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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023	LS161.8076/US\$1.00	LS164.0091/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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Nimbaians hold Dollar rally for Weah 2023

Pres. Weah

P11

S/Court gives Bility teeth to bite

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Mr. Bility

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Continental News

The fishy business of a Chinese factory in The Gambia

Investment from China welcomed by The Gambia's government is causing upset for a fishing community who say a Chinese-owned fishmeal factory is disrupting life on their shores. "I have been working here for 32 years," says Buba Cary, a fisherman from Gunjur speaking in Mandinka through a

and sell it up country, agrees, arguing that it has pushed up the cost of fish for locals: "This factory is not supporting us." These men are talking about a facility run by Golden Lead in the coastal village of Gunjur, which is around 45km (28 miles) south of the capital, Banjul. In total The Gambia now has three of these factories - the

up at least half of The Gambia's total protein intake. The Dutch non-governmental organisation Changing Markets Foundation found that the biggest of these fishmeal factories accounted for 40% of Gambia's entire fish catch for a year.

The Gambia has fostered a close relationship with China in recent years. Under the controversial leadership of ex-President Yahya Jammeh the first Chinese fish factory to open was in Gunjur, after it was granted a 99-year lease in 2015 soon after The Gambia broke ties with Taiwan.

This is despite the fact that Gambian law prohibits foreign nationals leasing land for more than 26 years, according to the political watchdog Watch Gambia.

Not long after Mr Jammeh reluctantly left power in 2017 and went into exile after 22 years at the helm - an era exposed by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission for its widespread human rights abuses and corruption - his successor met with his Chinese counterpart to reiterate their friendship.

That year China cancelled \$12m (\$10m) of Gambian debt and invested a further \$28.7m in agriculture and fisheries.

Yet the local community in Gunjur was already unhappy about how things were going with Golden Lead. BBC



Fishermen say the factory has upset the market as it buys in bulk and pays lower prices than other buyers

translator. "It only brings suffering for us," he says, gesturing to the white building. "Before the factory came here there was a lot of fish in the sea. If you want fish [now] you need to cross the border to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau." Kelepha Camara, who comes to this shore to buy fish

other two, run by different firms, are about 10km north and south of Gunjur, where fish oil and fishmeal are produced and exported to China, Europe and beyond. For many years the fishmeal industry has raised questions about sustainability. It uses vast quantities of fish, such as sardinella and bonga, which make

Protests at funeral of Tunisian footballer who set himself on fire

Tunisian footballer Nizar Issaoui has died from burns sustained in a protest against "police injustice", his family said, in which he set himself on fire. He had appeared in a video posted online showing him shouting that he had been accused of terrorism by officers after a dispute with a fruit seller. In a separate post, he said he sentenced himself to "death by fire".

There were angry clashes at funeral of the 35-year-old on Friday in his home town of Haffouz, local media reported. Issaoui had been accused of terrorism by police officers after he complained that he was unable to buy bananas for less than 10 dinars (\$3.30; £2.66) a kilogram, double the price set by the government, reports say. In a Facebook post, the footballer had written: "For a dispute with someone selling bananas at 10 dinars, I get accused of terrorism at the police station. Terrorism for a

complaint about bananas... I have no more energy. Let the police state know that the sentence will be executed today." In protest, Issaoui burned himself to death. Violence erupted at the footballer's funeral as demonstrators threw stones at police who fired tear gas. He was a former player for the Tunisian top-flight side US Monastir and a father of four. His brother told local reporters that Issaoui suffered third-degree

burns and doctors were not able to save his life. His action was an echo of a 2010 protest when street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself alight. That kicked off a wave of demonstrations that led to the overthrow of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali the following year. The current President, Kais Saied, sparked controversy in 2021 when he sacked the prime minister and suspended parliament. He has since pushed through a new constitution enshrining his dominance. BBC



Mourners expressed their anger during Friday's funeral of Nizar Issaoui



Khartoum city streets were mostly empty of people and traffic on Sunday, with both warring sides mounting roadblocks. But long queues formed at bakeries and the few shops that remained open, as some people briefly ventured out to buy food before returning home to safety.

In the afternoon, there was a three-hour pause in hostilities to allow thousands of locked-down people to move and for the injured to get to hospital.

Among residents, there was shock - and also anger.

Unlike other parts of the country, such as the often turbulent western Darfur region, Khartoum is not used to war. This is the first time that people in the capital have seen such clashes.

Early on Sunday, Sudan's doctors' union said at least 17

Heavy fighting and explosions continued to shake the city, including in areas held by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), suggesting that their claim to control 90% of Khartoum had little to back it up.

Hamid Khalafallah, a researcher and policy analyst at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy in Khartoum, told the BBC that the Sudanese military appeared to be bombing targets within the city.

"We woke up to sounds of very heavy gunfire and bombings, in some cases even louder than yesterday," he said, adding that jet fighters had been heard overhead.

"Basically, the Sudanese armed forces are trying to target locations where the Rapid Support Forces' militia are located."

Khartoum city streets were mostly empty of people and traffic on Sunday, with both warring sides mounting roadblocks.

But long queues formed at bakeries and the few shops that remained open, as some people



People carry their belongings down a Khartoum street on Sunday

civilians had been killed in the city but after two days of fighting the true number of victims is likely to be higher. Khartoum resident Kholood Khair told the BBC that residents could not be sure of safety anywhere.

"All civilians have been urged to stay at home, but that has not kept everyone safe," she said.

"There are lots of people either being in their homes or being sort of in and around their homes, on the rooftops, in the gardens et cetera, that have been either hurt or killed by a stray bullet."

Those victims included an Indian national, Albert Augustine, who was working in Sudan and was hit by stray gunfire on Saturday, the Indian embassy said.

A simple guide to what's going on in Sudan

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EDITORIAL

Liberia’s rising abortion cases are worrisome

ABORTION IN Liberia is illegal, but study that the country performs nearly 40,000 abortions annually, destroying innocent lives that have formed in fetuses is pure murder that should claim immediate concern of government and rights campaigners, including religious institutions.

ACCORDING TO the Liberia National Abortion Study, a total of 38,779 induced abortions occurred in Liberia yearly, translating to an induced abortion rate of 30.7/1,000 involving women (15-45 years) and induced abortion ratio of 229/1,000 lives birth.

“THERE WERE regional variations in the regional abortion rates, with North Central having the lowest abortion rates (6.6/1000) and South-Central having the highest 49.7/1000. Also, 14,555 women received care for abortion-related complications in facilities. 67% went to public facilities and 74% went to primary level facilities”, says the report.

THE STUDY concludes that induced abortion is common in the country with most of the cases linked to unintended pregnancies.

SOMETHING SEEMS to be missing here. There appears to be limited education on early sex and associated risks by schools, churches and mosques, and homes, not leaving out hospitals and health facilities.

REPRODUCTION HEALTH needs to be taught in schools and religious institutions across the country to address issue of unwanted pregnancy that the report says is driving the prevalence of abortions in the society.

THE REPORT stresses full dissemination and implementation of the Revised Public Health Law of Liberia in all communities, health facilities with the involvement of policymakers to ensure community education and awareness on the danger of unsafe abortion, while considering existing legal status of abortion and current access point, like hospitals, stigma reduction, and awareness on a wide range of available family planning methods.

PARENTS AND guardians or homes have their share of responsibility in this unsanctioned practice because it seems that discipline has been thrown out of the window and children, both girls and boys are left on their own to experiment sexually or practice early and uncontrolled sex. It should not be so. Lest we forget, the family is the first unit of society, and if discipline is compromised there, the society loses balance.

IN SHORT, we need to limit the number of unwanted pregnancies thru vigorous and sustained sex and reproduction health education in all sectors of society in order to reverse the annual abortion cases.

THIS WOULD require government support, working with partners. The sooner we begin, the better it would be for our population, for the report did not disclose how many deaths occurred during these abortions.

COMMENTARY

By Diane Coyle

The Promise and Peril of Generative AI

CAMBRIDGE - Ever since OpenAI released its ChatGPT chatbot last year, a growing number of analysts have been predicting that generative artificial intelligence will displace millions of workers and cause widespread economic upheaval. But how exactly will generative AI affect the global economy?

