone to landslides.

She became an MP in 2016 and has held other cabinet posts, including the energy and minerals portfolios.

Corruption scandals involving high-profile government officials are common, but it is rare for them to resign or be sacked.

Communications Minister Chris Baryomunsi said any decision on Mrs Kitutu's future would be taken after police investigations had been concluded.

"Irrespective of who you are, you have to face the law," he said.

President Yoweri Museveni has called for the prosecution of all those involved.

No other officials have yet been charged over the scandal. BBC



Burkina Faso's new military chief has vowed to step up efforts to counter jihadist violence in the country

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EDITORIAL

Liberians should applaud themselves

ALL ELIGIBLE voters who went out to participate in Phase I of the biometric voter's registration conducted by the National Elections Commission in six counties that ended on April 9, 2023, without any violent disruption should pat themselves on the back for not just responding to a civic duty but demonstrating love for country.

PHASE I of the exercise that ended on Sunday, 9 April started on March 20, 2023. It was conducted in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties. The 2nd Phase coming up from 21 April to 11 May 2023 will cover River Cess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong and Lofa counties, respectively.

THE SUCCESSFUL completion of the first phase has set the tone for what should be expected of the last phase of the BVR process in preparation for presidential and general elections in October.

THE NEC had promised a fair, transparent, and faster BVR process and explained that the real objective is to register all Liberians 18 years and above ahead of the poll. Voters are playing their part in the democratic process and should be commended for the manner in which they generally conducted themselves in the past 20 days, though there were few technical problems, including attempts by handful of dishonest individuals to act smart, the NEC, with support of the security was on top of its game.

IT IS important that Liberians keep on the path of peaceful BVR, void of violence as the second phase starts on 21 April in the remaining nine counties. A successful process will not just bring us pride but demonstrate to the world that we as a people, are ready to move on.

DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS provide unique opportunity for citizens to choose their national leaders, under a social contract with the understanding that those so elected, would seek their welfare, including joy and security. Anything short of such expectations is a gross betrayal of the people's trust.

WHILE WE hail citizens for coming up to register in order to vote on October 10th, politicians seeking power should not take the electorate for granted after they shall have ascended to office.

RECENT EXPERIENCES and even those from the past, indicate that Liberians are not happy with the way those they elect govern the country. People are lamenting over corruption in the public sector that continues to deprive the citizenry of improved education, health and other social services, including security.

GETTING ELECTED to public offices is not, and should not be for personal benefits, but for public service. It should be about improving the standard of life of the electorate other than lording over them.

THEREFORE, IT goes without saying that as Liberians register to go to the poll, they should reflect deeply and think soberly before casting their ballots, for the power lies in the hands thru their votes in deciding who should lead them for the next six years. This power should not be exercised recklessly.

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COMMENTARY

By Shang-Jin Wei

A Reality Check for the Renminbi

NEW YORK - After years of speculation and false starts, it seems that the internationalization of the renminbi is well underway. On March 29, China and Brazil announced plans to trade using their own currencies, rather than the US dollar. The day before, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation and France's TotalEnergies completed their first-ever renminbi-denominated liquefied natural gas trade. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently said that he wants to use the Chinese currency not just for trading with China but also as a form of payment in trade with other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. And Saudi Arabia has been in talks with China since last year about accepting payments for some oil exports in renminbi.

It is no secret that China would like to convert the renminbi into an international currency and move away from the global dominance of the US dollar. While this is often interpreted as a geopolitical move, a way to insulate China from possible US-led economic sanctions in the future, transforming the renminbi into one of the world's leading settlement currencies would also greatly benefit the Chinese economy. Moreover, it would help protect the country from an exchange-rate crisis, which is why other countries, including India and ASEAN countries, are trying to internationalize their currencies, too.

The figure below, based on ongoing research by my co-authors and me, illustrates the progress that China has made in its efforts to internationalize the renminbi. The red line traces South Korean firms' renminbi-denominated exports as a share of its total exports to China between 2006 and 2020, showing the Chinese currency's share rising from 0% before 2008 to nearly 6% by 2020. In October 2016, the renminbi became part of the basket of currencies underpinning the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, special drawing rights, joining an exclusive club alongside the dollar, the euro, the yen, and the British pound.

While these are impressive milestones, one should not exaggerate the degree to which the renminbi is encroaching on the greenback's position. As the figure shows, the US dollar's share of South Korean exports to China declined from nearly 98% in 2006 to roughly 87% in 2020. In other words, the dollar has gone from overwhelmingly dominant to slightly less dominant. Even in China-South Korea bilateral trade, the renminbi is not even close to displacing the dollar.

[Chart]

Moreover, roughly 99% of South Korean exports to the United States during the same period were denominated in dollars; none were denominated in renminbi. By contrast, the dollar's share of South Korean exports to Japan was 45%, about

equal to that of the yen, with the won and the euro accounting for the rest. In other words, the US dollar continues to dominate global trade, including bilateral trade not involving the US, while the renminbi is essentially used only in transactions involving China.

Part of the reason for the greenback's continued preeminence is that, in addition to its status as a trading power, the US has very large and liquid capital markets where foreign investors can park their dollar-denominated assets. Because of its capital controls, China's domestic financial market is far less liquid, making the renminbi unattractive to international investors.

Theoretically, China could raise the renminbi's global profile by loosening capital controls. But doing so could come at significant cost, exposing the Chinese economy to the (often negative) consequences of US interest-rate movements and global financial cycles. Moreover, premature capital-account liberalization could exacerbate existing distortions within China's financial system, where domestic savings are not always channeled to the most productive firms. The Chinese authorities are keenly aware of these risks, which is why they have been prioritizing financial stability over renminbi internationalization.

There are, however, other ways to promote the renminbi. A series of currency swap agreements between the People's Bank of China and its counterparts in other countries, for example, could help make the renminbi less risky for international firms and investors.

In addition, a digital renminbi could facilitate partial capital-account liberalization without formally removing capital controls. By removing the anonymity of foreign investors, a digital renminbi would allow the PBOC to limit cross-border financial transactions to less volatile types and more conveniently activate a circuit-breaker when needed. Being able to separate inflows of "hot money" from more stable types of foreign investment could convince the central bank to relax some capital controls and allow financial capital to flow more freely.

In sum, while China has achieved notable progress toward making the renminbi a global reserve currency, it is still far from reaching its goal. While it could use a digital currency to deliver de facto partial capital-account liberalization, it will not undermine the dollar's hegemony without going much further in loosening capital controls.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

OP-ED

By Moha Ennaji

North African Feminism's Growing Impact

FEZ - North African feminists' work has made significant contributions to improving the prospects for democratization in the region in recent years, particularly in Morocco. By promoting women's empowerment through education, emancipation from social constraints, and knowledge production, feminists have kept progress alive, despite constant challenges and setbacks.

For example, while three Maghreb countries responded to the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings by enacting laws to increase women's political representation, Tunisia has recently slipped back toward autocracy under the authoritarian regime of Kais Saied. As of 2022, representation of women in the region's parliaments varied widely. In Tunisia, the share of women in the national assembly decreased to 16%, from 26% in 2014. In Algeria, women's representation fell from 31% in 2017 to 8% in 2021. By contrast, women's representation in Morocco's parliament increased from 21% in 2016 to 24.3% in 2021.

The environment for women's participation in the region varies in other ways as well. In Algeria, women's organizations that advocate social and cultural rights tend to enjoy relatively more autonomy and liberty than those focusing on political and civil rights, but even the former group is hindered by limits on freedom of expression and poor funding.

Likewise, in Morocco, the women's movement has struggled to achieve political and financial autonomy vis-à-vis the government, political parties, and other institutions. Women's groups work hand in hand with democratic organizations and government agencies on specific projects such as promoting literacy and education, reproductive health, and micro credits. Moreover, the government maintains an annual budget for women's NGOs working to achieve gender equity and sustainable development.

