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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023	LS161.9876/US\$1.00	LS164.1545/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

Cameroon's Large-Scale Boko Haram Attacks Leave Thousands Homeless

YAOUNDE — Officials on Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria say Boko Haram militants in the past week destroyed hundreds of homes in large-scale attacks that killed at least six villagers and two soldiers, and left thousands homeless. Cameroon's government says troops retaliated Wednesday

two military jeeps and some ammunition.

Guedjeo Salomon is Cameroon's official in charge of agriculture in Mayo-Moskoto, where he spoke by phone Wednesday to VOA.

He says the militants looted markets, ranches, farms, and shops and sent villagers fleeing for safety.

military chased the militants back across Nigeria's border into Borno state, the birthplace of Boko Haram.

Cameroon's government says at least 12 militants were killed on Wednesday morning in a military raid on its side of the border.

VOA could not independently verify the number of casualties, but witnesses confirmed the attacks involved hundreds of militants.

The governor of Cameroon's Far North region Midjiyawa Bakari spoke to VOA via a messaging app.

Cameroon's military said Tuesday the Multinational Joint Task Force of the Lake Chad Basin Commission met in Mora, a northern border town with Chad and Nigeria.

The task force, made up of troops from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, discussed how to stop the attacks.

Cameroon in March said at least 3,000 people were displaced in fighting along Nigerian border towns and villages, including Mayo-Moskoto.

Cameroon's government repeated calls for villagers to report any strangers in their villages and said it remobilized militias to assist troops fighting Boko Haram.

Boko Haram attacks began in Nigeria's Borno state in 2009 before spreading to neighboring countries, including Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. VOA

Why China Is Building Africa's New Parliaments

JOHANNESBURG — Zimbabwe's new parliament gives an architectural nod to the country's famous ancient ruins; Lesotho's has a design resembling a "mokorotlo," the conical straw hat that's part of national dress; and Malawi's has a dome that looks like a calabash.

These local elements make these modern parliaments notable departures from southern Africa's old European-style legislatures built in colonial times, but in fact the new buildings were also designed and built by a foreign power: China.

Despite the African design elements, the imposing buildings aren't that different from China's own brutalist architecture, and stand out in developing countries, some of which, like Malawi, are among

tremendous," she told VOA.

What's in it for China?

China has so far built or refurbished parliaments in some 15 African countries, including the Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mozambique, the Seychelles and Guinea Bissau, as well as other government buildings such as Burundi's presidential palace and the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia.

Innocent Batsani-Ncube, a postdoctoral researcher at SOAS University of London, has a forthcoming book on China's parliaments in Africa. He told VOA such buildings aren't just bricks and mortar; "you have to locate this within this idea of building influence."

Beyond goodwill from African leaders, China's parliament-building drive benefits the Asian giant in multiple other ways, he says.

It allows Beijing to gauge the



Members of the Cameroonian Rapid Intervention Force patrol on the outskirts of Mosogo

morning and killed at least 12 militants.

Officials in Cameroon's Mayo-Moskoto district, on the border with Nigeria's Borno state, say hundreds of Boko Haram fighters launched deadly attacks on villages over the past five days.

Cameroon's military says six civilians and two government troops were killed in the attacks and the militants stole

Salomon says thousands of civilians are hiding in the bush on the border with Nigeria and neighboring towns, including Mokolo, Moskuta and Koza. He says on Monday the militants destroyed close to 400 shops and houses.

"They militants crossed the border to Nigeria with stolen loot, including about 200 cows, more than 250 goats and sheep, and one hundred motorcycles," he added.

Salomon says Cameroon's

US State Department Sets Up Special Task Force for Crisis in Sudan

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department has established a special task force to deal with the crisis in Sudan, a spokesperson confirmed to VOA on Wednesday.

The spokesperson said the State Department has established a Sudan Military Conflict Task Force to oversee the Department's planning, management and logistics related to events in Sudan.

The spokesperson told VOA: "The United States condemns in the strongest terms violence between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The ongoing fighting between the SAF and RSF threatens the security and safety of Sudanese civilians and undermines efforts to restore Sudan's democratic

transition."

Fighting in Khartoum broke out Saturday between members of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, and has since spread further into the country, reportedly leaving hundreds of people dead and injured.

The leaders of the rival

groups - SAF head General Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF chief General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, popularly known as Hemedti - joined forces to mount a 2021 coup that returned the country to military rule.

The two men have since turned on each other, amid squabbles over power-sharing in the new government. VOA



The entrance to the new Zimbabwean Parliament building in Mt. Hampden, west of the capital Harare

the poorest in the world.

Africa's largest trade partner has become known for its multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure projects on the continent, such as railways and ports. But for years it has also been building grand new parliaments and other government buildings, which cost less but are equally part of Beijing's diplomatic push in the region.

These buildings, like the new \$200 million Zimbabwean parliament, which opened last year, are usually given as gifts, with no loans attached.

"The prestige diplomacy helps to strengthen China's ties with the African governments, especially the top leaders," according to Yun Sun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center.

"Building a government building named after a president does not cost much, but the goodwill and reputational benefits are

"political temperature" of a country, he says, because while China often deals directly with ruling parties on the continent, in a multi-party democracy you'll find all political factions in the parliament and it's the one place China can connect with the opposition — which is valuable just in case there's regime change.

"It provides a way of hedging their bets," says Batsani-Ncube.

Even in political systems dominated by one party, he notes, there's occasional leadership turnover and "it's not enough to target the guy who's in power now, you have to play the long game."

Paul Nantulya, a research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, echoes that idea, saying "it affords China the opportunity to cultivate local elites."