Recent estimates provide an indication of the looming labor-market disruption. Goldman Sachs economists, for example, anticipate that as many as 300 million full-time jobs could be automated as a result of the latest AI breakthroughs and that two-thirds of workers in Europe and the United States could be exposed to AI-based automation. A working paper by researchers at OpenAI finds that roughly 80% of the US workforce could see at least some of their tasks automated by the introduction of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT. And some law firms and marketers have already begun to use generative AI tools.

But it is still unclear whether the new AIs will improve existing employees’ productivity by taking routine tasks off their hands, or simply make workers technologically redundant. To be sure, many white-collar workers would be delighted if AI tools could take on dull tasks like keeping minutes during meetings, answering routine queries, or filing expense claims. But many believe - as Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson recently argued - that the current generative AI arms race is geared toward reducing costs by replacing workers with algorithms, rather than harnessing the power of these technologies to augment human labor.

Another possibility though is that most companies will be slow to adopt this powerful technology because of a lack of skills and know-how. This is not necessarily reassuring either. While new technologies often disrupt livelihoods and industries, they could also bring about the productivity growth needed to boost incomes and living standards. After almost two decades of extremely slow productivity growth in most advanced economies, generative AI has emerged right when we need it. But to ensure that it delivers widely shared benefits, we must heed the lessons of the previous wave of digital innovation.

Over the past 20 years, innovations like the smartphone and communication technologies like 4G and 5G wireless networks have transformed everyday life, leading to the creation of new sectors and business models. As of 2021, the average American spent roughly eight hours a day online, more than double the 2011 figure. The cloud computing and the e-commerce industries have grown rapidly, reflecting a labor market in which digital skills are increasingly a prerequisite for landing a high-paying job. Yet despite these technological advances, productivity growth has been dismal since the mid-2000s.

What explains this economic puzzle? While it is possible that digital technologies are

simply not very productive, their widespread adoption suggests otherwise. A more plausible explanation is that it takes time to figure out how best to use new technologies. As a result, only a small minority of companies in the US and the United Kingdom have been able to use digital tools to boost their productivity and pull ahead.

In his 2022 book The New Goliaths, Boston University’s James Bessen explores why companies are having trouble adapting to digital technologies. The complexity of advanced software, he argues, confers an advantage on the largest and most technologically sophisticated companies, because only they have the resources and know-how needed to adopt such tools and benefit from them.

Given the massive (and costly) computing power needed to use and maintain generative AI tools, it seems inevitable that this new technology will follow a similar path. If a handful of dominant companies use deep-learning algorithms like OpenAI’s GPT-4 to build new services and products, they could enhance their market power and erect insurmountable barriers to entry.

But the true potential of these new technologies goes beyond their ability to enable a few companies to become more efficient or develop new products. To provide widespread productivity gains and create real value, generative AI models must change the way we produce things. After all, the most sustained productivity booms of the past 200 years have been the result of new technologies reshaping and rewiring our economic systems.

Consider, for example, how the introduction of interchangeable parts in the nineteenth century revolutionized manufacturing, or how Henry Ford’s assembly line extended the division of labor inside the factory during the early twentieth century. In the 1980s, the just-in-time revolution reduced the need for massive inventories, and the globalization of supply chains during the 2000s allowed for greater specialization. These process innovations, made possible by the emergence of new energy and communication technologies, drove economic growth by changing not just what companies produced, but how they produced.

Before the long-term usefulness of generative AI can become apparent, the hype - and the panic - must subside. Whatever its shortcomings, its introduction clearly represents an astounding technological leap. To ensure that it benefits all of us as workers, consumers, and entrepreneurs, we must provide all businesses with access to these revolutionary tools, rather than hand the key to the next great economic transformation to a few large incumbents and hope they don’t lock out everyone else.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be (Princeton University Press, 2021).

Protracted Pre-trial Detention Crowding Prisons and Undermining Access to Justice in Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia 14, April 2023: There are more than 3000 persons in prison in Liberia. Around 2,137 (71%) of these are pretrial detainees, meaning their matter has not even been taken to court. Many people spend years in prison without getting a hearing in court or being convicted of a crime, which is a violation of their human rights and contributes to prison overcrowding. Monrovia Central Prison houses around 1,300 prisoners even though it was designed for only 374 inmates.

At the same time, the Bureau for Correction and Rehabilitation (BCR) is severely financially constrained to provide inmates with adequate food or proper diet, beddings, and sanitary materials, and to prevent and manage the spread of communicable diseases. While prison should be a place of rehabilitation and transformation, the current situation poses numerous risks to both inmates and staff.

All-in-all, prisons in Liberian fall short of international standards, with serious human rights implications for inmates including lack of medical treatment when they fall ill and lack of space such that some sleep standing.

Lengthy pretrial detention and prison overcrowding are two critical challenges undermining access to justice in Liberia. The slow grinding wheels of justice that keep thousands in prison without trial risk intensifying crimes and criminality as pretrial detainees get hardened by the tough prison life and delayed justice. Some people are held in prison for years - only to be proven innocent. This is a violation of detainees’ human rights and severely erodes the trust in the justice system.

However, behind the grim numbers and news, there are many people working hard to make a difference in the lives of those who are in Liberia’s prisons. While these Correctional Officers sometimes feel despondent given their personal and professional desires to better protect the rights of prisoners, many are still strongly motivated to make a change, to serve humanity, and to be part of something bigger - to help improve the lives of those mostly poor, marginalized and sometimes forgotten detainees. Correctional officers say there is need for more resources, better information, and more transparency and accountability to transform the prison system and enhance access to justice in Liberia.

Moving Forward

In December 2022, the Superintendent of the Monrovia Central Prison declined to admit new suspects as the number of prisoners soared to 1,600. This raised public attention and debate on the state of the prisons in Liberia and resulted in a meeting between the Chief Justice and the Minister of Justice to address the issue.

The Chief Justice issued a directive introducing several measures to reduce the number of inmates at the Monrovia Prison. For example, convicts who had completed their jail term, but with restitution remaining, were to be brought to court to enter stipulation. All magistrates were also urged to not commit defendants held for minor offenses to jail and to release pretrial detainees who had been held for more than 30 days, which is in contravention of the pre-trial detention Rules of Court.

While these directives of the Chief Justice are important and need to be implemented, more also needs to be done. (We should also note that these directives relate to magisterial courts which have limited jurisdiction, handling only minor offenses. There are many other cases where serious bottlenecks continue to restrict the justice system and lead to over-crowding.)

There are other mechanisms that can complement the measures outlined by the Chief Justice, and which could help address the problem.

For example, more probation sentencing would release petty offenders back into the community under the court’s supervision, rather than sending them to prison. Alternatively, such offenders could be sentenced to community service, especially for those who cannot afford to pay fines. This, however, requires more probation officers in the field and an upgrading of the skills of existing probation officers, coupled with enactment of the BCR Bill to give the agency budgetary autonomy, which may translate to increased resources and improved services.

The implementation of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is another measure that would enable more cases to be resolved at the community level without resorting to the formal justice system. ADR awareness is currently being conducted by the Ministry of Justice with support from UNDP and Irish Aid, and there are plans also to develop a law to operationalize the policy.

Another effective measure is the Magisterial Sitting Program as it brings court hearings to the prison, enabling more cases to be heard and dispensed with. Case management is also critical because it provides for tracking of cases, the status of inmates and reporting on cases of prolonged pretrial detention.

Plea bargaining, which was adopted in Liberia through recent legislative reforms, should be rolled out after capacity development of justice sector practitioners. Plea bargaining enables the defendant to plead guilty, usually to a lesser charge. This can speed up the trial process and help clear case back-logs at the courts.

UNDP stands ready to provide support to the Government of Liberia to ensure that Liberia’s prison conditions improve and meet the norms and standards outlined in The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners also known as The Nelson Mandela Rules. However, the Government must fulfill its responsibility and allocate adequate resources to the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation to ensure that the rights of prisoners are always protected.

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A BRICS Threat to the Dollar?