Whereas Moroccan and Algerian feminism was very strong between 2000 and 2010, Tunisia's movement took off after the Arab Spring, owing to the threat posed by Islamist parties and movements. We know this because of the increase in demonstrations, street protests, sit-ins, and petitions signed. In all three countries, women's movements have successfully used both traditional and social media to reach a wider audience, and to ensure that women's voices are heard both on the street and in the halls of power.

Thanks to these efforts, Morocco has introduced both legal and political reforms (amending the constitution, reforming the family code, increasing women's representation, and so forth), and women's participation in civil society has increased. Public spaces have been feminized, and traditional gender roles have gradually begun to change.

In Tunisia, even when Islamists came to power, feminist activists still managed to convince the first interim government to commit to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Since August 16, 2011, Tunisian law has recognized equality in marriage, divorce, and custody. More recently, Tunisia's feminist movement successfully pushed through a new law that provides for greater gender equality in inheritance.

As these examples show, the women's movement in North Africa has made major strides in raising awareness about the importance of women to economic, social, and cultural development. In the process of advancing women's rights, feminists have also made vital contributions to democratization and modernization. While secular feminists have rallied with progressive and democratic forces, women have also worked within the Islamist movement to secure important social and political gains - such as more seats in parliament and decision-making positions in government - since the Arab Spring.

To be sure, although gender quotas, new family laws, and other reforms have strengthened women's political participation and representation, other positive effects can be more difficult to quantify. Many social, cultural, and economic factors are in play, and the success of any reform will always depend on the country and the initial scale and scope of its gender-based disparities. According to the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap Report, North African countries have managed to close their gender gaps in education, health, and employment by 50%. In Morocco, female illiteracy fell from 78% in 1962 to 2.4% in 2021.

Overall, feminists' efforts have transformed gender roles in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, and secured hard-fought real-world gains for women and girls. But though women have benefited from their relatively improved political participation and representation, they still constitute a minority in leadership positions. Despite recent reforms, substantial legal, social, economic, and political inequalities between men and women remain.

As such, many feminists are now focusing on changing the public's mindset and consolidating women's presence in public spaces and decision-making positions. They are pursuing new institutional and social reforms not only to expand political representation but also to make up for decades of discrimination and exclusion. Despite the unexpected backlash following the Arab Spring, women are working together and building coalitions to address their fundamental concerns. The uprisings a decade ago gave women hope and showed them what they could achieve through political organizing and by framing collective demands.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How Liberian officials are killing Liberian-owned businesses

(From our files)

Editor's Note: This 2nd Thought is being repeated as politicians prepared to kick-start their campaigns. Many have already begun printing their party paraphernalia outside the country with money paid them by local businesses. But yet these printing presses, like many other Liberian owned businesses.)

Just the other day while sitting in my office, one of my staffs walked in with a fellow from the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). He said he had come from the advertising department of the MCC to measure the length and breadth of our entrance.

When we asked why, he stated that once we imprinted the services we provide on our glass door, that is equivalent to an outdoor advertisement and therefore we should pay certain fees to the Government of Liberia in taxes.

When told that this is not an outdoor billboard but rather the entrance of the very business for which we paid Municipal taxes to MCC, he said that was different.

"Liberty Hijacked" Is a Dangerous Book for Liberia's Unity and Fragile Peace
March 30, 2023

We then asked if he had seen any commercial printing ongoing in our office, he said no. I told him this is what we endure day in and day out, but yet, men and women from different government agencies march in and out of here every day demanding this or that and it's killing the Liberian businesses-many are folding up because of harassment from government agents.

We further informed him that rather than finding means to improve the viability of local businesses, the government is always finding ways to shut them down.

The reality here is that most Liberian-owned businesses are being drained by the government on multiple fronts with various kinds of taxes. They don't care if those institutions are making money or not-every day is another group of young men and women dressed in weird-looking jackets requesting ridiculous taxes.

Funny enough, the government will collect these different taxes from local businesses but when it comes to spending the very money, they go and transact outside of the country.

Members of the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary branches of government would rather spend the money collected from local businesses through their laundry taxes in other countries-say Ghana or China rather than patronize those who are feeding them with their taxes.

The case is worst for Liberians in the printing industry. Just few weeks ago, the Judiciary spent thousands of United States Dollars of local taxpayers' money in Ghana to print souvenir programs for retiring Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, when there are hundreds of local printing presses here that could do that. The Ghanaian printer who did that job does not pay a dime in terms of taxes to the Liberian Government-it's local printers who do.

The Judiciary is not alone in this. It goes up to the Legislative and Executive Branches as well. The general and presidential elections is just next year. Government officials vying for elective posts will take money taxpayers are feeding and supporting their extravagant lifestyles with to spend it on printing of t-shirts and flyers in Ghana and China; while the local printing businesses here struggle to pay the taxes that feed them when the money is being spent in foreign countries to businesses that pay no taxes here.

The question then is how the government expects the local printing industry and other local businesses to survive when they keep squeezing money out of them to spend in foreign countries. No wonder, the country's economy is experiencing stagnated growth.

There is nowhere a Ghanaian or Nigerian will take contracts meant to empower Ghanaians or Nigerians to a foreign country-only Liberian Government officials do that.

The biggest argument is that of the quality of work. How do they think the Ghanaians' and Nigerians' businesses got to where they are today if their own governments which they feed with their hard-earned monies through taxes had refused to inject those monies into their own economies by patronizing local businesses?

It was sometime in April, this year when President Weah frowned at Liberians for not patronizing Liberian businesses.

The President during a meeting of the National Steering Committee Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) asserted at the time that Liberians were rather going to foreign businesses to buy instead of promoting Liberian-owned businesses. "Our people have goods but no customers, I think we should start promoting our own businesses," President Weah noted.

However, what the President failed to have added to his statement at that meeting was, how do we expect our people to pay their taxes if we are taking everything to Ghana, China, America, and the likes?



APRIL 3, 2023

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
Payneville, Liberia
www.lta.gov.lr

Supply of Goods & Provision of Non-Consultancy Services

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has apportioned funds from its core budget towards the cost of procuring assorted goods and the provision of Non-Consultancy Services for fiscal year 2023.

The LTA now invites firms to submit sealed bids for the supply of said goods and services. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act). These applicable procurement procedures are consistent with the REPUBLIC of LIBERIA Amended and restated PPC Act published and approved: September 18, 2010.

The supply of goods and the provision of Non-Consultancy Services as per LTA quantities/qualities and requirements included in Bid documents:

Ref: No	Package Description	Description of Lot	Quantity	Bid Security (USD)
IFB LTA/NCB/001/2023	No. Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs	Lot 1 Toyota Brand	3 Pcs	300.00
		Lot 2 Nissan Brand	3 Pcs	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/003/2023	NO. Stationery & Supplies	Lot 1 Stationery	Assorted	300.00
		Lot 2 Ink/Cartridge	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/004/2023	NO. Security Guard Services	N/A Provision of Security Guard Services	Assorted	500.00
IFB LTA/NCB/005/2023	No. Office Furniture	N/A Furniture	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/006/2023	NO. Office Equipment	N/A ICT Equipment	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/007/2023	No. Sets of Generators	N/A 22. 5 KVA Generators	3 pcs	500.00

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Valid Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);
- Must provide two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;
- Must provide proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);
- Company's profile
- Letter of assurance of availability of supply (ies)/preparedness to provide services upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) and within a minimum period of 10 days goods shall be delivered
- Ability to pre-finance on an approved local purchase order after which payment will be made in thirty (30) days
- All bids must be signed and sealed in an envelope before submission

A complete set of bidding documents (soft copy) can be obtained *free of charge* by qualified and eligible bidders at the below address from Monday- Friday (9:00 A.M- 4:00 P.M). Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: (Eg: IFB No: LTA/NCB/004/2023) **CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the provision of Security Guard Services for Fiscal Year 2023.**

Bid security must also be submitted together with bid documents, and *must meet the amount stated above in Manager's check or Bank Guarantee.*

Address to:

Procurement & Logistics Section
 2nd Floor, Room # 029
 Liberia Telecommunications Authority
 Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
 Paynesville, Liberia
 Mobile number: +231-886-591857/777591857
 Email address: procurement@lta.gov.lr

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) Office, Manetamba Road, Copper's Beach Community, Paynesville, in the P&LS Conference Room # 029, 2nd Floor, on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm to answer questions relevant to the bidding process. Seven (7) days after which, requests for clarification will not be answered.