While it might garner the Chinese political savvy and connections as well as open the doors for Chinese economic interests, analyst Yunnan Chen says China's parliament-building drive is not necessarily an attempt to export Beijing's one-party system. VOA

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Schizophrenia at the IMF

NEW DELHI - It has taken far too long, but it seems that the International Monetary Fund has finally internalized some hard truths about sovereign-debt reduction. Chief among them is that growing economies have an easier time repaying. As such, fiscal consolidation - the organization's favored strategy - undermines efforts to reduce debt-to-GDP ratios because it inhibits economic growth.

To be sure, this is hardly a new insight. John Maynard Keynes emphasized it nearly a century ago, and many have reiterated it ever since. It was certainly known to the negotiators who crafted the London Debt Agreement of 1953, which dramatically reduced West Germany's burden of public debt. The agreement between Germany and 20 of its external creditors provided favorable repayment terms linked to the country's future exports, creating the conditions for its postwar economic boom.

Still, better late than never. The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook presents the results of its own investigation into various debt-reduction programs undertaken by 33 emerging-market economies and 21 developed economies between 1980 and 2019. "On average," the authors note, "consolidations do not lead to a statistically significant effect on the debt ratio." Instead, they find that higher GDP growth - "as captured by positive demand and supply shocks together" - is "an important force" responsible for roughly one-third of the observed debt reduction during that period. The analysis even recognizes that fiscal expansion improved debt ratios in several cases, largely due to its positive effect on GDP growth.

Fiscal consolidation, the authors note, is more likely to reduce debt in a growing economy, under favorable financial conditions. But, given that such conditions may not always exist, and because retrenchment tends to impede GDP growth, austerity has rarely led to positive outcomes in debt-distressed countries.

As the IMF report notes, "unanticipated transfers" to state-owned enterprises and unexpected exchange-rate depreciations could undermine debt-reduction efforts. What the report does not mention, however, is that these developments are often an unintended consequence of the IMF's own programs, which tend to require indebted countries to shift to market-determined exchange rates, raise interest rates, and cut state subsidies, thereby driving up business costs. By contrast, the report finds that debt-restructuring efforts have been more successful when they helped countries restore growth and avoid economic decline.

While this will not come as a shock to anyone who has tracked growth trajectories over the past half-century, the IMF's influence over countries' macroeconomic policies, and the growing number of governments in need of debt restructuring, makes the Fund's change of

heart highly consequential. For decades, IMF programs have assumed that cutting public spending was the only way to deal with debt distress. Now, the Fund seems to be acknowledging its past mistakes.

But it is unclear whether this welcome (albeit late) volte-face will extend beyond the IMF's research department and how it might affect the Fund's lending activities. Early indications are not promising. IMF leadership has repeatedly called for faster and more effective sovereign-debt restructuring, and, to its credit, has recently set up a roundtable of public and private creditors to hasten the process. But the response so far has been slow, cumbersome, inadequate, and mostly ineffective. Countries that have sought help under the G20's Common Framework for addressing debt distress in the developing world have faced inordinate delays, geopolitical wrangling, and unresponsive creditors.

Worse, the IMF's staff seems to be unaware of its latest report or has chosen to ignore it. The Fund's recent financing programs include onerous conditions that will most likely have extremely damaging effects on developing countries' populations and economies.

For example, the recent agreement between the IMF and Sri Lanka emphasizes fiscal consolidation, requiring the government to achieve a budget surplus within two years. It also conditions its funding on increases in energy tariffs, flexible exchange rates that will likely lead to currency devaluation, and higher interest rates. The program (unrealistically) projects higher revenues without imposing wealth taxes or restricting illicit financial flows. All this will reduce demand in a country already reeling from 53.6% inflation, causing the economy to contract further. A similar focus on fiscal balance is evident in other proposed IMF programs in Ghana and Zambia.

The IMF is not alone in this. As Isabel Ortiz and Matthew Cummins point out, a new wave of austerity is building as governments scale back public spending. With the world facing a confluence of economic and political crises, the return of austerity could have dire consequences, and not just for economic activity. It could also imperil global health at a time when future public-health threats are increasingly likely, in addition to hampering our ability to address climate change.

This is not just unnecessary - it is willfully harmful. When certain "solutions" have been shown to fail, or make the problem worse, they must be abandoned. While it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction that IMF researchers have finally acknowledged the obvious, it is not enough. After decades of causing avoidable misery, it is time for the IMF to put its money where its mouth is.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

OP-ED

By Yvonne Greenstreet

Innovating Against Injustice in Health Care

CAMBRIDGE - Medical innovation has progressed exponentially over the past half-century. And yet, the persistence of health inequality limits the potential benefits of scientific and technological advances that could save or improve lives.

The debate over the allocation of vaccines and therapeutics during the COVID-19 pandemic is a vivid example of this inequality. In September 2022, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed yet again that ending the pandemic requires equitable access to vaccines; at the time, only 19% of the population in low-income countries were inoculated, compared to 75% in high-income countries.

Despite this imbalance, richer countries suffered greater losses of life years per capita than poorer countries - a paradox highlighting how health inequality exists at many levels. In the United States, for example, cumulative data show that people of color experienced higher rates of COVID-19 infection and death than white people. The disparity can be traced to social determinants of health, the non-medical factors that play a critical role in clinical outcomes. Suffering from institutional and structural discrimination, reduced health literacy, or cultural and language barriers makes it difficult to live the longest, healthiest life possible.

Reducing health inequality and helping underserved populations requires innovators to focus on these issues. There are still many diseases for which suitable therapeutic interventions are limited or do not exist. This is particularly true for rare genetic disorders, but also for more common ailments: impediments to patients' adherence to the existing treatment regimens for hypertension, for example, can adversely affect outcomes.