LONDON - Russia’s war in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping’s recent meeting in Moscow, and China’s apparent success in brokering a diplomatic rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia have fueled renewed chatter about threats to the global primacy of the United States - and particularly to that of the US dollar.

I encountered such commentary in the responses to my recent Global Policyarticle assessing the future of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). The group is now considering an enlargement that would bring in countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia, raising questions about its criteria for membership and the role of its own New Development Bank. But would a larger and more influential BRICS-Plus really create risks to the dollar?

Perceived threats to the dollar’s role in the global financial system are nothing new; they have been a frequent occurrence since I began my career in the 1980s. Obviously, if there comes a time when the US ceases to be the world’s largest economy, the dollar’s status will be called into question. The same was true of pound sterling in the first half of the twentieth century (though the pound was not knocked off its global perch until well after the United Kingdom had been surpassed economically).

The eclipse of the dollar would not necessarily be a bad thing for the US, given all the added responsibilities that come with issuing the world’s main reserve currency. In a global economy where the US already is no longer as dominant as it once was, it is not optimal to have everyone else be so dependent on the American monetary system and the Federal Reserve’s domestically driven priorities. Other economies would much prefer that their own currencies, monetary policies, and trade patterns not be so influenced by those of the US.

But the fact that a US-excluding group of emerging powers has higher aspirations for itself does not necessarily mean anything for the US-centered financial system. After all, the BRICS and potential BRICS-Plus countries face many significant challenges of their own, and it is not clear what they hope to achieve together beyond issuing symbolic statements.

Crucially, the group’s most important economies are China and India, bitter adversaries that rarely cooperate on anything. Until that changes, it is fanciful to think that the BRICS or even an expanded grouping could mount any serious challenge to the dollar.

I often despair at the lack of cooperation between China and India - the world’s two most populous countries by far. If they could overcome their historic animosity and develop an ambitious shared agenda for expanding trade and tackling issues like health threats and climate change, the idea of a BRICS-driven challenge to the financial and monetary status quo would become not just plausible but imminent.

In this spirit, I have long argued that China should make the first move by inviting India to help co-design elements of its signature Belt and Road Initiative. Realizing the BRI’s ambitious agenda of transnational infrastructure investments in cooperation with India would make a far more powerful and lasting contribution to Asia and beyond. Otherwise, the BRI will remain a narrowly Chinese initiative that exists primarily to impose Chinese preferences on others.

The potential addition of Saudi Arabia and Iran comes with similar caveats. Yes, bringing on two major oil producers (in addition to Russia) increases the likelihood of some oil being priced in currencies other than the dollar. But unless edging out the dollar is an explicit, genuinely shared, and deeply held goal, such invoicing changes will be exciting only to niche financial writers. I have lost count of the times I have heard arguments about why oil could soon be priced in a new currency. First it was going to be the Deutsche Mark, then the yen, then the euro. It’s still the dollar.

Finally, and most importantly, for any BRICS (or BRICS-Plus) member to pose a strategic challenge to the dollar, it would have to permit - indeed encourage - foreign and domestic savers and investors to decide for themselves when to buy or sell assets denominated in its currency. That means no capital controls of the kind that China has routinely deployed. Until the BRICS and potential BRICS-Plus countries can find a credible alternative to the dollar for their own savings, the greenback’s dominance will not really be in doubt.

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Just give it a thought: Is Ms. Gbowee alone?

(A repeat from our files)

Forget the politics and sycophancies which have characterized the reactions to the Leymah Gbowee’s recent resignation and comments. Forget the reports that she has parked her personal belongings from her base in Accra, Ghana and has moved her entire family to the United States.

You know what, just don’t think of the fact that her remarks against President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Paris, France during the launch of the French Edition of her book, was to raise her profile and add value to her book. Just forget that for now.

Okay, if you don’t want to be a little decent, consider her comments at one of these important events in her life, especially at the launch of her book as a marketing strategy that would fuel the rush for a big sale and heightens curiosity about her persona.

Hey, think about it this way too, she was also marketing herself and you will not like to miss such an opportunity to turn the world’s cameras on you. No, I don’t think so.

Now, after you have given this saga all the negative and positive interpretations, do a self examination of some of the condemnations or tongue-lashing she continues to receive...” she is unpatriotic....”

Go ahead; ask yourself; do Liberians understand what it means to be patriotic? If they do, can anyone point to just one patriotic Liberian out there? Somebody who will not seize the moment out there even if it means condemning the entire nation to public ridicule just to win the hearts and minds of people most of whom do not understand the socio-political dynamics of the Liberian society to get international ovations?

Plain and simple, Ms. Gbowee thought she had the opportunity and she made the best use of it, period. She felt at that point it was the best time to tell the entire world what she felt about her nation and president.

President Sirleaf, Ms. Gbowee claims has not done enough to tackle corruption. She voiced out her disgust about President Sirleaf appointing her sons to lucrative jobs, and the president’s failed action on national reconciliation among several reasons for her resignation from the government’s reconciliation commission.

Even though, the government will argue that the situation is not as Ms. Gbowee has said. But don’t worry about that, the government will always put a little polish on things to make them look as though they were sparkling.

Come to think of the criticism of Ms. Gbowee being “unpatriotic.” I think it is very unfair because there is not one patriotic Liberian out there. Everyone here puts self-interest first.

Think about it this way, do you know how many Liberians went on resettlement abroad, basing their stories on falsehoods and narrating events which did not occur here and implicating individuals they never saw?

Do you know that some of these accounts equally contributed to this nation being branded as a failed state, even though for a second there, the power that be at the time bore 99.9% of the reasons for such classification because they did do some of those devilish things to most people.

Come on, go ahead, think of it, patriotism is not just in words it is shown in love for country. People here pretending to be patriotic are only doing so because of what they can get from the country, not what they can give to the country.

Look, the evidence is all around us here today. Those who had trumpeted the patriotic song are the ones today “putting self interest above country.” But don’t forget, they were just yesterday commanding jobless boys and girls on the streets.

You know what, you can criticize Ms. Gbowee inside out, but leave the aspect of patriotism out, because there is not one in this nation of ours. We see ourselves as total strangers here who believe our loyalties are to a foreign nation, which is while most of the leaders here will first buy or mortgage property abroad and choose to stay at rented premises.

You don’t believe this, do you? checklist your leaders; see the properties they have here and compare that to what they own abroad and see whether any of them would not do just what Ms. Gbowee did in terms of turning her back on her country. Where do you think those extra millions are being siphoned to?

They are government officials, but bulk of their resources is expanded abroad where they get their wives and kids. No wonder most of their policies are rhetoric and would not stop at any opportunity to stir up trouble.

“Oh, why you can’t send your child right here Ghana to go to school,” they would argue, while complaining of poor education standard here. But who should improve it? When your kids are not here you don’t mind.

Walk down the streets of Monrovia and interact with the street vendors; those who are not even in school all they wish is to seek greener pasture abroad. There are many who have told me in the face, if I were you, I would never have come back to this country.

Do yourself the good, leave the aspect of patriotism out of this debate, because she is not the only guilty person on this count; we see this country as a farm and are willing and ready to say anything that will get us off this plantation.

Don’t give me that look, it’s the fact. When most of your officials are here to hustle and pay mortgages and rental fees elsewhere, what loyalty do you enjoy from them? They will steal and continue to do so, because the minute they are out of job, they are out of here! - Nothing to keep them here.



Can Former VP Boakia Truly Unseat Incumbent Pres. Weah alone?

The pending removal of incumbent Pres. Weah from office through the ballot box by Former VP Joseph Nyumah Boakia should not be associated with any form of political sympathy, feelings, or thoughts; it is an earnest business that involves practical and well calculated political steps, vigorous action, and pragmatism, if the former VP is taken this political dual very seriously.

VP Boakia and UP participants should know that incumbent Pres. Weah is not slumbering. He is fully awake and strategizing to stop VP Boakia and the rest in the political queue. But incumbent Pres. Weah knows that the second term, from an African President's perspective, is a do-or-die ritual.

The understanding here is that if Pres. Weah still fails to complete his second term he would be classified as feeble, unfit, and weak in the eyes of some of his colleagues Africa's Presidents especially those in West Africa who are closely watching Pres. Weah with eagle eyes whether he will bring them disgrace by failing to win his second term in office.