Bid must be submitted in both hard and soft copies at the respective addresses above on or before Tuesday, May 2, 2023 before 2:00 PM. You are strongly advised to keep your password confidential and bring the encrypted password at the bid opening meeting.

Bid Opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00 PM, in P&LS Conference Room Room # 029 on the 2nd Floor), in the presence of bidders' representatives or those who choose to attend.

Execution of this procurement package is subject to budget approval and the availability of funding resources during the Fiscal Year 2023. Winning bidders must be willing to accept payments either in Liberian Dollars or United States Dollars. Bid submitted electronically will not be accepted

The LTA reserves the right to reject or accept bids submitted and to annul the entire process at any time for reason to be communicated to bidders without incurring any liability thereof.

Signed:
 Prince G. Boah, Jr.
 Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved:
 Hon. Edwina C. Zackpah
 Chairperson/LTA BoC



LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

Jones Mallay proposes

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

The secret of opposition unseating Pres. Weah in 2023

The secret of unseating incumbent President Dr. George Tawlon Manneh Oppong Ousman Weah of the Ruling Coalition of Congress for Democratic Change in the October 2023 general and presidential elections is simply for the two opposition political parties (UP and ANC) to use all their hard-earned wealth to unseat President Weah, either in round one or in round two.

Here is the cash calculation and strategy. According to Wikipedia, former VP Joseph Nyumah Boakai, the political standard-bearer of the Unity Party (UP), has a Net Worth of about 109 million dollars. He can remit 1 million dollars each to the 16 counties to jump-start his campaign.

The former VP can also set aside \$500,000 to purchase 48 pickups and 48 motorbikes, three each for each of the 16 Counties to boost his winning chances against the incumbent Pres. Weah. The VP would have then spent a total of \$16.5m and he would be left with \$92.5 million.

In the case of Hon. Alexander Benedict Cumming, Jr., Political Leader of Alternative National Congress (ANC), who has also vowed to unseat the incumbent Pres. Weah in 2023, though he has a small Net Worth of about \$17 million, according to Wikipedia, he could remit \$16 million to the 16 counties with each county getting 1 million dollar each to start his own campaign of unseating President Weah.

ANC Cummings will then be left with 1 million dollars in his coffers for critical political emergencies just in case if, and only if the elections move to its second stage. When the election gets push to second round, both VP Baokia and ANC Cummings can use all their reserved wealth to finally unseat the incumbent in the second round since both of them considered the incumbent President Weah as their common political enemy in the 2023 elections.

The 2023 elections could be challenging and rough because the incumbent, President Weah, has also vowed to win his 2nd term.

According to Wikipedia, the incumbent has a Net Worth of about \$85 million to ensure his chances in the 2023 elections in his bid to secure his second-term in office. The incumbent could also remit 32 million dollars to the 16 counties, with each County allotted 2 million dollars to boost his chances. Lest we forget, the incumbent is also popular in the Liberian politics. The incumbent also has other advantages to frustrate VP Baokia and ANC's Cummings, Jr. The incumbent has an extra 3 million dollars in the 2023 budget for County's tours.

Besides, the incumbent also has colossal state resources to his advantage. These include the use of some government vehicles and government gas slips. The incumbent would also use local officials to help run his campaigns in the various Counties.

Remember that the incumbent employed all government officials, including ordinary employees, and the entire election commissioner team/executive director, the judiciary, and the security apparatus who could secretly campaign for him. Employees owe the incumbent a debt of gratitude to run his campaign and vote for him as a sign of their political loyalty, which is a typical African style of politics.

Liberians should understand that most government officials truly have the back of President Weah in these elections as government employees. With the failure of government officials to vote for incumbent President Weah, they, including the incumbent, would lose their jobs and forfeit their daily loaves of bread in Liberia.

When the incumbent loses power all his followers including government employees and officials will return to poverty sooner rather than later. If these financial strategies do not work for ANC Cummings and UP Boakai, they would undoubtedly be qualified as a defeated political instrument in Liberian history.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dr. Whapoe accuses Weah, CDC of sycophancy

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has accused the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and President George Manneh

sycophantic and corrupt to the point it allegedly accepts everything to satisfy its greed and selfish desires.

"My administration will not bow down to sycophancy. Our government is becoming more and more sycophantic, that anything they can accept," Dr.

for leaders to the point that anything they do or give can satisfy the citizenry.

"Even when they are riding their own air-conditioning car, we can say the man car is not easy. Now my question [is], how does that man's car put bread on your table?" Dr. Whapoe

Wondered. Dr. Whapoe wondered how can someone steal one million dollars from their citizens and the citizens who are given fifty cents in return think that their leaders are helping them.

He accused President Weah's government of allegedly mismanaging the country's resources and inflicting poverty on the people.

The VOLT political leader suggested that there is a need to replace the CDC government with a better leadership.

He narrated that a leader should be able to solve problems, something he said is the fundamental principle and responsibility of any leader.

Whapoe argued that any leader who can't identify a problem and solve it is not a leader. Instead, he said that person will increase the existing problems of those being led.

Whapoe alleged. "This CDC government is very corrupt and desperate for power, that's why they are always after their selfish desire instead of what brings joy and happiness to [the] majority," he claimed.

According to him, this is because Liberians have dropped their expectation bar

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Weah of sycophancy. Speaking Saturday, 8 April 2023 at the Mohammed Sesay Intellectual Forum in Brewerville, the presidential hopeful vowed that his administration will not bow down to sycophancy.

According to Dr. Whapoe, the CDC government headed by President Weah is very

ALCOD honors Weah's legal advisor, others

-Next Move: To constitutionalize "Once A Liberian, Always A Liberian"

The All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD) has bestowed on Cllr. Archibald Fitzhubert Bernard, Legal Advisor to President George Manneh Weah, honors for his leadership role in working with all parties that made the passage of the dual citizenship bill into law a success.

According to ALCOD, Cllr. Bernard's leadership in this drive dates as far back as 2012 or earlier when he began working with dual citizenship advocates and legislators to pass the bill that became a law on July 22, 2022 after it as was signed into handbill by Pres. Weah.

The honoring program for the President's Legal Advisor was held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Philadelphia, USA. The honoring program, a "Dual Citizenship Celebration Program", was to appreciate and honor champions, supporters, advocates, partners of ALCOD and people of Liberia for making, "Once A Liberian, Always A Liberian", the title of the advocacy, a law of the land.

The 'Once A Liberia,

Always A Liberia,' phrase was coined by Grand Cape Mount Senator Cllr. Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman, when he served as Liberia's 166th Independence Day Orator on July 26, 2013, in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

Emmanuel S. Wettee, who worked alongside Cllr. Bernard to achieve this feat, led the "thank you and appreciation parade" to honor not only Mr. Bernard, but also Pres. Weah, the legislature and others, for making "Once A Liberian, Always A Liberian" a law of the land.



Chief Honoree Cllr. Bernard and Eminent Wettee, Chairman-ALCOD at the March 25th, 2023, Dual Citizenship Victory Celebration Program

In a brief remark after he had been showered with praises, Cllr. Bernard challenged ALCOD to begin advocating for the constitutionality of "Once A Liberian, Always A Liberian."