The biotech industry needs to allocate sufficient funding for research and development related to diseases that disproportionately affect specific ethnic communities. While we frequently say that communicable diseases know no borders, genetic and non-communicable diseases unfortunately do discriminate. In today's age of medical innovation, groundbreaking advances that could help these patients are within our grasp.

In a similar vein, we must rethink how we conduct clinical trials. We need to include diverse communities that are representative of the disease condition. Studies should take into consideration participants' socioeconomic and insurance status, and they should be designed to recruit people from underrepresented groups. Developing culturally appropriate and relevant recruitment materials, minimizing travel time to trial sites, reducing the frequency and number of assessments, allowing for telehealth visits where appropriate, and introducing creative ways to target, gather, and disseminate information are all steps in the right direction.

Moreover, regulators and health-care authorities can do more to encourage innovation that helps to address societal challenges. As advances in precision and genetic medicines and technologies continue, public and private organizations must work collaboratively to ensure that these breakthrough treatments are available to all who need them. Creative pricing and reimbursement strategies could enable equitable and sustainable access for patients and health systems. For example, the Value-Based Negotiation Framework, which my company supports, aims to address some of the challenges related to reimbursement in Europe. The framework lays the foundation for quicker negotiations between payers and manufacturers with a view toward increasing patient access to innovative products.

Finally, biotech companies can and should be responsible corporate citizens. That means investing in organizations working to address the social determinants of health - the stark disparities in income, education, transportation, exposure to violence, and more - and to provide equitable access to diagnostics and therapies. The global nonprofit Acumen, for example, uses its patient capital model to invest in enterprises focusing on meeting the needs of low-income consumers, from housing to alternative energy and water.

Merck has been advancing this work for over a decade through their Merck for Mothers program, which aims to promote safe and high-quality maternity care around the world. Sanofi Global Health, a nonprofit unit that Sanofi established in 2021, also supports underserved communities by selling medicines at affordable prices in 40 lower-income countries.

The biotech industry must continue to expand compassionate-use programs and collaborate with nonprofit organizations that provide access to essential treatments. There are enough successful industry programs from which to gain insights and identify best practices, such as Gilead's partnerships with generic manufacturers to produce high-quality, low-cost medicines, or Merck's agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool to diversify the supply of prescription drugs for low- and middle-income countries.

We must approach health inequality with the same passion, determination, and innovation that we apply to the development of medicines. Today's yawning gaps in access and outcomes are all the more unfair for being avoidable. And, as we saw during the pandemic, they are a problem for everyone. Collective action to improve health-care equity, including by addressing its social determinants, can extend and improve the lives of millions of people. That is the goal that all health-care companies should strive to achieve.

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OPINION

By Jon Hyman & Shannon Kellman

Mitigating Mozambique's Humanitarian Nightmare

WASHINGTON, DC - Since 2017, Islamic State-affiliated insurgents have wreaked havoc on Mozambique. Terrorizing the northern province of Cabo Delgado, the militants have killed more than 6,500 people, ravaged infrastructure, recruited child soldiers, and committed sexual and gender-based violence. All told, the conflict has displaced nearly one million people.

The World Food Program Representative and Country Director for Mozambique has called the resulting humanitarian crisis a "catastrophe beyond epic proportions." Chief among the challenges facing the population is reduced access to health care. The insurgency has forced the closure of nearly half of Cabo Delgado's health centers. As thousands of Mozambicans move south to escape the violence, their basic health-care needs are straining the infrastructure in other provinces, thereby weakening the country's overall health security.

The international response has been substantial: the United Nations has appealed for \$437 million in humanitarian aid to address the massive internal displacement in northern Mozambique, and the United States, in particular, is funneling considerable resources into the country. In addition to the sizeable US development assistance allocated to Mozambique each year, USAID announced a plan last July to provide \$116 million in supplemental aid - mostly for food and nutrition purposes, though some funds are intended to meet health-care needs.

But President Joe Biden's administration would be wise to make health security and infrastructure a central focus of its Mozambique strategy, using the new direction and flexibility offered by recent legislation. Guided by lessons from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress passed the Global Fragility Act (GFA) in 2019 to prevent violent conflict and promote stability around the world. Enacted with broad bipartisan support, the law mandates officials to rethink US foreign policy in conflict-prone areas and to deepen engagement with civil society and local partners.

In April 2022, the Biden administration designated Mozambique a priority country under the GFA. Over the next ten years, the administration plans to transform US government agencies and pursue partnerships at all levels as a means to tackle instability and prevent future outbreaks of violence in Mozambique and other target areas.

But crafting an effective response to displacement is difficult, and many efforts to reach Mozambique's most vulnerable have been hindered by logistical challenges like flooding from cyclones and widespread destruction of infrastructure. Poor health systems, in particular, are a roadblock to recovery and development, and the State Department's 2020 strategy for implementing the GFA makes clear that health - alongside education, food security, and other factors - is a critical and necessary component of a stable country. On this front, Mozambique falls short.

Mozambique faces the current crisis from an already precarious position in terms of public health. It has an alarmingly high infectious-disease burden: HIV affects 13% of the adult population, and the country has Africa's second-largest HIV+ population. Moreover, annual tuberculosis (TB) cases increased by 35% between 2011 and 2021, and around one-third of the population contracted malaria in 2020. Since both HIV and TB require continuous and often supervised medical treatment, hospital and clinic closures and forced displacement make it even more difficult for patients to access the necessary care. The combination of existing health challenges and the ongoing insurgency has only intensified the country's fragility.

To be sure, Mozambique has made great strides in addressing its many public-health concerns, which could provide a helpful model for interventions under the GFA. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria estimates that, through grants totaling more than \$2.2 billion to fund infectious-disease programs and efforts to strengthen Mozambique's health system, nearly three million new HIV infections and 220,000 TB deaths were averted between the Global Fund's founding in 2002 and 2021.