Another dark cloud currently hanging over Pres. Weah's head is the countless utterances made by most Liberians at home and abroad, that Pres. Weah is a footballer with no presidential experience or qualification to be President.

Ironically, these words still reverberate in the ears of Pres. Weah up today's date with some levels of annoyance on his part. Nonetheless, Pres. Weah failure to secure his second term in 2023, would strengthen Liberians' argument that indeed Pres. Weah did not qualify then, and he does not now.

In such unbearable political circumstances, Pres. Weah would untangle all his political strategies to secure his second term as practical political evidence to his fellow Liberians that their utterances about him being a footballer and unable to manage the Presidency of Liberia were undoubtedly a comprehensive and unproven political hypothesis against him.

With the aforesaid political variables, it could be possible for the election pendulum to swing in VP Boakia’s direction sincerely. But the question remains: Can VP Boakia work this out alone as he did in the 2017 election? The defeat of Pres. Weah would undoubtedly come with a complex political price tag from VP Boakia. Nonetheless, VP Boakia must go beyond the concept of feeling and political sympathy as it now the norms.

The VP will need to intertwine his political activism with analytical facts, social hypotheses, political variables, and the re-examination of past political errors made in the then October 10, 2017, general and presidential elections and make an effective corrective change now rather than later for the 2023 elections.

VP Boakia should not sit supinely and relax on the belief that the entire country is in deep political sympathy with him to unseat President Weah; therefore, he should do nothing but wait on October 10, 2023. October could surprise the VP either positively or negatively if he sits doing nothing.

The former VP should understand that the Liberian people's feeling and political sympathy will work for him if they translate it into votes but he must wake up to enforce that. Feelings and political empathy cannot unseat President Weah in the 2023 elections.

In this breath, the former VP must be proactive, energizing, and crisscrossing remote villages' towns, and cities in Liberia, starting with Monrovia. He will need to have persistent political rallies in slums such as New Kru-town, Slipways, West Point, sitting with those oppressed masses, and meeting with the Yanna-boys and market women in the market to rekindle their hopes for the 2023 election. He must begin making political proclamations by making some political slogans to energize his hopefuls.

The former VP looks reserved, diplomatic, and politically introvertive. He appears to be very excellent at translating policies into action and enforcing them, but that is not needed now what is needed now is political action on the road.

The former VP turned out to be more of a pragmatic technocrat rather than a traditional politician having rallies and moving with the masses from street corners to the football stadium. One analytical fact is that the former VP seems to be very overconfident that Pres. Weah will be defeated.

However, the former VP Boakia did make four significant errors in 2017 which he must correct before October 10, 2023 general and Presidential elections: First, he handpicked James Emmanuel Nuguay as not marketable VP in 2017, who did not have a substantial dependable constituent. Second, VP Boakia never campaigned extensively outside Monrovia to identify with the suffering masses.

Third, the UP was virtually inactive and with irregular funding. Fourth, the VP had always come to the US and staged fundraising for his foundation rather than his UP party. Fifth, in 2017 the VP failed to build a political coalition, the UP went alone in 2017. Would UP make changes?



Republic of Liberia

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
P.O Box 10-9016
Intersection of Broad and Mechlin Streets

Monrovia, Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST for Commonwealth Meridian Training CONSULTANT

NAME OF PROJECT: Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project, II

Assignment Title: **Short Term Consultant for Commonwealth Meridian Training in Public Debt Recording**

Financing Agreement reference: **2100155034068**
Project ID No.: **P-LR-K00-014**
Reference No. **IPFMRP II/C/IC/2.1.1.1-AfDB**
Issue Date: **March 27, 2023**
End Date: **April 10, 2023**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of Liberia continues to ensure an effective and organized practice of public debt management in Liberia while meeting its borrowing needs. In October 2021, the Government with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) contracted a technical support from Development Finance Initiative (DFI) to conduct a two-week training for staff of the Debt Management Unit at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in the use of the Commonwealth Meridian Debt Recording and Management System.

The Commonwealth Meridian is the new Debt Recording and Management System (DRMS) designed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in early 2019 and has eventually replaced CS-DRMS. The software is vastly superior to CS-DRMS both from functional and technological viewpoints, as well as has an advanced and improved functions and features. It is a unique software used to record public and publicly guaranteed debt. It also has the ability to model any workflow arrangement/institutional structure for debt management as well as flexibility in adding and maintaining a wide range of financing products, including any future financing products through the use of instrument templates. As part of the reform, the unit transitioned from CS DRMS version 1.3 to the web based Commonwealth Meridian.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The primary objective of the training is to further enhance the capacity of staff in the Debt Management Unit (DMU) on the usage of the Commonwealth Meridian. The training is a continuation of DMU’s introductory training which was conducted by the DFI in 2021. Considering the limited training period, DFI recommended further trainings that will ensure that staff of the DMU are efficient in using the system

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

The consultant/trainer is required to deliver a two-week training on Commonwealth Meridian for staff of the Debt Management Unit at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and will be required to perform the below responsibilities to achieve the objectives of the assignment.

- i. Develop course outline and contents for a ten (10) day training program in Commonwealth Meridian;
- ii. Prepare PowerPoint presentations, and the necessary handouts for the training program based on the courses/topics outlined in count 3.1 of the Terms of Reference
- iii. Prepare a training delivery schedule with full itinerary of the training exercise;
- iv. Deliver a 10-day training program for 20 participants, including GoL staff from the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
- v. Supervise a 10-day practical exercise on the usage of the Meridian, and provide an evaluation report of each trainee
- vi. Prepare and submit the training reports with photographs of the participants and activities.
- vii. Submit the final training documents (training manual and power point presentations, and group and individual work exercise).
- viii. The training topics to be covered are outlined in the Terms of Reference

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OR DELIVERABLES

- Availability of training materials, including course content/ guideline/brochure, presentations & hand-outs in English
- Attendance listing and photographs of all participants in attendance for six days upon conducting training for at least twenty (20) staff from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in the Commonwealth Meridian

- Hold a practical session on debt instrument recording and analysis of debt data and report generating and report on trainees’ practical skill levels and understanding of the usage of the Commonwealth Meridian in the overall training report to be submitted
- Submit to the Debt Management Unit, a copy to the Project Management Unit a comprehensive training report with participants’ photographs and list of trainees and post evaluation of the training program

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Consultant will report to the Director of the Debt Management Unit on all technical aspects of the assignment and to the Project Manager of the PMU on all contractual matters.

6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Service Provider shall coordinate closely with the Project Management Unit and the Economic Management Office to accomplish the assignment successfully. The duration of the assignment will be 10 days, expected to start in April, 2023.

7. DUTY STATION AND PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT

The duty station and place of the assignment shall be in Liberia.

8. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH CONSULTANT

Interested Consultants should meet the following Minimum Qualifications and Experience Requirements:

- a. The consultant is required to have a minimum of six years’ experience providing training services on the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) in the West African region, with three years of experience specifically on Meridian.
- b. The Consultant shall have at least a Masters’ Degree in Economics and Statistics, Mathematics, Information Communication Technology or related discipline
- c. Five (5) years’ experience in conducting similar training for Government staff in any African country; and must have experience dealing with Government data.
- d. The consultant shall have Proven capacity to develop practical training guidelines and programs;
- e. The consultant shall have experience in documenting, reporting and evaluating training programs.
- f. Working experience with Government is a strong advantage;
- g. The consultant must be willing and capable of conducting the training in Liberia, especially carrying on some activities of the training outside of Monrovia

9. LANGUAGE: Fluency in English, spoken, read and writing.

Further information and the detailed TOR can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. from 0900 to 1700 hours (GMT), Mondays through Fridays.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individual consultants to express interest in providing the services by submitting a list of similar assignments performed with references and submitting Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and copies of academic credentials, demonstrating experience in performing similar assignments with references and showing responsiveness to the qualification requirements outlined in this REOI. Eligibility criteria and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”). Consultants will be selected using the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) Method set out in the Procurement Policy Framework referenced above.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form or by email to the address below on or before 10th April, 2023 @ 1700 hours (GMT) and indicate in the Email subject line or on the outer envelope **“Short-Term Commonwealth Meridian Training Consultant”**
The Address referred above is:

Vee-Musa Fofana
Project Manager
Project Management Unit (PMU), Ground Floor Annex
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
P.O Box 109013 – Intersection of Broad and Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
Phone: +231-881-154-787
E-Mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr, and copied to jmentroe@mfdp.gov.lr



Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Bids

Country: Liberia

Name of Project: Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project -II

Contract Title: Procurement of Computers (Laptops, Desktops), Printers, Scanners, Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS), Local Area Network Accessories and Office Furniture

Project ID: P-LR-K00-014

RFB Reference No.: IPFMRPII/G/RFB/1.2.1.7

1. The Republic of Liberia has received Financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) toward the cost of the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project-II and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of Computers (Laptops, Desktops), Printers, Scanners, Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS), Local Area Network Accessories and Office Furniture for the Project.
2. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project-II (IPFMRP-II) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of ICT Equipment and Office Furniture to support the activities of the project as described in the matrix below:

Lot	Item No	Description	Quantity	Delivery
1	1	Supply of Laptop Computers Category A	6 Pieces	4 Weeks
	2	Supply of Laptop Computers Category B	12 Pieces	
	3	Supply of Laptop Computers Category C	50 Pieces	
	4	Supply of Desktop Computers Category A	6 Pieces	
	5	Supply of Desktop Computers Category B	13 Pieces	
	6	Supply of Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS)	18 Pieces	
	7	Supply of All-in-one network printers	6 Pieces	4 Weeks
	8	Supply of Large Size Printer and Photocopier	1 Piece	
	9	Supply of Document Scanner (Desktop)	25 Pieces	
Lot				
2	1	Supply of Universal Power Supply (1000 KVA for the switch cabinet)	1 Piece	
	2	Supply of Network Cable	2 Boxes	
	3	Supply of Wall Jack/Keystone (Double)	5 Pieces	
	4	Supply of Cabinet for Network Devices (8U)	1 Piece	
	5	Supply of Patch Panel (24 Ports)	1 Piece	
	6	Supply of Patch cable (1 meter)	8 Pieces	
	7	Supply of Computer Cable (6 meters)	8 Pieces	
	8	Supply of Channels/Conduits (100mm x 50mm White)	8 Pieces	
	9	Supply of Channels/Conduits (25mm x 50mm White)	8 Pieces	
	10	Supply of Network Switch (24 ports passive at 100 Mbps or higher)	1 Piece	
	11	Supply of Vmware Enterprise plus edition	1 Piece	
	12	Supply of Additional Hard Drive for Server (Sata 6TB)	6 Pieces	

Lot				
3	1	Conference Tables (Executive)	2 Pieces	
	2	Conference Chairs	30 Pieces	
	3	Window Blinds	1 Piece	
	4	Non-rotating office chairs	6 Pieces	
	5	Mini office desks	6 Pieces	
	6	Air-conditioner (24000 BTU)	2 Pieces	
	7	Wooden cabinet	1 Piece	
	8	Window curtains	2 Pieces	
	9	Door locks	2 Pieces	
	10	Fluorescent Light bulbs	3 Pieces	
	11	Bricks 6”	20 Pieces	
	12	Wall paints	4 Cups	
	13	Curtain rods	2 Pieces	

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procurement Method using the Request for Bids (RFB) procedures as specified in the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” August, 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project II, Ground Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Monrovia, Liberia; and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours.
5. The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US\$25.00 (Twenty-Five United States Dollars). The method of payment will be direct deposit. The banking details will be provided upon request. The bidding document will be furnished upon presentation of payment receipt.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **April 27, 2023** at 14:00 GMT. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **April 27, 2023** at 14:10 GMT.
7. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Vee-Musa Fofana; Acting Project Manager/Project Management Unit, Ground Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Monrovia, Liberia; e-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr and copy jmentroe@mfdp.gov.lr and inspect the bidding document during office hours 09h:00 to 16h:00 hours at the address given below.
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a “*Bid Security*” in the form of a Bank Guarantee as stated in the bidding documents for each lot or for both lots.
9. Bidders have the option to participate in one or both lots and are required to quote for all the items in the lots as stated in the Schedule of Requirements.
10. Bidders shall submit Past Performance Records, List of References, Certificates and Achievements from previous Clients and Manufacturer Authorization (MA) or Distributors Authorization from an agent that holds the MA to prove their eligibility. The issue date of the Manufacturer’s Authorization must not be before 2021.
11. The address referred to above is:

Attn: Mr. Vee-Musa Fofana, Acting Project Manager
Project Management Unit/Integrated Public financial Management Reform Project-II
Ground Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Broad and Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
Cell #: 0770-154-787/0777-901-518
E-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr

Français

Présidentielle 2023 : Les chefs et les anciens veulent un duo Boakai-Koung face à Weah

Que le colistier de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai à la prochaine présiden-tielle soit issu du Comté de Nimba, c'est en tout cas le vœux unanime des anciens et des chefs des

parvenus à un consensus, celui d'exercer une pression sur le chef de l'opposition pour qu'il choisisse un fils de Nimba comme colistier. Lors de la réunion, une délégation de haut niveau des chefs et des anciens de Nimba a

Ce quotidien a appris que la plupart des chefs et des anciens qui ont récemment reçu des véhicules du président George Weah ont assisté à la réunion avec l'ancien vice-président à Gbarnga.

L'un des chefs de Nimba, qui a demandé à ne pas être identifié, a confié au NEW DAWN que la plupart de ses collègues qui ont reçu des véhicules du président Weah ont déclaré qu'ils utiliseraient leurs véhicules pour faire campagne pour que l'ambassadeur Boakai soit élu.

M. Boakai aurait consenti à la demande des chefs et des anciens. « Tous ceux qui sont ici sont membres de la société Poro, donc nous ne pouvons pas nous affron-ter », aurait dit Boakai lors de la réunion.

Le sénateur Jeremaih Koung est le porte-drapeau du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR) fondé par le sénateur Prince Johnson, également de Nimba.

L'année dernière, le sénateur Johnson a rompu les liens avec le président Weah, tout en l'accusant de n'avoir pas tenu ses promesses. Il a par la suite promis son soutien au vice-président Boakai et nommé Koung comme nouveau porte-drapeau du MDR.



Comtés de Bong et de Nimba. Les Libériens sont impatients de savoir qui l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai nommera comme son colistier. Récemment, lors d'un grand rassemblement à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, les anciens et les chefs des deux régions sont

ouvertement demandé à l'opposant Boakai de choisir le sénateur Jeremiah Koung comme colistier pour les élections d'octobre. Le secrétaire général du Parti de l'unité, Amos Tweh, a révélé mardi à Monrovia que l'ancien vice-président Boakai nommera son candidat à la vice-présidence avant la fin du mois d'avril.

La police libérienne se dit capable d'affronter toute at-taque

Les forces de l'ordre et de sécurité se sont dites prêtes à répondre à toute menace. Lors d'une conférence de presse mardi, le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a affirmé que tenter de déstabiliser le Libéria serait une erreur fatale car la police s'opposera. « Nous sommes prêts à répondre à toute menace. Vous pouvez me croire. Nous sommes prêts à répondre à toute menace. Et donc si quelqu'un est assis quelque part et pense qu'il peut déstabiliser le Libéria, il se trompe », a déclaré Carter.

le Libéria se retrouve dans une situation chaotique", a-t-il expliqué. "Et sous notre surveillance en tant que sécurité commune, nous ne tolérerons ni n'hésiterons à faire en sorte que quiconque tente de saper l'État de droit soit con-fronté à tout le poids de la loi", a ajouté Carter. Selon lui, c'est la responsabilité des citoyens de protéger la paix et la démocratie de cette nation.

Un journaliste a confronté Carter au sujet d'une prétendue affirmation de l'opposi-tion selon laquelle le gouvernement serait responsable de la contrebande d'armes et de munitions dans le pays pour intimider et semer la peur pendant et après les élec-tions. En réponse à cette affirmation, M. Carter a indiqué que le travail de la police n'est pas de faire de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

Nous nous félicitons des Libériens

Tous les électeurs qui sont sortis pour participer à la phase I de l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs dirigée par la Commission électorale nationale devraient s'applaudir.