The distinguished Eminent Chairman of ALCOD, Eminent

Eminent Wettee told Cllr. Bernard that ALCOD accepted his challenge in doing all to advocate for the constitutionality of the dual citizenship law and also to advocate for "Out of Country Voting" as is being requested by Diaspora Liberians.

Bea Mountain Disburses US\$50,000 As Micro Loan to Citizens of Kinjor

The management of Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) Friday April 7, 2023 disbursed a cash amount of US\$50,000 (Fifty thousand United States dollars) to citizens of Kinjor in Grand Cape Mount County.

The amount is part of a microloan and saving scheme provided by BMMC and is intended to help empower citizens of the area and take them out of poverty.

According to the media team of the company, the money is part of the company's commitment to the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) agreement entered into with old Kinjor and Larjor.

The money will help citizens of the communities to be

peace. Yesterday I spoke with the President that I was going to come here and speak to the citizens, and I told him about the microloan and saving scheme for our citizens that will empower them and reduce poverty. The President asked me to tell you thank you for keeping the peace in Kinjor. I have been in Kinjor many times from the old company to this New Liberty and I came here many times when there were issues," he said.

However, Minister Sirleaf was quick to remind the beneficiaries that the money is a revolving fund that must benefit other members of the communities. He called on them to wisely use the money so it can multiply for other members of their communities to benefit as well.

"This is a revolving fund which



empowered and reduce poverty. Speaking at the ceremony in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County, The Minister of Internal Affairs, Varney Sirleaf commended the Management of the company for honoring the agreement it signed with the communities.

Minister Sirleaf also lauded the citizens for maintaining peace and coming on the table with the company in moving their communities in the right direction.

The Internal Affairs Ministry boss said "I want to say to you citizens of the communities, thank you and it is because of the importance attached to this meeting that I am here. This is what we have been advocating for and we will work with the company to achieve it. We can't achieve this in the midst of confusion. We cannot achieve this in so many agitations. The time for agitations are over and you have your place on the table and Clan Development Fund are now available."

"I want to say to you the people enjoying in Kinjor, we must continue keeping the

the beneficiaries will benefit for other people to benefit too. We need to train our people. This will help this money to grow to reduce poverty from our communities. The entire money is in three phases. Today is US\$50,000 according to the MOU," he warned.

Also speaking, the Advisor of the BMMC Community Relations Department, Madam Aminata Kamara commended BMMC Management for keeping to their commitment to improving standards and for helping to alleviate poverty in their operation areas and the nation of Liberia. She thanked the Liberian Government and citizens of the communities for their unflinching partnership in working with the company for the betterment of all.

Madam Kamara assured the communities and the government of Liberia that the company will ensure everything in the agreement is adhered to.

"Thanks for the partnership. We will ensure that those things in the Resettlement Action Agreement (RAP) are implemented. I can assure you that BMMC will not fail on what we agreed on in the Resettlement Action Plan.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cllr. Gongloe drops bombshell manifesto

We want to bury our daughter

-Musu Family writes government

The family of the late Charloe Musu has officially requested the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of

scientifically, the cause of death, following which Pathologist Dr. Benedict Kulee informed the family and the public that the autopsy report

considering the violent and gruesome nature of her death," the communication reads.

The family has also reminded the government through the Ministry of Justice, that up to present, their request for the report of the Coroner's examination of February 27, 2023 and profile of Pathologist Dr. Kulee are yet to be responded to by the government.

Meanwhile, three of the four family members who observed the conduct of the autopsy at the St. Moses' Funeral Home on March 21, 2023, have quoted Dr. Kulee as making some very disturbing remarks in the autopsy room.

J. Wodemle Elliott, uncle; Michael B. Stemn, brother; and Dwede Musu, aunty to the deceased, revealed that upon their alarm that part of the late Charloe Musu's hair was missing or rooted out of her head, the Pathologist, surprisingly and disdainfully asserted that no criminal would go to a house to steal and be fighting to remove hair from someone's head.

Dwede Musu, aunty of the deceased, who first raised the alarm about the missing plait of hair, expressed shock over the alleged remarks by the Pathologist who she added, should be purely a medical person and a neutral professional.



The late Charloe Musu family members

Justice, to turn over their daughter's body for funeral arrangements and burial.

Over ten family members of the deceased, including Justice Gloria Musu Scott and the father of the late Charloe Musu, on Thursday, April 6, 2023, walked to the Ministry of Justice with a communication addressed to Justice Minister and Attorney General, Frank Musah Dean, in which they note that the conduct of a recent autopsy by the State was for the purpose of establishing,

would have been released in two weeks.

The communication continues that with the passage of time and giving the grief and pain the family is enduring, they want the government to turn the body over for funeral.

"Honorable Minister, the object of the request is to bury Charloe, so that her body and remains will be finally laid to rest with the decency, dignity, honor and respect she deserves, and in keeping with our tradition and custom;

Participants recommend Non-Violent Approach

-to curb voter trucking

Participants at a just-ended training of trainers (TOT) workshop organized by the Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CECPAP) in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, have called on Liberians to adopt non-violent approach in addressing the issues of voter trucking and electoral violence in Liberia.

The participants' call comes against the backdrop of recent reports of violence emanating from voter trucking in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbapolu counties respectively.

They vehemently denounced the act of voter trucking and urged their fellow compatriots to allow law enforcement officers handle the issue of voter trucking whenever it arises in the communities, saying "If you see voter trucking taking place in your community, report it to the security apparatus."

According to a release issued by CECPAP, the participants in their

recommendation, stressed the need for the Center to engage in massive awareness and sensitization on anti-voter trucking across Liberia's 15 political sub-divisions.

They, however, pledged their full support to working

brought together participants from River Gee, Maryland and Grand Gedeh Counties. The Zwedru ToT workshop taught participants on various topics such as Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment Through Conflict Prevention and



Participants at the Zwedru Workshop

alongside with CECPAP to ensure voter trucking and electoral violence do not occur in the upcoming general and presidential elections slated for October this year.

They also called for teamwork between the police and community dwellers to identify strange people entering the community to do voter registration.

Cluster Three TOT workshop

Resolution, Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling, Community Policing, Voter Trucking and Basic Border Management, Election Integrity, and Analyzing Social Media News Content, among others.

The workshop was held under the theme: Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe has released a bombshell manifesto in his ten-count prescription to Liberia's aged-old problems.

Over the weekend, the renowned Liberian Human Rights Lawyer said his political party's 'bombshell manifesto' intends to liberate Liberia from the trap of poverty, impunity, bad governance, abuse of power and unequal distribution of the country's resources.

The opposition leader told the people of Wolota clan, Kpaai District in Bong County, that he will liberate Liberia from the trap of poverty, greed and selfishness.

"I have [a] ten-point political manifesto or agenda for making Liberia better than it is. This will

next president, and what makes him the best presidential hopeful for the October 2023 elections.

Cllr. Gongloe was given a Kola nut, stick, and rice, among others, and he was rubbed with a chalk.

The traditional women, headed by Madam Mini Koko did the presentation. They said the presentation of the Kola nut represented their open-hearted welcome, and love for Cllr. Gongloe and his team.

He told the people that in Liberia, pregnant women, children and many others died from curable diseases because sometimes, there are no drugs at health facilities or there is no money to go to hospital.

Cllr. Gongloe further indicated that under his administration, pregnant women, children, old folks, and all Liberians will go to government health facilities free of charge. He said they will have better health services at



liberate Liberia from the trap of poverty, greed and selfishness," said Cllr. Gongloe Saturday, 8 April 2023.

Gongloe is among several opposition leaders seeking to replace incumbent President George Manneh Weah through the polls this October.

"However, because of time, I will talk about the basic four that will change Liberia [for] better, and they are so dear to my heart," he added.

He named education, health, agriculture, [anti]-corruption, and road connectivity.

Wolota Clan, Kpaai District in Bong County was a center of attraction and a scene of excitement following the arrival of Cllr. Gongloe and his entourage in the town.