Such successes illustrate for US policymakers the importance of civil-society engagement in a long-term strategy. Together with the Mozambican Ministry of Health, three organizations - Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade, Centro de Colaboração em Saúde (CCS), and World Vision International - implement the Global Fund grants in Mozambique. These organizations perform essential functions, like providing medicine, educating community groups on prevention techniques, and funding community health workers.

Building ties with local partners isn't a foreign approach for the US, making the Biden administration's strategy to address the causes of fragility that much more attainable. In fact, under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the US partnered with CCS in 2010 to begin the transition to a country-led HIV- and TB-response model. Since then, CCS has expanded its clinical work from Maputo, the capital, to eight other provinces, including Cabo Delgado.

USAID also works with civil-society groups like PIRCOM, an inter-religious organization that mobilizes leaders from several faiths to improve communication about pressing public-health challenges. Through local-level and individual engagement, programs like PIRCOM can help mitigate widespread distrust of health workers and medical professionals - a significant barrier to health-care delivery. By broadening this engagement with actors on the ground as part of a comprehensive strategy toward fragile states, the Biden administration can emphasize local ownership.

Mozambique's record of successfully integrating civil society into its health system shows that targeting this area can save lives while improving the country's economic-development prospects. The Biden administration should focus on health aid to capitalize on this record, and the GFA is a valuable tool for doing so. Although fighting in Cabo Delgado has subsided, the urgency to act has not. The US must make its move in Mozambique. The right approach there will save lives and could serve as an important example for mitigating future crises elsewhere.

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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
 Payneville, 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, Payneville, 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

Liberians extol NEC

-Over completion of BVR phase one

By Lincoln G. Peters

Several Liberians have expressed appreciation to the National Elections Commission (NEC) for completing phase one of the ongoing Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process peacefully in the first six counties.

Speaking in an interview with this paper Tuesday, 18 April 2023, they described the completion of the first phase as peaceful, transparent, and credible.

They added that the process is setting the stage for a peaceful election.

"We are excited and like to extol the NEC for the completion of BVR's first phase. We see how transparent, credible, and peaceful the process

were arrested. "We saw police having a press conference displaying them," another said.

Commenting on the BVR phase one result, Prince Yarsiah, a resident of Logan Town, Quaya Street Community extolled the NEC for the peaceful and credible process.

According to him, despite the many challenges faced, issues were solved after some days when NEC staff began to understand the BVR process.

"I heard people talking that the process had challenges. However, they forgot to know that everything has challenges under this sun," he said.

Yarsiah suggested that people should be grateful that there is a process that can prevent people from registering and voting twice.



was," one of those interviewed said.

On Monday, 18 April 2023, the NEC released preliminary results from the just-ended Phase One of the BVR exercise conducted in six counties, indicating that over 1.4 million people had so far registered to vote in the scheduled October 10 presidential and legislative elections.

Phase two of the BVR exercise in the remaining 9 counties, Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, and Maryland Counties are expected to kick off on 21 April.

Some Liberians believe that the BVR process has brought maturity and credibility to the elections process.

During the interview, they said the process is transparent to the point that people who tried to duplicate it by registering twice

"I believe with this process, our democracy is now safe, and nobody will tamper with it. Finally, I want to thank the NEC for the introduction of the BVR because it has started to disclose fraudulent voters," he stated.

Also speaking, a female advocate, Williemen T. Kun, said the challenges that NEC staff faced had contributed to an alleged drop in the registration process.

She believes that there was a drop in registration due to citizens' distrust of the government and politicians.

She does not believe that most of those who have registered will turn out to vote.

"I have had conversations with several voters mostly, the elder ones. They have told me personally that they are not getting the cards to vote, but for the transaction and because it's nice looking," she claimed.

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Representative hopeful cautions against trucking

By Lewis S Teh

Margibi County Electoral District #4 representative hopeful Mr. Fred P. Weasah has cautioned first-time voters against being trucked to vote in different districts.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper recently, Mr. Weasah said

it is very important for them to exercise their rights by registering to vote, but they should not be trucked.

He warned they if voters do not stay in their district to decide who leads them, they will call tomorrow and say their district has been abandoned.

Weasah thanked first-time voters who have registered to

turning out at Voter Registration Centers and getting their voters cards.

Weasah stated that young people should not think that their voice isn't being heard, or that they are wasting their time.

He he said it was necessary that they exercised their rights in the just-ended phase one of the voter registration exercise.

Weasah also cautioned young people against violence, saying everybody knows him across the county that he stands for integrity and peace.

He said he has always demonstrated that throughout his campaign from 2017, and he will continue it this year.

According to Weasah, when you get into the campaign process, it is important to control your people. He said he has always discouraged attacks, and profanity against opponents.

The Margibi County District #4 representative hopeful continued that his agenda is to focus on oversight and equal opportunity for children.

He stressed the need to change the minds of the young people so that they cannot be asking the same question.



trucking voters is wrong and it would make their district vulnerable.

He told young people that

vote in the pending October 2023 elections.

He said he was excited to see a lot of first-time voters

ECOWAS Commission holds interactive workshop with political actors and stakeholders in Sierra Leone

Ahead of the forthcoming Presidential and Parliamentary elections of Sierra Leone, scheduled for 24th June 2023, the Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA) in the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission, in partnership with the country's Independent Commission for

The workshop which is part of the Commission's strategic and operational support to Member States holding elections, is a follow up to the Joint ECOWAS-African Union pre-election fact-finding Mission deployed to the country from the 12th to 14th of April 2023, to assess the level of preparedness for the elections by the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and

contribute to the enhancement of participants' dialogue and mediation skills, create space for interactive engagements and opportunity to sensitize the population on the ECOWAS normative principles and frameworks on democracy and good governance.