Terminée le 9 avril 2023, l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs s'est déroulée dans six comtés sans aucune perturbation violente majeure. Les citoyens ont fait preuve de civisme et ont montré combien ils aiment leur pays.

Les comtés qui étaient concernés par la première phase sont : Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bo-mi, Grand Cape Mount et Gbarpolu. Tandis que La 2e phase qui se déroulera du 21 avril au 11 mai 2023 couvrira les comtés de River Cess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong et Lofa.

L'achèvement réussi de la première phase donne ainsi le ton aux autres phases qui suivront en vue des élections présidentielles et générales d'octobre.

La NEC avait promis un processus équitable, transparent et plus rapide et a expliqué que le véritable objectif était d'enregistrer tous les Libériens de 18 ans et plus avant le scrutin. Les électeurs jouent leur rôle dans le processus démocratique. C'est pourquoi on doit les féliciter. La manière dont ils se sont gé-néralement comportés au cours des 20 derniers jours, en dépit des quelques problèmes techniques est salulaire.

Certes, il y a des cas où une poignée d'individus ont tenté d'être malins, mais la NEC, avec le support de la sécurité, a réussi à déjouer leurs plans machiavéliques.

Il est important que les Libériens continuent sur cette voie pacifique, sans violence. La deuxième phase commence le 21 avril dans les neuf comtés restants. Si le processus réussit, cela ne nous apportera pas que de la fierté, mais démontrera au monde que nous, en tant que peuple, sommes prêts à aller de l'avant.

Les élections démocratiques offrent une occasion unique aux citoyens de choisir leurs dirigeants, dans le cadre d'un contrat social, tout en espérant que les personnes ainsi élues rechercheraient leur bien-être, y compris la joie et la sécurité. Alors ne pas être à la hauteur de ces espérance est une trahison flagrante et constitue un abus de confiance.

Alors, pendant que nous saluons les citoyens qui sont venus s'inscrire pour voter le 10 octobre, les poli-ticiens en quête de pouvoir ne devraient pas tenir l'électorat pour acquis après leur accession au pouvoir.

Les expériences récentes et même celles du passé indiquent que les Libériens ne sont pas satisfaits de la manière dont ceux qu'ils élisent gouvernent le pays. Les gens déplorent la corruption dans le secteur public, car elle continue de priver les citoyens d'une meilleure éducation, de la santé et d'autres services sociaux, y compris la sécurité.

Se faire élire à des postes publics n'est pas et ne devrait pas être pour des avantages personnels, mais pour le service public. Il devrait être question d'améliorer le niveau de vie de l'électorat plutôt que de le dominer.

Par conséquent, il va sans dire que lorsque les Libériens s'inscrivent pour se rendre aux urnes, ils doivent réfléchir profondément et sobrement avant de voter, car le pouvoir est entre leurs mains à travers leurs votes pour décider qui devrait les diriger pour les six prochaines années. Ce pouvoir ne doit pas être exercé avec imprudence.

Français

La police libérienne

politique, mais d'assurer la sécurité des hommes et des biens.

"Nous ne sous basons pas sur des spéculations encore moins sur les oui-dire pour faire notre travail", a déclaré M. Carter.

Il a expliqué que si un acteur politique ou quiconque dispose d'informations tangibles pour l'enquête, il doit travailler avec la police.

« Si le Libéria venait à être déstabilisé demain, ce n'est pas un groupe de personnes qui serait affecté. Nous en souffririons tous », a-t-il dit.

M. Carter a ainsi insisté sur la nécessité de travailler tous ensemble pour consolider la paix au Libéria afin que les efforts des Nations Unies au Libéria ne soient pas vains.

« Donc, je peux vous garantir que nous sommes

prêts à contenir n'importe quelle situation. Et croyez-moi, si vous entendez parler de découvertes des caches de munitions, c'est parce que chaque fois nous avons des informations, notre service de renseignement est complètement efficace », a expliqué Carter.

"Mais, je peux vous dire comme je l'ai dit que nos renseignements sont très bons. Récemment, nous vous avons annoncé des armes et des munitions au port franc de Monrovia et de Brewerville", a-t-il déclaré.

"C'est le travail des services de renseignement. Aujourd'hui, nous vous reparlons de la découverte de munitions dans le comté de Nimba. Avec cela, vous pouvez être rassurés que notre travail se poursuivra", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a exhorté tous les Libériens bien intentionnés à informer la police chaque fois qu'ils ont des informations car cela favorisera la paix et la stabilité de l'État.

Un groupe de la société civile soutient l'appel de la famille Musu au GOL

L'Union de la société civile indépendante du Libéria (ICSUL) s'est jointe aux appels pour la publication des conclusions de l'examen du coroner du 27 février 2023 sur la dépouille de feu Charloe Musu.

L'examen physique

gouvernement de publier le rapport du coroner ou partager une copie avec eux depuis le 27 février 2023.

Cette position, telle qu'exprimée par la famille, a été reprise par l'Union de la société civile indépendante du Libéria, compte tenu de la révélation de la



(coroner) a été effectué par le coroner du comté de Montserrado, Augustine B. Ricks.

La famille endeuillée a récemment dénoncé ce qu'elle a qualifié de refus du gouvernement libérien de publier le rapport d'examen du coroner sur le corps de leur fille.

La famille, dans un communiqué publié le dimanche 2 avril 2023, a déclaré que ses soupçons et sa frustration avaient grandi à la suite d'étranges découvertes sur le corps de leur fille lors de la récente autopsie, et du refus du

famille selon laquelle le mardi 21 mars 2023, ils ont vu la partie avant du corps de Charloe au salon funéraire St. Moses avec membres de la presse et de la société civile avant la conduite de l'autopsie, mais le pathologiste a refusé de leur permettre de voir l'arrière du corps.

Dans un communiqué de presse, le groupe de la société civile a qualifié de très inquiétantes les affirmations de la famille selon lesquelles lors de la conduite de l'autopsie, le pathologiste a finalement retourné le corps, moment auquel il a été découvert que les sous-pantalons de feu Charloe avaient été retirés.

Affaire "Gbagbo A Témoigné Contre Moi": Un Cadre Du Ppa-ci Recadre Serge Koffi



Invité de l'émission "Sans réserve" de NCI du jeudi 13 avril 2023, Serge Koffi déclarait que l'ex-Président Laurent Gbagbo et son gendre Stéphane Kipré ont porté plainte contre lui au Canada, l'accusant d'avoir appartenu à une organisation terroriste, à savoir la FESCI. Un cadre du PPA-CI dit sa part de vérité.

Livrant ce samedi des précisions sur l'affaire dans une publication sur Facebook, le Secrétaire national en charge des détenus politiques du PPA-CI, Fabrice Lago alias Steve Beko, indique qu'en vérité, « tout ceci est faux ».

« Parce que tous ceux qui ont suivi le procès à la CPI savent que le procureur a tenté de présenter la FESCI comme une organisation ayant utilisé des moyens assimilables aux méthodes terroristes pour maintenir le président Gbagbo au pouvoir. Et les avocats de la défense ont tout mis en œuvre pour réfuter cette thèse. Gbagbo, qui était dans un procès où une organisation qui l'a soutenue est accusée de terrorisme, ne peut pas, même s'il est fou, confirmer cette thèse. C'est une question de bon sens », argumente ce proche de Stéphane Kipré.

« Diffamation et injures publiques »

À l'en croire, la plainte contre Serge Koffi s'explique plutôt par le fait que ce dernier prend fait et cause pour Affi N'guessan à la faveur de la crise au FPI, multipliant les vidéos avec un autre

cyberactiviste dans lesquelles il affirme que le président Gbagbo n'a pas signé son acte de candidature à la tête de son parti.

« Il va même plus loin en affirmant que c'est en sa présence que Stéphane Kipré a imité la signature de Gbagbo pour faire croire qu'il est candidat à la présidence du FPI.