The youth, women, elders, and traditional dancers received Cllr. Gongloe and his team. They marched through the town for an indoor program.

The program was to present Cllr. Gongloe to the people of Wolota Clan, Kpaai District, for an onward presentation to the entire Bong County.

The people needed to know his mission, vision and agenda for Liberia before he could be presented to Bong County as the

government facilities than in private facilities.

"When I become President, government hospitals will be better than private hospitals and clinics," Gongloe vowed.

"I will do that by going to the health facility myself for treatment, and exercising monitoring and evaluation."

He promised that if there is no drugs, equipment and other things at the hospital, during his surprise visit and the government had appropriated that in the budget, he will call out the head of the entity and fire them.

Additionally, he said he will immediately turn the dismissed official over to the relevant authority for investigation.

As part of his political agenda for Liberia, Gongloe said he will ensure that every Liberian child will go to school free of charge from kindergarten to twelve grade.

"The government will provide all the textbook, school fees, and everything. That is the free education we will provide."

Cllr. Gongloe noted that under his administration, he will make Liberia a corruption free country by ensuring that every government official accounts for their actions

Français

Le gouvernement du Libéria dément les affirmations de l'AFELL

Le gouvernement libérien a publié le jeudi 6 avril une déclaration dans laquelle il dément les allégations selon lesquelles le président George Weah aurait usé de son droit de veto pour

a été porté à l'attention du gouvernement du Libéria que certains médias affirment à tort que le président George M. Weah a opposé son veto à la section de la nouvelle loi électorale qui veut qu'au moins 30 % des sièges au parlement soient réservés aux

Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers, et qui date du 9 mars 2023, le président a clairement exprimé son soutien à cet aspect crucial de la législation soumise à son approbation. Il a tout de même détaillé les raisons de son objection à d'autres sections. Il est donc surprenant que les médias et certains acteurs de la société civile, dont l'AFELL, aient choisi de fausser malicieusement ce fait.

Le dirigeant libérien a toujours exprimé son soutien à une plus grande participation des femmes dans tous les aspects de la gouvernance. C'est la raison pour laquelle il a soutenu les efforts de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor et de la ministre du Genre Williametta Saydee-Tarr qui ont encouragé ce projet de loi essentiel d'action positive parrainé par le Women's Legislative Caucus. Au cours de leurs longs débats législatifs sur la question, le soutien vocal mérité de Me Williams était manifestement absent.

La lettre du président a été envoyée à la direction de la l'Assemblée nationale. Nous encourageons Me Williams à

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s'opposer à la section de la nouvelle loi électorale qui veut qu'au moins 30 % des sièges au parlement soient réservés aux femmes.

L'Association libérienne des femmes avocates, par la voix de sa présidente Me Philomène Williams, a également relayé ce faux récit.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous la déclaration complète : "Il

Dans la communication qu'il a adressée au président de la

La PUL tient un dialogue sur la sécurité des médias lors des élections

L'Union de la presse du Libéria (PUL) a organisé le vendredi 7 avril 2023 un dialogue sur l'analyse de la sécurité des médias sous le thème : Le rôle des médias et la sécurité pendant les élections ».

Le vendredi 7 avril 2023, à 9 heures, le dialogue sur la sécurité des médias a eu lieu à l'iCampus à Snapper Hill, Carey Street, Monrovia.

Compte tenu de l'importance des relations de

sécurité des médias avant, pendant et après les élections législatives et présidentielles d'octobre, et de la manière dont les deux secteurs peuvent travailler ensemble pour remplir leurs obligations, l'Union estime qu'une discussion honnête sur les questions urgentes est essentielle.

Le dialogue de vendredi a réuni des journalistes et des agents de sécurité de toutes les agences gouvernementales pour partager leurs expériences et trouver une

voie à suivre pour définir le rôle des médias et des titres pendant les élections.

Les panélistes de l'événement de vendredi étaient issus des forces armées du Libéria, de la police nationale du Libéria, de l'Agence de protection exécutive et des médias électroniques et imprimés.

La PUL avait appelé tous les journalistes à participer au dialogue qui vise à établir des normes pour protéger à la fois la presse écrite et les médias électroniques.

Éditorial

Que les partis respectent la déclaration de Farmington

Des leaders politiques qui représentent 27 partis politiques ont signé mardi 4 avril un engagement qui consiste à veiller à ce que les prochaines élections soient libres, justes, transparentes et sans violence.

Les leaders politiques ont signé l'accord en présence des partenaires internationaux, dont la CEDEAO. C'est une étape bienvenue, quoique ce ne soit pas la première fois.

Lors des élections de 2017 qui ont vu l'élection du président George Manneh Weah, les partis ont également signé l'accord de Farmington, du nom de l'hôtel où le pacte a été signé dans le comté de Margibi, à l'extérieur de la capitale, Monrovia.

Le document a été très indispensable au maintien de la paix et au respect des lois électorales lors des dernières élections. Durant cette période, les partis ont dû canaliser leurs griefs vers le système judiciaire. Nous rendons ainsi un hommage particulier à l'un des révérends leaders politiques et avocat astucieux du Libéria, feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, fondateur du parti de la Liberty Party qui, après les résultats du scrutin, a choisi les moyens légaux pour obtenir réparation de ses griefs.

Nous exhortons les dirigeants des partis politiques qui ont signé la deuxième déclaration de Farmington à défendre l'héritage de feu Me Brumskine en rejetant la violence.

Les récentes violences dans la circonscription électorale n° 10 du comté de Montserrado entre le représentant sortant Yekeh Kolubah de l'opposition et des jeunes armés de machettes qui seraient des militants de la coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), la coalition au pouvoir, et d'autres incidents ailleurs dans le pays, doivent attirer immédiatement l'attention des politiques, des parties prenantes et du gouvernement.

Le fait que le parti au pouvoir dirige violemment ses partisans dans le district 10 pour s'inscrire, dans le but principal de renverser le législateur sortant lors des prochaines élections, ne peut être toléré. C'est un acte que nous devons tous condamner, en tant que citoyens épris de paix, y compris les responsables politiques !

Nous encourageons les partis rivaux à faire campagne pour leurs candidats de manière civilisée et dans le respect de l'état de droit, afin qu'ils puissent gagner dans la transparence et des conditions démocratiques acceptables. Il servira à rien de rassembler les gens avec des coutelas pour terroriser les citoyens pacifiques et forcer les entreprises à fermer, comme cela a été le cas dans le district #10. C'est une incitation à la violence. C'est heureusement ce que chaque leader politique cherche à éviter en signant le Pacte de Farmington.

Il leur incombe d'éduquer et de sensibiliser leurs sympathisants et partisans et leur faire comprendre que la violence n'a pas sa place dans notre démocratie.

Dans le même temps, nous saluons M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP) et du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), qui a déposé un recours à la Cour suprême du Libéria contre la Commission électorale nationale sur l'opération d'enregistrement des électeurs, pour obtenir réparation. Il n'a pas fait recours à la violence.

La Cour suprême a entendu les deux parties et a réservé sa décision sur la requête de M. Cummings.

Pendant que nous nous dirigeons vers les élections, tous les partis sont tenus de respecter l'esprit de la Déclaration de Farmington.

Nous saluons ainsi au passage M. Cummings et feu Me Brumskine comme de véritables porte-flambeaux de la paix et de l'État de droit.



Français

Le gouvernement du Libéria dément

soutenir l'engagement public et démontrable du président en faveur de l'équilibre entre les sexes au sein de l'organe législatif.

Le gouvernement encourage également les médias et la société civile à continuer d'être la conscience morale de la société et à éviter d'être les pions des politiciens.

On peut rappeler que la présidente de l'AFELL a fait des déclarations similaires non fondées dans l'affaire du

décès de la fille de l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Musu Scott, avant même que l'enquête policière ne commence sérieusement.