It is also examining inclusive participatory processes, which would enable the holding of



Peace and National Cohesion, is holding a training and interactive workshop with political actors and stakeholders on peaceful elections.

other political actors and institutions.

Conscious that election periods are moments of heightened political tension, the workshop is aiming to

free, fair, transparent, and credible elections.

The Workshop Participants are drawn from political

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

IDAD established technical working group for tax collection

By Kruah Thompson

The Institute for Democratic Action and Development (IDAD) has held a one-day tax justice working group inception meeting for over ten civil society organizations and community-based organizations within Montserrado with the goal of formulating a technical working group for tax collection.

Speaking in an interview with a team of journalists on Wednesday, April 19, at its head office in the oldest Congo Town during the start of the one-day tax working group inception meeting, IDAD Program Director Sylvester J.M. Saye said the one-day tax justice working group inception meeting was gear

IDAD expectations from select CSOs and CBOs that participated in the one-day working meeting is to enable them to have the knowledge and idea of establishing a tax justice working group that will foster the issues about tax administration in Liberia.

He said IDAD is a nonprofit civil society organization that was established to promote the decentralization aspect of government.

"Our aim and objective as civil society organization are to help provide education and create awareness around the issues of lawful tax collection in the tax justice system," Saye explained, adding that his organization is currently working in ten of Liberia's fifteen counties through UNDP funded projects- something he says



towards building the capability and strengthening the knowledge of various CSOs and CBOs in the establishment of a technical working group on issues relating to the collection of tax across the country.

"Today, we brought 11 civil society organizations including people with disabilities, trade unions, Liberia Business Association, Liberia Marketing Association, and the Workers Union among others so as to formulate a tax justice working group across the country," says Mr. Saye.

He explained that the tax justice working group will develop a strategic action plan which will be submitted to their partners to source out funding to help engage the national legislature and other relevant stakeholders.

"We want to build the capacity of CSOs and CBOs to engage national government who are to pay their taxes but aren't paying," Saye continued.

He noted that the significance of the tax justice working group inception meeting was to establish a tax justice working group.

will allow citizens to engage local government processes so that development purposes can be adequately implemented.

"At the end of today's meeting, we hope to build the capacity and strengthen the technical working group that will be established. We want to increase the knowledge of those various CSOs and CBOs in creating awareness on how to engage key stakeholders including the national legislature and those institutions responsible for the collection of lawful taxes," said Mr. Saye.

"We are anticipating that the beneficiaries will be aware that the taxes they pay should be equitably distributed for national development," he added.

He recalled that in 2022, the Liberia Revenue Authority, or LRA made a pronouncement about a huge collection in revenue generated which contribute significantly to the national budget.

He said it was against this backdrop that his organization saw it prudent to bring various civil societies together to strengthen and build their capacity, especially in the case where he says Liberia

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA launches Integrated Tax System

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, launched the Liberia Integrated Tax Administration System (LITAS). Authorities say the new platform will help ease Tax Payment across the Country and to boost the country's revenue generation,

LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah speaking at the opening ceremony explained that the launch of LITAS is part of efforts to transform the Tax Administration of the country.

Mr. Nah argued that in order to move the country's revenue generation from millions to billions, there is a need to improve tax generation.

these are some of the systems that will help us generate more revenues," Mr. Nah said.

For his part, Liberia's Comptroller-General, Janga Kowo lauded LRA for the progress made in Tax generation and expressed confidence that the digitalization of tax collection will help to achieve the government's development agenda.

"I say bravo to the innovative leadership of the Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah and LRA family [in your] quest to move Liberia revenue generation to billions," the Comptroller General of Liberia said.

Also, Speaking, LRA Commissioner for Domestic Tax Darlington Y. Talery, expressed optimism that the launch of the new Tax Administration System will yield fruitful revenue

him, the LRA will roll out LITAS to all tax business offices across the 15 counties of Liberia.

BACKGROUND

With support from partners including the African Development Bank Group, The World Bank, SIDA and the European Union. In 2021, LRA launched the pilot phase of the LITAS to replace the Standard Integrated Government Tax System (SIGTAS).

LITAS is part of efforts to improve tax compliance and increase tax revenue with the aim of gathering sustainable resources to support Liberia's growth and development.

The launch of LITAS is in addition to other innovative online tax payment processes including the Port Automation and Digitization System - a paperless system launched in 2022, meant to speed up



Mr. Nah further explained that the new digital tax system, which includes exclusive online registration, and filing makes tax payment easier, while improving taxpayers' experiences, and will help boost revenue collection.

"Today we are excited because we at LRA have taken another step to change the ecosystem or the way we do business. We are moving to billion and it's a process, and

generation.

Although Mr. Talery recognized challenges in terms of connectivity, electricity, internet and financial support that come along with it but remained confident that the new digital system will be successful.

He told the launching event that LITAS will reduce compliance costs, minimize human interferences and related errors, and boost revenue growth. According to

customs clearance processes.

The digitization of tax payment platforms supports the goals of the LRA in ensuring the transformation of revenue administration by utilizing effective information and communication technology as stated in Goal Four of the Authority's strategic direction.

LRA goal four points to the transformation of revenue administration by utilizing effective information and communication (ICT).

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ECOWAS Commission holds interactive workshop

parties, the Election Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL), the Political Parties Regulatory Commission (PPRC), the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Sierra Leone Police, the Inter-

Religious Council and Traditional authorities, the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC), civil society organization and the media.

It will be recalled that

similar workshops were organized in the lead-up to the recently held 2023 general elections in Nigeria as well as around the electoral processes of several other Member States.