», fait savoir Steve Beko, qui souligne que c'est "ulcéré par ces accusations" que Stéphane Kipré porte plainte contre l'ancien secrétaire général de la FESCI pour « diffamation et injures publiques ».

"À quel moment dans ce document, on parle de terrorisme ?"

« La justice canadienne écrit donc au président Laurent Gbagbo pour lui demander s'il reconnaît avoir signé un document de candidature à la tête du FPI. C'est une demande cruciale parce que si Gbagbo n'a pas signé un tel document, il n'y a pas diffamation et Serge Koffi gagne son procès », relate le Secrétaire national en charge des détenus politiques du PPA-CI.

"Il n'a pas besoin de salir le président Gbagbo pour cela"

À l'en croire, Laurent Gbagbo répond à la justice canadienne par un document en date du 25 septembre 2018, dans lequel il reconnaît avoir signé ladite lettre et être en accord avec son contenu. « Puisque Laurent Gbagbo reconnaît avoir signé la lettre en question, alors Serge Koffi a menti et il perd le procès. Aussi simple que ça ».

Obsèques de l'ex-Première dame de Guinée: Malgré les mises en garde d'Alpha Condé, Mamadi Doumbouya déroule...

Le 15 avril, à l'aéroport international Ahmed Sékou Touré de Conakry, un hommage national a été rendu à l'ancienne première dame de la République, Djènè Kaba Condé décédée le 8 avril à Paris à 63 ans. Juste après la levée du corps à la morgue de l'hôpital de l'Amitié sino-guinéenne.

Malgré les mises en garde de l'ancien président Alpha Condé, le CNRD a bel et bien géré les obsèques de Djènè Kaba. Il défie ainsi Alpha Condé. Vendredi 14 avril, le corps de Djènè Kaba a été accueilli par le président de la Transition Mamadi Doumbouya, en personne. Avant de bénéficier de ses hommages ce samedi 15 avril à l'aéroport AST. Le RPG Arc-en-ciel et la famille d'Alpha Condé ont brillé par leur absence à cette cérémonie funèbre.

Le grand frère de la défunte, Colonel Mamadi Kaba, s'est exprimé au nom de la famille. Il a précisé que l'organisation des obsèques de Hadja Djènè Kaba « ne doit pas être un sujet politique ou de discorde ». Il indique que c'est un hommage que nous devons tous lui rendre.

Colonel Kaba signale que perdre un



être d'une telle qualité « est une rude épreuve que seules les prières peuvent aider à surpasser. À son époux, le professeur Alpha Condé et à ses enfants, nous demandons de prier pour le repos de l'âme de Djènè Kaba ». Au président de la Transition, il réaffirme la reconnaissance de la famille pour « tout ce que vous avez fait en faveur de l'ancienne première dame ».

Après cet ultime hommage national, la dépouille de Djènè Kaba, la dépouille a été conduite à bord d'un hélicoptère à destination de Kankan, sa ville natale, où elle a été enterrée le dimanche 16 avril.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Citizens plead for Boakai-Cummings Ticket against Weah

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Thousands of Liberians have paraded in the streets of Monrovia with placards, calling for a united opposition bloc to defeat President George Weah on October 10th.

Former Maryland County Senator John Ballout led the

against President Weah.

“We are petitioning our leaders Amb. Boakai and Cummings to forget about their individual differences and run on a single ticket to redeem our citizens from the calamity the Coalition for Democratic Change regime has imposed on the Nation. This is the best ticket to unseat President Weah and make him a one-term

swiftly respond to the plea for a single presidential ticket that would enhance the opposition’s chances in the pending election.

Mr. Bility agreed that a single opposition ticket is the right way to go forward in making President George Manneh Weah, a one-term President, adding “A single ticket as Boakai-Cummings, is the best winnable collaboration.”

Also receiving another petition on behalf of the opposition Unity Party, UP chairperson for operation, Madam Darblah Manbande Varpilah assured the group on behalf of Amb. Boakai to immediately and positively respond to the request.

“You can rest assured we will not let our people down. We listen to you; we hear your voices, we will work together in a progressive manner to make Weah one-term President”, Madam Varpilah promised.

Both leaders were initially part of the CPP that they give birth to along with other leaders in the opposition, but Ambassador Boakai walked away and was joined by others, accusing Mr. Cummings of tempering with the framework document that brought them together, but they failed to prove their allegation in court.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



campaign from the headquarters of the Unity Party on Broad Street to the headquarters of the Collaborative Political Parties on 19th Street in Sinkor to petition the UP Standard Bearer Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the CPP to present a united force

President, so we are petitioning them to join as one ticket for one-run victory against the CDC-led government in the upcoming October election”, the petition reads.

Receiving the document on behalf of the CPP, Chairman Musa Hassan Bility hoped that the political actors would

I will campaign to get Weah re-elected

-Garrison Yealue, Jr.

By Lincoln G. Peters

The newly confirmed Chairman of the Governance Commission (GC), Garrison Yealue, Jr, vows here to campaign throughout the length and width of Nimba County and beyond, for the re-election of President George Weah.

The Governance Commission (GC) is the Government of Liberia’s premier policy think-tank clothed with the mandate to promote good governance by advising, designing and formulating policies, including institutional arrangements and frameworks required for achieving good governance in the public sector.

Speaking during the launch of “Nimba for Weah 2023” rally at the Paynesville Town Hall in Paynesville City, outside Monrovia on Saturday, April 14, Chairman Yealue promised to campaign for President Weah and do everything in his power to ensure the President gets

reelected in October.

“For me to see roads in my area and beyond, to see villages and towns that my father and great-grandfather established that he told me that we should fight for that district to be developed and see a man developing that district, it means that I must stand behind that man and I will campaign for him and do

Commission was at a political rally and we see [saw] him. But I didn’t come here in my capacity as the chairman of Good Governance; I am here in my capacity as a son of Nimba County”, Mr. Yealue clarifies.

Dozens of Nimbaians under the banner “Nimba for Weah 2023” over the weekend held a political rally and initial launch of the organization.



Garrison Yealue, Jr,

everything in my power ‘till George M. Weah is re-elected as the President of Liberia”, he pledges.

“Today, journalists are here, and they will say the chairman of Good Governance

During the occasion, Nimbaians paraded through the principal street of Paynesville, particularly, from GSA road to the Paynesville Town Hall.

Mrs. Cummings: Women have enormous power

Wings International, a predominantly women organization, kicked off a three-day intensive awareness program to mark its first anniversary on Friday, April 14, with Mrs. Teresa Cummings urging women to remain steadfast and vigilant in the pursuit of their set goals and objectives.

The program, which was held at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium brought together hundreds of women from various professional backgrounds including business. Several inspirational speakers and traditional cultural dancers were featured, as well as talent exhibition, and singing by church choir groups.

Mrs. Cummings, wife of the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings,

persistence, you can achieve anything you are desirous of and determined to do,” Mrs. Cummings said.

She also urged women not to give up in the face of challenges. She admonished them not to put themselves under pressure by seeking perfection, but rather explore other options in pursuit of their set goals and objectives.

“Collectively, women can make things happen and create a system for success. Make a plan and assure yourself I can do it. And do it without procrastination,” Mrs. Cummings said.

She later made a contribution of US\$1,000 on behalf of the Cummings Africa Foundation.

Wings International, with theme, “speak out, step out,” established 2022, has a current membership of 6,000, with over 40 chapters in Montserrado and Margibi. Their mission is aimed at



Mrs. Cummings and Wings International members

urged women to be conscious of their powers and resourcefulness and not be deterred in pursuit of their set goals in life. “Don’t block yourself from your blessings,” Mrs. Cummings said, noting that women are resourceful, powerful and capable of achieving any set goals, once they desire and are determined to do it.”

Mrs. Cummings referred to women in Liberia as the main driving force behind the country’s economy, wielding enormous power than they realize, and urged them to muster the courage and not associate with negative thinking people.

“What you choose to do, is what you truly are. Assure yourself. When you set what you want to do, believe in your heart and with consistency and

helping people, mainly women, in difficult circumstances and empowering women in their various areas of business to excel and become self-reliant, according to its Executive Director Val Diggs.