Cette tendance malheureuse semble gagner du terrain alors que le pays se rapproche des élections d'octobre. Le gouvernement exhorte ceux qui sont censés lui demander des comptes à s'assurer que le discours public est fondé sur des faits, au lieu de se laisser entraîner dans les différentes machinations politiques.

Côte d'Ivoire : plus de 600 dossiers oubliés dans les placards du tribunal d'Abidjan

En Côte d'Ivoire, une sortie du ministre de la Justice lors d'une cérémonie a marqué les esprits cette semaine. Jeudi, alors qu'il remettait officiellement les clefs de 22 véhicules à des magistrats du pays, Sansan Kambilé a haussé le ton au sujet des détentions provisoires illégales dont le nombre a explosé ces dernières

Selon le quotidien Fraternité Matin, le ministre de la Justice, Sansan Kambilé, a tapé du poing sur la table devant un parterre de magistrats, le 6 avril dernier, en déplorant que « ces dossiers n'ont pas été traités non par oubli, mais par une volonté manifeste de ne pas instruire ».

L'année dernière, la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH) avait indiqué que 35% des 23 000 prisonniers



années.

Selon un rapport de l'Inspection générale des services judiciaires et pénitentiaires de Côte d'Ivoire, 677 dossiers de justiciables incarcérés ont été oubliés dans les placards du tribunal de première instance d'Abidjan. Parmi ces dossiers, 400 sont frappés de prescription, ce qui signifie que les prévenus ou accusés - actuellement en détention provisoire - devraient en théorie être libérés. En Côte d'Ivoire, la loi fixe à 18 mois maximum le délai de détention provisoire en matière correctionnelle, et 24 en matière criminelle.

Volonté « de ne pas instruire »

ivoiriens était en détention provisoire, sans préciser toutefois le nombre de détention provisoire illégale.

266%

Une situation qui participe au problème de la « surpopulation carcérale » également dénoncée par la CNDH. Une surpopulation évaluée à 266% en 2019 par l'Observatoire des lieux de détentions. La CNDH préconise de recourir davantage aux mesures alternatives à l'incarcération.

Il y a deux ans, un groupe d'experts d'Amnesty Internationale avait qualifié de « déplorables » les conditions de vie dans les prisons ivoiriennes et avait appelé à « mettre fin au recours systématique à la détention provisoire ».

Niger: l'Onu appelle à la protection des filles contre le mariage précoce



Les Nations unies ont rappelé, cette semaine, dans un communiqué publié mardi 4 avril, qu'au Niger, « les filles ont le droit d'être protégées contre le mariage précoce ».

C'est la réaction de l'ONU après la mort d'une jeune fille de 16 ans. Nazira a été retrouvée, début mars, pendue à un arbre, dans son village de Daré, dans la région de Zinder, dans le sud du pays. Le communiqué des Nations unies explique que « d'après des sources locales, Nazira se serait suicidée à la suite d'un mariage forcé. »

Au Niger, chaque année, 75 % des jeunes mariées sont mineures dont 28 % ont moins de 16 ans. Malgré une volonté politique d'améliorer la condition féminine, les mariages précoces perdurent et mènent à des actes désespérés.

« L'Unicef nous a rapporté, il y a quelques jours, cette fois une tentative de suicide à Maradi. Là, la jeune fille a pu en réchapper. Elle a tenté de s'empoisonner avec un liquide toxique et elle a pu être amenée à un centre de santé et elle a été sauvée. Elle a échappé au drame mais c'est un problème, ici, au Niger, et le gouvernement en est parfaitement conscient. Au niveau législatif, il y a encore une loi qui autorise le mariage des jeunes filles à partir de 15 ans. Le gouvernement travaille à la réforme de cette loi-là. Dans la

Constitution, il y a quand même des mesures où il est clairement indiqué que le mariage ne peut être fait que sur la base d'un consentement. Le gouvernement a indiqué clairement sa volonté à réduire ou à éliminer les discriminations basées sur le genre mais je pense que ce qui est le plus important - c'est tout le débat - c'est que c'est un problème de société. Ça doit commencer là, avec la société civile, avec les différentes communautés, avec les leaders religieux, les leaders traditionnels où il y a encore beaucoup de résistance par rapport aux changements », souligne Emmanuel Gignac, coordinateur résident par intérim du système des Nations unies.

Burkina Faso: au moins 44 morts dans une double attaque meurtrière dans la région du Sahel

L'attaque attribuée à des « groupes armés terroristes » a eu lieu dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi. Deux villages situés à 5 kilomètres de la commune de Seytenga, près de la frontière avec le Niger, ont été visés.

Trente-et-une personnes ont été tuées d'abord d'abord dans le village de Kourakou, treize autres dans celui de Tondobi. À chaque fois, les victimes sont essentiellement des hommes.

C'est jeudi en fin de journée, aux alentours de 18 heures, que des éléments armés ont fait irruption, ouvert le feu, forçant, selon une source locale, les habitants à se réfugier à l'intérieur des maisons. L'attaque a continué pendant plusieurs heures après la tombée de la nuit.

« Faire corps »

Dans son communiqué, le lieutenant-colonel Sorgho, gouverneur de la région du Sahel,



assure que les assaillants ont été mis « hors d'état de nuire », après une offensive des Forces de défense et de sécurité, menée dans la localité.

Le gouverneur invite aussi les populations locales « à faire corps » avec les FDS et « s'enrôler comme Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie afin, dit-il, de participer à la défense de leurs localités ».

Il y a moins d'un, la commune de Seytenga avait déjà été frappée par une attaque terroriste. En juin 2022, 86 personnes y avaient été tuées. Et ce massacre avait provoqué, selon les chiffres officiels, le déplacement de près de 20 000 habitants.

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FEATURE

FEATURE

Freedom Weeps

- Wrong Rules The Land, And Waiting Justice Sleeps: God Give Us Men And Women

By Amb. Lewis Garseedah Brown

“Constitutional mandates are absolute rules of actions and decisions for those required to exercise same, and the failure of agency of State or an officer of the State to perform, or negligence in a timely performance of a duty mandated by the constitution is repugnant to that supreme and paramount law and is in total disregard to the sovereign will of the citizenry which may expose the nation to lawlessness and pose risk of undermining the democratic and law-abiding culture for which the constitution was promulgated.” Her Honor, Madam Jamesetta Wolokolie, Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, speaking for the court in an Opinion during the October 2020 Term of the Court.

The Liberian Supreme Court is the last place of hope to realize the democratic promise of governance under the rule of law. On the shoulders of five distinguished jurists rest the honorable duty to courageously direct our nation away from institutional lawlessness and constitutional violations. On April 4, as the international community summoned political stakeholders to sign the Farmington Agreement, providentially, the Supreme Court was hearing the Petition of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) against the National Elections Commission (NEC), for violating Article 80 (c, d & e) of the Constitution. Point 2 of the Guiding Principles of the Farmington Agreement affirms that “the 2023 presidential and legislative elections should be held consistent with the constitution and laws of Liberia, AND in line with all international standards governing the conduct of free, fair and transparent democratic elections.”

The National Housing and Population Census mandated by Article 39 of the Liberian Constitution (1986) is both a critical electoral tool and an important socio-developmental gauge for the country. It provides figures and statistics for development planning and the conduct of constitutionally-prescribed fair elections so that constituencies are reapportioned, the votes of citizens are equal in meeting both constitutional and international standards of universal suffrage, and the representation of the people in the government is not arbitrary but consistent with the growth and movements of the population.

In his State of the Republic Address in January, the President announced that the census had finally been conducted. In February, LISGIS, the government agency responsible for the conduct of the census, announced “provisional results,” in which it informed that Liberia had grown by 50.4%, and in some counties which historically showed low population figures, the population had ballooned by up to 88.9%. The international community qualified the census to have met and exceeded international standards.