PUP announces support for Weah

By Kruah Thompson

The opposition People's Unification Party (PUP) says it

"Therefore, the party has [concluded] to rally [its] partisans' support in re-electing President Weah come October," he continued. Last month, six political parties



will support incumbent President George Manneh Weah's re-election bid in the October 2023 elections.

PUP chairman Morris Barbay announced the party's decision at a press conference Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Barbay clarified that the PUP will not join the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the upcoming elections, but it will support President Weah's re-election.

This decision has raised questions about the party's political strategy and potential implications for the election, as the CDC seeks to maintain its grip on power.

Chairman Barbay revealed that the party's executive committee has agreed to seek negotiations with any political party.

"On April 3, 2023, the party in an executive meeting agreed to put an announcement out

joined the CDC ahead of the October presidential and legislative elections.

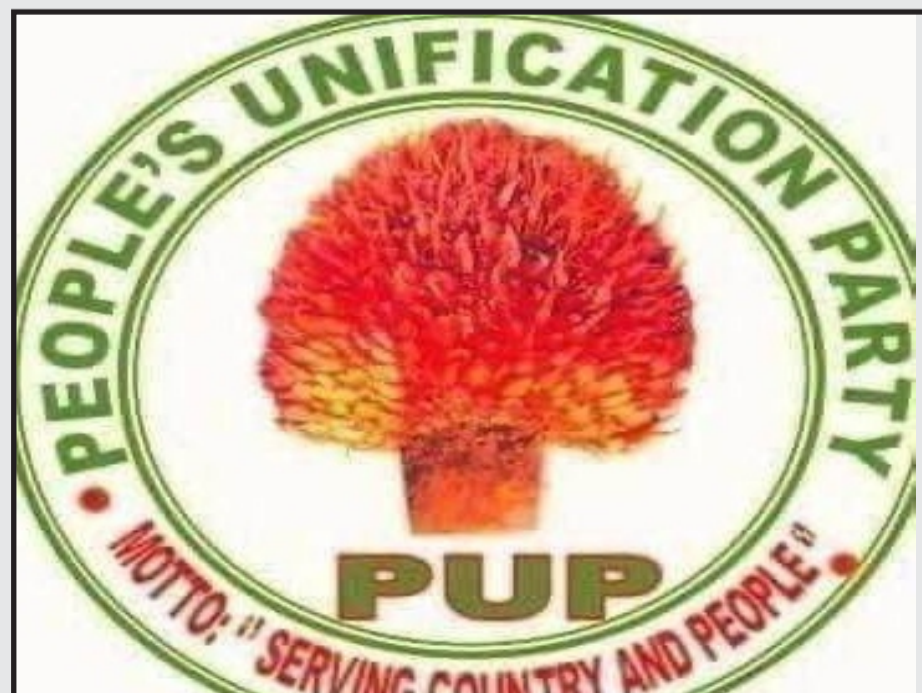
They are the late Dr. Daniel E. Cassell's People's Liberation Party (PLP), Union for Liberian Democrat (ULD), United People's Party (UPP), Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC), Change Democratic Action (CDA), and the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE).

Regarding PUP's support to President Weah, Chairman Barbay outlined some of the things agreed upon in the resolution.

He noted that the party's main objective is to rally partisan support to re-elect President Weah for a second term.

He stated that they will be canvassing for votes through various party chairpersons, town chiefs, and zone leaders.

"We are going to canvass for votes through our various party chairpersons, town chiefs ... and zonal heads to rally support for the re-election of President Weah for



seeking negotiations with any political party," said Barbay.

He said several parties expressed interest, but it was the CDC that consistently showed interest in working with the PUP.

the second term," he said

During the signing of the resolution on 19 April 2023 at PUP's headquarters, Chairman Baby revealed that 23 individuals were present.

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Français

Gongloe rejette l'accusation contre les progressistes dans le coup d'État contre Tolbert

Le candidat à la présidentielle Me Tiawan Saye Gongloe qualifie d'injuste le fait que les gens accusent l'Alliance progressiste du Libéria (PAL) et le Mouvement pour la justice en Afrique (MOJA)

de 1980 où le président de l'époque, William R. Tolbert, fut assassiné.

« Les progressistes étaient très en colère et déçus lorsqu'ils ont appris qu'il y avait eu un coup d'État, que Tolbert avait été tué et que son gouvernement avait

Selon lui, à aucun moment, le MOJA et la PAL n'ont jamais soutenu ou orchestré le renversement du gouvernement Tolbert.

Me Gongloe a expliqué que le président Tolbert avait dit au pays et au True Whig Party que des élections auraient eu lieu en 1983.

« D'ailleurs, le président Tolbert avait promis qu'il ne se présenterait pas aux élections. Si les élections avaient eu lieu en 1983 comme promis, feu Gabriel Baccus Matthews ou le Dr Togba-Nah Tipoteh auraient émergé en tant que président du Libéria parce qu'ils étaient alors extrêmement populaires. Mais le coup d'État a eu lieu en 1980 et le président Tolbert a été tué alors que nous nous préparions pour les élections de 1983 », a-t-il dit.

Gongloe a fait valoir que le coup d'État de 1980 a nui aux chances de Matthews et de Tipoteh de devenir présidents du Libéria.

Toutefois, il estime que le coup d'État était un mal nécessaire à ce moment là.

« Il y avait deux mouvements progressistes. Nous avons MOJA et PAL. Je n'ai pas fait partie du coup d'État, mais je pense toujours que le coup d'État était une mission de sauvetage », a déclaré Gongloe.

« Je me trompe peut-être,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe

Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh

d'être responsables des conflits armés du Libéria. Selon lui les progressistes voulaient des élections et non un coup d'État.