Wings International has auxiliaries in several other countries including Malawi, Kenya, Brazil and Haiti, advocating the cause of women and helping them to be productive and excel in their various business ventures.

Several Liberian beneficiaries, including business women and victims of circumstances, attested to the support and assistance being rendered by Wings International at its three-day program marking the first anniversary in Liberia.

Friday, April 14, program, which marked the start of the three-day anniversary was followed by a special fundraising on Saturday, and climaxed on Sunday, April 16, with a special Thanksgiving service.

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Nimbaians hold Dollar rally for Weah 2023

By Lincoln G. Peters

Dozens of citizens of the battleground county Nimba, on Friday, April 14, pledged their support to the 2023 presidential bid of incumbent President George Weah during a dollar rally at the Paynesville Town Hall.

Dollars were raised as a statement of intent towards the Weah's re-election campaign.

Earlier, the Nimbaians marched in their numbers from the GSA Road junction to the Paynesville City Hall, where the indoor program was held.

The program was graced by

not doing this because they love President Weah, but because they love Nimba County.

They named ongoing road construction and stable electricity in the county along with good health care as some of the platforms upon which they have pledged their



The Nimbaians under the banner “Nimba for Weah 2023” assured President Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government of their unflinching support ahead of the 2023 October 10, polls.

“We will ensure that you are re-elected during this October 10 election. We have decided to take on this responsibility by hosting this dollar rally to raise our five and ten cents to enable us to take your good message of peace, love, development and excitement to our people in Nimba -in every town, city, and village. This responsibility, we are committed to, and we will ensure that it happens,” the group said during a formal program at the Paynesville Town Hall.

Organizers say the dollar rally marks the launch of the “Nimba for Weah 2023” initiative. At least thousands of Liberian and United States

Nimbaians across the capital-Monrovia including the Chief Elder of Nimba, and Governance Commission Chairperson Garrison Yealue.

During the march, country devil or mask dancers were seen among the marchers as they sang traditional folk songs.

Giving an overview of the program, Mr. Shadrach G. Thomas Dokie, National Chairman of the “Nimba for Weah 2023” explained that the decision to rally such support for Mr. Weah’s re-election is driven by the tremendous development the president has undertaken in Nimba.

“We are here to put our dollar together to be able to reach every village to ensure the good message of President Weah reaches every segment of Nimba. This effort will also ensure that President Weah is re-elected through a resounding one round victory.” Mr. Dokie stated.

According to him, they are

support toward the president’s re-election.

Mr. Dokie pointed out that no president in the history of Liberia has done what president Weah has done for Nimba County and its people in just six years.

He explained that the “Nimba for Weah 2023” is the conglomeration of various political parties rallying support for president Weah’s re-election and not only the parties within CDC.

He further explained that the initiative taken by his group to rally support for Weah re-election is to show gratitude for the tremendous development he has carried out in their county.

The vice Chairperson for Media and Communications Madam Daintowon Domah told the audience at the rally that the reelection of President Weah will open more doors for Nimbaians, she did not say which doors.

Starts from back page

women in Liberia through education and leadership development.

Under Cooper’s leadership, MCF has built schools, provided scholarships, and implemented programs to improve the lives of thousands of Liberians.

In 2017, Cooper announced her candidacy for the Liberian presidency, running as an independent candidate.

Her campaign focused on issues such as education, job creation, and the fight against corruption. However, Cooper did not win the election, which was won by

"We are prepared

George Weah.

Despite her electoral defeat, Cooper remains an important figure in Liberian politics and civil society.

She continues to work through MCF to empower young people and women in Liberia, and her philanthropic work has been recognized by numerous organizations and governments around the world.

However, political campaigns and elections are a complex process that involves many factors, like political platforms, public opinion, and electoral laws, among others. But The decision about who is the right candidate for the upcoming election is ultimately

up to the Liberian people to decide through their votes. Nevertheless, could MacDella Cooper be the one? The answer is not yet clear.

What has she done?

Macdella Cooper has demonstrated potential as a leader and a philanthropist. Through her work with the Macdella Cooper Foundation, she has shown a commitment to empowering young people and women in Liberia through education and leadership development.

Her foundation has built schools, provided scholarships, and implemented programs to improve the lives of thousands of Liberians.

S/Court gives Bility teeth to bite

The recent ruling by the Supreme Court ruling in the Liberty Party (LP) long running constitutional and leadership battle has given the party’s embattled Chairman Musa Bility teeth to bite with the latter reminding NEC of Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence’s expulsion as political leader.

“...we kindly inform you that Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence is no longer the Political Leader of Liberty Party (LP),” the LP said in a memo issued over the weekend.

Sen. Karnga-Lawrence was expelled from the position of Political Leader in March 2022 and appealed to the Court to invalidate the expulsion on the basis that the LP National Executive Committee did not have the authority to expel her because the LP 2021 Special National Convention that voted the National Executive Committee into leadership and the Constitution that came out of that Special National Convention were both illegitimate.

But the Supreme Court last Wednesday, April 12, declared LP Constitution filed at the National Election Commission (NEC) and the LP leadership duly

Liberty Party (Appellees) v. National Elections Commission, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence and Emmanuel Azango (Respondents), declaring the Liberty Party (LP) Constitution filed at the National Election Commission (NEC) and the LP leadership duly elected and inducted at the January 2021 LP Special National Convention in Gbarnga.

As such, please note that the National Executive Committee, under the leadership of the National Chairman, Mr. Musa Hassan Bility, is the only body authorized to manage the day-to-day affairs of the LP.

Also, we kindly inform you that Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence is no longer the Political Leader of Liberty Party (LP). Sen. Karnga-Lawrence was expelled from the position of Political Leader in March 2022 and appealed to the Court to invalidate the expulsion on the basis that the LP National Executive Committee did not have the authority to expel her because the LP 2021 Special National Convention that voted the National Executive Committee into leadership and the Constitution that came out of that Special National Convention were both illegitimate. The recent SC Ruling has explicitly addressed both

elected and inducted at the January 2021 LP Special National Convention in Gbarnga legitimate.

The case arise from an alternative writ of certiorari filed by Bility against Sen. Karnga Lawrence, Emmanuel Azango, and NEC, after Chambers Justice Yusuf Kabba ordered the NEC to resume jurisdiction over a pending case containing disagreements on certain provisions within the Liberty Party’s constitution.

In a memo issued by the LP and copied to several diplomatic missions and organizations near Monrovia, Mr. Bility informed all of the Supreme Court’s ruling and the decision of the party against key figures.

Excerpts of the memo:

“Please be informed that the Supreme Court (SC) of Liberia has handed down its final ruling in the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari in the case Musa Hassan Bility and others of the





"We are prepared for election"

-MacDella Cooper

By: Kruah Thompson

Looking ahead of the upcoming presidential elections scheduled for October this year, the political leader for the Movement of One Liberia (MOL) - MacDella Cooper has declared her party's readiness

She alluded to putting the right administration that will deliver Liberians from the massive suffering they undergo daily.

"The movement of One Liberia is going to be a force in this election, and we are serious about removing this incompetence administration to put the right people who can free the country from massive suffering people face daily due

presidential elections.

Madam Cooper expressed optimism about her campaign's chances and named steps the party will take to ensure a successful election.

MOL has divided the country into five regions: "We got our regional health team in the Five regions with 15 County and District representatives," she said.

Despite this confidence, the leader has acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead, including the need for support from other political parties to ensure a peaceful and fair election process looking concisely at violence against women.

About MacDella Cooper
Macdella Cooper is a Liberian philanthropist and politician who ran for the presidency of Liberia in the 2017 elections. She was born in Monrovia, Liberia, in 1977 and moved to the United States as a refugee during the Liberian civil war in the 1990s.

In the US, Cooper became a successful entrepreneur, founding the Macdella Cooper Foundation (MCF) in 2004. The foundation aims to empower young people and

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MacDella Cooper

to unseat President Weah.

Madam Cooper in a statement over the week said her party is a major force in the upcoming election and that they are prepared to remove what she described as an incompetent regime.

to President Weah ignorance," she said.

Ultimately, she is the only female presidential candidate running for the nation's highest office. She was the only youngest female presidential candidate in the 2017

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