On March 13, LISGIS wrote the Legislature to inform that it had conducted the census and issued provisional results, but due to ongoing post-conduct analyses and enumeration, it would submit final results in May. On March 20, starting in six counties, the NEC began the registration of voters. Three days to the registration, on March 17, the opposition CPP asked the Honorable Supreme Court to declare the registration of voters absent reapportionment of constituencies when census are conducted, “unconstitutional.” At issue and cited in full is

Article 80 (c, d & e) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia:

c. Every Liberian citizens shall have the right to be registered in a constituency, and to vote in public elections only in the constituency where registered, either in person or by absentee ballot; provided that such citizen shall have the right to change his voting constituency as may be prescribed by the Legislature.

d. Each constituency shall have an approximately equal population of 20,000, or such number of citizens as the legislature shall prescribe in keeping with population growth and movements as revealed by a national census; provided that the total number of electoral constituencies in the Republic shall not exceed one hundred.

e. Immediately following a national census and before the next election, the Elections Commission shall reapportion the constituencies in accordance with the new population figures so that every constituency shall have as close to the same population as possible; provided, however, that a constituency must be solely within a county.



The CPP contends that constituencies into which a voter must be registered have not been reapportioned by the NEC. In a compelling affirmation and contravention of Article 3.5 (1) of the Elections Law of 1986 amended in 2014, which requires a voter's registration card to display the name of a constituency on its face, no voter registration card being currently issued displays the name of a constituency on its face. The NEC contends that it is registering in old constituencies and cannot reapportion new ones because the Legislature has not prescribed a new number of citizens (threshold) for a constituency in keeping with the new population growth and movements revealed by the census.

To register voters in any of the so-called 73 constituencies is fraught with constitutional problems. The increase from pre-war 64 to post-war 73 constituencies obtained over the issuance of LEG-002 (2010), a Joint Resolution/opinion of the 52nd Legislature. LEG-002 is self-limiting establishing no new figure (threshold) for constituencies, and conditionally and setting aside the 2008 census results by establishing “a Special Electoral Threshold for the conduct of the 2011 Presidential and Legislative elections.” To therefore use the same 73 constituencies established by LEG-002 (2010) is to not only resurrect the unconstitutional opinion of a dead entity but also to subject the country, thirteen years later, to the same unconstitutional behavior against the expressed directive of the 52nd Legislature not to use its opinion for the conduct of future presidential and legislative elections. Citing the lack of conducive environment and conditions due to the breakdown caused by the war, the 52nd Legislature resolved as stated below:

a. That the sixty-four (64) electoral districts set up and used by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the conduct of the 2005 Presidential and Legislative elections shall remain; and nine (9) additional electoral districts are

hereby prescribed and established, for a total of seventy-three (73) electoral districts. The NEC shall reapportion the districts accordingly.

b. That the Legislature hereby resolved that following the 2011 Elections, at which time the conducive environment and condition would have obtained, arrangements will be made for conduct of a National Housing and Population census which will satisfy the requirements of Articles 13 and 39 of the Constitution, the result thereof to be used pursuant to Article 80 (d) and (e). Emphasis supplied.

The point cannot be stressed enough: The 52nd Legislature intentionally limited its Joint Resolution to only the conduct of Presidential and General Elections in 2011. It did not wish to institutionalize its opinion for use in future presidential and general elections. The NEC has reasons to also know that the 73 constituencies established by the 52nd Legislature unconstitutionally ranged from 13,000 voters, which is below the constitutionally-established minimum of 20,000, to as high as over 69,000 voters. This disparity provided for not just inequality in representation but also inequality in the votes of citizens in the election of representatives of the constituencies.

As the Supreme Court has consistently decided, the NEC has no option but to strictly obey the Constitution. Strangely, however, the governing electoral body has not allotted a period in its variously published and revised electoral schedules for the reapportionment of constituencies, a constitutional mandate assigned to it. Simply put, the NEC never intended to use the recent census results nor even the 2008 one, and does not still intend to use any census results critical to the conduct of free, fair and constitutional elections in Liberia. Since the commencement of the voter registration without the reapportionment of the constituencies, there has been various public reports of illegal and massive trucking of voters and the dangerous invasion into our democracy by non-Liberians from neighboring countries.

This, too, is a consequence of the failure to obey the Constitution. Compounding a violation does not cure a wrong; it worsens the wrong to the detriment of the nation. There are always consequences for breaking the law.

Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown is a former Chief Negotiator of Liberia's peace, and Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, in New York

April 4, 2023

Survey Notice

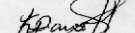
The Public is hereby notified that, the undersigned Register land Surveyor had been duly authorized based upon the request of the Traditional elders headed by Zoryou Joe, to survey a parcel of land in favor of (one Faith Apostolic Ministries). The parcel, of land to be surveyed is lying and situated in Ben's Town Marshall Road, Lower Margibi County.

The survey exercise will commence on Saturday April 8, 2023 at the hour of 10:30 A.M.

Therefore, all adjoining property owners of that area are asked to be present and on time on the day of the survey with their deeds, diagrams, surveyors technical representatives and all other relevant land documents to substantiate their claims, so as to avoid future land dispute.

Lets this notice claims the immediate attention of the following personalities below:

1. The Administrators of Ben Town
2. Youth Chairman Ben Town
3. Office of the Township Commissioner
4. Nearest Police Station
5. And all other interested parties

Signed: 
Yarkpawolo T. Kollie
Register Land Surveyor
Contact: 0777732999/0770752955

'We're indomitable, unconquerable'

By Lewis S. Tweh & Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has bragged that his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) remains 'indomitable and unconquerable' after six political parties surrendered to the CDC.

"I predict that our Grand Coalition will be an indomitable force in the upcoming October presidential and legislative elections across the country," said President during the ceremony held at the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) headquarters in Paynesville over the weekend.

The ceremony on Saturday, 8 April 2023 came as Liberia prepares for a

He described the CDC as the choice of the people, a masses' party since its foundation.

He said the CDC will remain a party of the people, and the citizen's party. "Now, therefore, as you have been baptized, you have to behave as Coalition members by following the realm of the standard bearer," President Weah mandated the new converts.

Mr. Weah vowed an overwhelming one-round victory in the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections to ensure that the people's developmental quests are achieved.

Mr. Weah also pledged his unwavering commitment to the Liberian people, indicating that his government will continue to tailor developments as paramount to

the commitment of the CDC to abide by all tripartite agreements that govern the Coalition.

On behalf of the six political parties, MOVEE Political Leader and Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah stressed that the decision to join forces with the CDC was in the realization of the many developments the government has carried out.

"For example, instead of two third of our partisans (MOVEE) supporting this cause, it was a unanimous decision by all of our supporters to join the CDC," said Kemayah.

Amb. Kemayan further expressed an unwavering commitment to the leadership of President Weah and to do everything to secure his re-election.

Also speaking, the political

Starts from page 7

Cllr. Gongloe drops

and bear the responsibility thereof.

"Under my administration, we will have a more robust corruption fight. People will be sent to jail and punished for their actions. Nobody will go free when they are caught in corruption," he promised.

"We will also ensure that there is road connectivity all across the country to boost the country economy, transportation, and trade" he noted.

Cllr. Gongloe explained that he will make sure that Liberia produce what they eat by ensuring that the government and the country to reduce the importation of rice from other countries.

He named Lofa, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Gee, Maryland and Gbarpolu as economic counties.

But Cllr. Gongloe noted that the road network is very bad in those counties and this is causing huge poverty, poor trading and death of sick citizens, especially pregnant women.

"We will solve that problem in our road connectivity road map. We will make sure that there is Public Work yard in all the counties to have the road maintained," Cllr. Gongloe stated.

"This program is the presentation of our son and nephew, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe to the people of Wolota Clan, Kpaai District, Bong County," Jonathan Konkon, Town chief, and John Gboe, Chief Elder of Wolota clan told the locals.

"You are not a stranger here because you grew up here. This is your mother's home. We will stand by you and with you," they added.