Invité dans une émission par la radio OK FM le mardi 18 avril 2023, le célèbre avocat libérien des droits de l'homme a donné sa réflexion sur le coup d'État

été renversé », a-t-il dit.

« Donc accuser les progressistes et les membres du MOJA d'être responsables des jours sombres du pays et du renversement du gouvernement est très déchirant parce que nous voulions des élections pour renverser le gouvernement, pas par des moyens militaires », a précisé Me Gongloe.

Weah mobilise les jeunes électeurs pour sa réélection

Le président George Manneh Weah a encouragé les jeunes électeurs Libériens qui vont voter pour la première fois à choisir le bon dirigeant qui les gouvernera, tout en les appelant à exercer leurs droits constitutionnels en se faisant enrôler et en votant en octobre.

Lors d'une rencontre avec des jeunes Libériens le lundi 17 avril 2023 dans son complexe jamaïcain près de l'autoroute Roberts Filed, M. Weah a décrit les nouveaux électeurs comme une force formidable en ce qui concerne le scrutin.

Il leur a également fait croire qu'ils sont indispensables à sa réélection pour un second mandat aux prochaines élections.

Le président George Manneh Weah a profité de l'occasion pour exhorter les

jeunes à renoncer à la violence et à saisir l'opportunité d'exercer leurs droits constitutionnels en s'inscrivant pour voter pour un bon dirigeant qui améliorera leurs conditions de vie et préparera leur avenir.

Le président Weah a déclaré que les jeunes électeurs

potentiels ont à nouveau le pouvoir de faire entendre leur voix en grand nombre et de déterminer le sort des principaux enjeux à travers le pays.

La plupart des électeurs qui ont rencontré le président

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

L'augmentation des cas d'avortement au Libéria est inquiétante

L'avortement est illégal au Libéria, mais selon une étude, près de 40 000 avortements ont lieu dans le pays par an, détruisant des vies innocentes. Cette tendance devrait attirer immédiatement l'attention du gouvernement, des militants des droits et des institutions religieuses, car ce sont des meurtres qui se commettent.

Selon l'étude nationale sur l'avortement au Libéria, en moyenne 38 779 avortements ont lieu au Libéria chaque année, c'est-à-dire 30 femmes âgées de 15 à 45 ans sur 1 000 avorte chaque année.

« Le taux d'avortement n'est pas homogène. Il varie selon les régions. Le centre-nord du pays a le taux d'avortement le plus bas (6,6 sur 1000), tandis que le centre-sud a le taux le plus élevé (49,7/1000). En outre, 14 555 femmes ont reçu des soins pour des complications liées à l'avortement dans les établissements. 67% ont eu lieu dans des établissements publics et 74% dans des établissements de niveau primaire », indique le rapport.

L'étude conclut que l'avortement provoqué est courant dans le pays, la plupart des cas étant liés à des grossesses non désirées.

Quelque chose semble manquer ici. Il semble y avoir une éducation limitée sur les rapports sexuels précoces et les risques associés. Les écoles, les églises et les mosquées et les maisons, sans oublier les hôpitaux et les établissements de santé ne semblent pas jouer leur rôle.

La science reproductive doit être enseignée dans les écoles et les institutions religieuses à travers le pays pour résoudre le problème des grossesses non désirées qui, selon le rapport, est à l'origine de la prévalence des avortements dans la société.

Le rapport met l'accent sur la diffusion et la mise en œuvre complètes de la loi révisée sur la santé publique du Libéria dans toutes les communautés, les centres de santé avec la participation des décideurs politiques pour assurer l'éducation et la sensibilisation de la communauté sur le danger de l'avortement à risque, tout en tenant compte du statut juridique existant de l'avortement et du point d'accès actuel.

Les parents et les tuteurs ont leur part de responsabilité dans cette pratique non autorisée car il semble que la discipline a été jetée par la fenêtre et que les enfants, filles et garçons, sont laissés à eux-mêmes pour expérimenter sexuellement ou pratiquer des relations sexuelles précoces et incontrôlées. N'oubliez pas que la famille est la première cellule de la société, et si la discipline y est compromise, la société perd l'équilibre.

En bref, il nous faut limiter le nombre de grossesses non désirées grâce à une éducation vigoureuse et soutenue dans tous les secteurs de la société afin d'inverser la tendance.

Cela nécessite le soutien du gouvernement, en collaboration avec des partenaires. Plus tôt nous commencerons, mieux ce sera pour notre population, car le rapport n'a pas révélé le nombre de décès survenus lors de ces avortements.

Français

Gongloe rejette l'accusation contre les progressistes

mais je pense que oui. PAL, dirigé par Baccus Matthew, a organisé une marche de minuit à la présidence et certaines personnes ont été arrêtées et emprisonnées", a-t-il rappelé.

"Le MOJAL a fait une déclaration et leur a dit qu'ils avaient torts. Ils étaient en prison le 11 avril, la nuit du coup d'État. De plus, le MOJA était... sur leur programme d'installation", a-t-il révélé.

Selon lui, ils se sont fâchés parce qu'ils « voulaient une élection pour renverser le gouvernement ».

Il a dit qu'il aurait pu travailler au gouvernement, mais il n'était pas satisfait. "Nous voulions vaincre le True Whig Party dans les urnes", a-t-il ajouté.

Gongloe a affirmé que le True Whig Party savait qu'il n'aurait pas remporté les élections parce que les progressistes avaient commencé à les vaincre sur le campus de l'Université du

Libéria et qu'ils voulaient faire refléter cela sur la scène nationale.

Il n'est pas d'accord avec ceux qui accuse le mouvement progressiste pour le retard du Libéria. Gongloe a insisté sur le fait que les Libériens sont conscients que les progressistes ont plaidé et donné leur vie pour la paix, la démocratie et le système multipartite dont ils bénéficient aujourd'hui.