Starts from back page

Ballout to mobilize

the rightful people that have the technical know-how to steer the affairs," said Ballout.

He noted that any forces that are opposing the call are dead wrong because there's only one formula, which he said is the Amb. Boakai and Mr. Cummings ticket.

He described the Boakai-Cummings ticket as indispensable ticket that won the highest seats during the midterm election. He noted that it was the formula that disciplined the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in Montserrado County.

"Today I want to announce that any ticket aside from the Boakai and Cummings ticket will be a complete disaster," Mr. Ballout warned.

He further warned the opposition against threading a very dangerous path, saying it has to stop.

"You can't call CDC government ineptitude while you refuse to come together as a united opposition in one accord to liberate this country that you

claim to love," Ballout blasted at the opposition.

"We been on a six-year recess, we had a president who mandated all officials to declare their assets but today we have another president who [is] hesitant to declare his asset. We must all wake up," he noted.

Also speaking, Nuwoe C. Elliott, a representative of the Unity Party, called on Ambassador Boakai to see reason in collaborating with the ANC to move Liberia forward

"I want to call on my political leader and party executives to ... form a united opposition ticket for the redemption of Liberia," said Nuwoe.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the United Opposition Task Force, Barti Nicholas Barti, said they will gather at the Unity Party headquarters on Broad Street in mass to appeal to Amb. Boakai to reunite with Cummings.

"We the citizens of this country who [are] desirous of the growth and development of Liberia have to come together and launch this passionate appeal to the opposition bloc," he said.

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Dr. Whapoe accuses Weah

"This government that we have today was not prepared to come to power to lead us. They were not prepared and they will never be prepared," said Whapoe.

"What government can come to power before they draft the policy that they will lead you with? That is what exactly this CDC government did."

According to him, the CDC came to power three months before they went to Gbanga, Bong County to draft their policy to lead the country.

He suggested that if they were serious, they would have written their policy several years earlier while they were in the opposition.

"Leadership is a science, an exact science. A poor leader is that person who always begs for

[a] second change and term," said Whapoe.

"When I become President of Liberia, I will not ask you for [a] second chance, rather, it's you that will ask me for that. I will not ask you for [a] second chance because I know and understand the problems of Liberia and so from day one I know what to do," he added.

Dr. Whopoe promised to start solving Liberia's problems from day-one of his administration.

"Liberia's problems are many but embedded into one thing. Liberia's major problem is poverty. You can disagree with me but that is the reason we have dropped our expectations bar against our leader," the VOLT political leader argued.

He said he wants to solve Liberia's problems from the root or source.



crucial presidential and legislative election due 10 October this year.

The six political parties that crossed over to the CDC are the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), the People's Liberation Party (PLP), Union of Liberian Democrats (ULD), United People Party (UPP), the Change Democratic Coalition (CDA), and Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC).

The ruling Coalition is made up of President Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP), and former House Speaker Alex Tyler's Liberia People Democratic Party (LPDP).

The six new political parties have beefed up the CDC's strength to nine political parties.

Incumbent President Weah said it shows how serious Liberians are for a better Liberia, adding that the merger of the parties tells the significance of the strength of the CDC.

attend to the needs of the citizenry.

He expressed joy in the Liberian people for always reposing confidence in the Coalition "even as oppressors and opposition have ganged up against us."

"Let me stress how excited I am that you have placed your trust in the CDC which signifies that you believe that our vision for this nation aligns with yours," said President Weah.

By joining the CDC, President Weah suggested that the six political parties are under a patriotic duty to nationhood and assured them that the CDC will make sure that they are welcome and will feel comfortable in their new political home.

Mr. Weah pledged the CDC's continuous support to working with everyone, saying the party is formed to be in the interest of the Liberian people.

He added that the CDC will acquaint the newly admitted political parties with its principles and ideologies as they all work collaboratively to achieve their shared goals.

He used the time to reaffirm

leader of the PLP, Mr. Tapple Doe, acknowledged the good leadership of the CDC. He said he galvanized his supporters to ensure President Weah is re-elected in a one-round victory and make Liberia a better place.

Also speaking, CDC Secretary General and Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee said the admittance of the six political parties is a clear manifestation that CDC is a serious-minded political institution which is interested in growth and development of Liberia.

"We want to use this medium to salute the six political parties and their supporters for taking the bold step in joining ranks with the CDC," Koijee said.

"Today we are here to listen to the plight of the people, the convergence here today got absolutely nothing to do with the three constituent parties that make the CDC," he added.

Koijee noted that the decision of the six political parties to join the CDC was predicated upon the many development initiatives taking place across the country.

Ballout to mobilize citizens

- To reunite Boakai and Cummings

By Lewis S. Teh

Former Maryland County Senator John Ballout has repeated his call for a united opposition to unseat the

said Saturday, 8 April 2023. Speaking at a press conference at a local hotel in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia, Mr. Ballout pledged his financial and moral support to the united opposition taskforce.

According to him, there has been countless efforts by well-meaning Liberians to see how the opposition bloc can reunite ahead of the October polls. Yet, Ballout said, the opposition bloc continues to put on a defying posture.

"We continue to see opposition arguing among themselves as to who is best suited, but they [are] forgetting to know that they are stabbing the country in the back with their actions," he lamented.

"There's a place and time to argue, debate, among others. There's also a time and place to unite, but so far we [have] been seeing the opposite," Mr. Ballout noted.

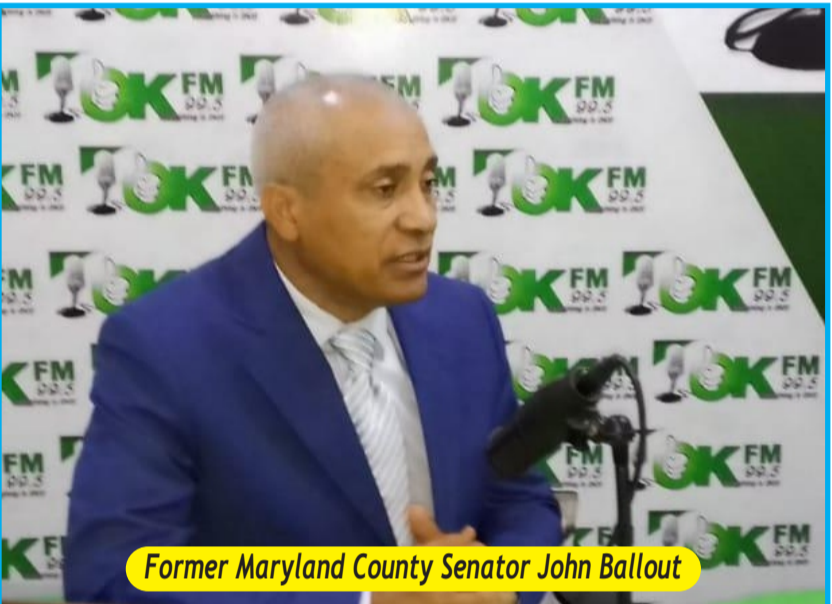
The former Senator stated that the citizens of Liberia are calling for unity within the opposition bloc with specific reference to Boakai and Cummings.

According to him, the vast majority of the citizens are calling on the opposition bloc to reunite and win the election in the first round.

He said this is the only ticket that can guarantee a first-round victory.

"The growth of Liberia isn't about mere slogans or popularity contest, instead,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Former Maryland County Senator John Ballout

Weah-led government in the pending October presidential and legislative elections.

"I will join the united opposition taskforce and we will march to the UP [Unity Party], and ANC [Alternative National Congress] headquarters ... next Thursday to appeal to Ambassador Boakai and Cummings to unite and redeem this country," Ballout

Addressing members of the united opposition taskforce, the former Maryland County Senator said Liberia is in a dying position. As such, he suggested that there is a need for the opposition to reunite to provide hope for the citizens of the country.

"We need to pick up those broken pieces, a process that begun since the civil war," said Mr. Morlu.

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