Le problème du Libéria, selon lui, est que les principaux agents du changement n'ont pas eu la malchance de prendre le pouvoir.

"En fait, la liberté n'est pas gratuite. Pendant ce temps, nous avons plaidé pour la justice sociale, l'autonomisation économique, le système démocratique multipartite, la liberté d'expression et la sécurité, entre autres", a déclaré Me Gongloé.

"Si aujourd'hui, les gens nous considèrent comme responsables du retard du Libéria, il n'y a rien de mal à cela car même dans la Bible, les enfants ont dit cela à Moïse", a-t-il dit.

Weah mobilise les jeunes

Weah pour la première fois avaient 12 à 17 ans lorsque celui-ci arrivait au pouvoir en janvier 2018.

En réponse à l'appel du président Weah, les jeunes ont réaffirmé leur soutien à sa candidature à la réélection.

Les nouveaux électeurs ont massivement promis leur soutien au président Weah, le félicitant pour son amour envers eux.

Ils ont également remercié le président Weah pour le développement massif à travers le pays, y compris le paiement des frais d'examen pour les élèves libériens qui passent le West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) depuis son ascension.

Certains des jeunes, dans une interview, ont exprimé leur confiance dans le leadership du président Weah, disant qu'ils sont impatients de participer aux élections prochaines. Ils ont promis de faire en sorte qu'il

soit réélu au premier tour.

Ils ont décrit le président Weah comme un leader désintéressé des jeunes.

Siafa Kamara, un électeur de 19 ans, a déclaré au New Dawn qu'il a hâte de voter aux élections.

Il a dit qu'il veulent s'assurer que le président Weah est réélu. Il a salué le leadership du président Weah dans l'amélioration de la vie des jeunes, la fourniture d'une meilleure éducation, l'amélioration du développement des infrastructures et le maintien de la paix.

"J'ai hâte de voter pour le président Weah, qui est un dirigeant terre-à-terre, et pour sa bonne volonté envers nous et son cœur pour le pays", a déclaré Fatu Flomo, une électrice potentielle de 21 ans.

« Nous voulons que le Libéria soit l'un des meilleurs où les jeunes ont un environnement agréable pour apprendre et s'autonomiser. Nous voulons quelqu'un qui puisse construire ce pays pour nous », a déclaré Philip Passawe.

Il poignarde son ex-petite amie à mort



Une étudiante de l'école communautaire Geolinda de LMPC, ville de Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, a été poignardée à mort.

Lucelia Gonleseh, 20 ans, a été déclarée morte par un médecin après avoir été transportée d'urgence à l'hôpital.

La défunte étudiante Lucelia Gonleseh est décédée à Ganta ce week-end après avoir été poignardée à plusieurs reprises par son ex-petit ami.

Mère d'un enfant, elle a été poignardée à plusieurs reprises à la poitrine et au cou par le suspect de 34 ans Jefferson Yeakeah Boyer.

L'assassin est passé à l'acte quand il a vu son ex-petite amie avec un autre homme dans la rue principale de Ganta.

Le suspect fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête policière à Sannioullie City, Nimba, après qu'une foule en colère a menacé d'incendier le poste de police de Ganta.

La mort de feu Lucelia Gonleseh porte à dix le nombre de femmes tuées par leurs amants.

Selon un témoin oculaire, le suspect Jefferson Yeakeah Boyer a abandonné le défunt à Ganta et a séjourné à Monrovia pendant un an et rompu toute communication avec elle.

Cependant, à son retour, il a vu son ex-petite amie marcher

avec un autre homme.

Il y a quelques mois, Ernest Gbatoo, un homme de 33 ans de la communauté New Barracks à Sannioullie, a poignardé à mort sa femme Yei Gargbay, 35 ans, tandis que Grace Menlor, qui était une élève senior du lycée Youth Academy, était également poignardé à mort par Prince Tokpah, qui s'est suicidé plus tard. L'épouse d'un ancien commissaire de district, Yei Bontuah, a été poignardée à mort par son petit ami le long de Sannioullie-Karnplay, tandis qu'à Gbahn, un bébé d'un mois a été violé et est décédé par la suite.

Des sources policières ont déclaré à NEW DAWN que plus de sept femmes et filles auraient été tuées à l'aide de couteau.

Côte d'Ivoire: retard dans la restitution des corps des victimes de la crise dans l'ouest du pays

En Côte d'Ivoire, plus d'un mois après les cérémonies de restitution de 47 corps de victimes de la crise de 2011 dans l'ouest du pays, les familles n'ont toujours pu faire leur deuil : ces personnes attendent toujours de recevoir les corps de leurs proches pour organiser des funérailles. C'était pourtant un acte symbolique qui visait à marquer un pas de plus dans la réconciliation nationale.

Sylvain (*) a perdu sa mère pendant la crise, en mars 2011. Le 8 mars 2023, cet homme d'âge mur faisait partie des personnes invitées à une cérémonie, organisée à la préfecture de Bloléquin, par la ministre de la Solidarité, le ministre de la Réconciliation nationale et le département de la Justice. Les autorités lui ont alors remis une enveloppe lui permettant de payer les frais d'obsèques.

« Nous attendons toujours »

Entre temps, Sylvain dit avoir fait construire une tombe. Il a mobilisé sa famille, mais depuis le 8 mars, il n'a pas pu récupérer la dépouille de sa mère. « Les autorités ne nous ont



pas dit où étaient les corps », affirme cet habitant de Bloléquin. « Nous attendons toujours » soupire-t-il. Plusieurs autres familles affirment aussi avoir préparé les tombes, mais sont désorientées : « Je n'ai pas démarré les travaux champêtres, j'attends d'abord d'enterrer les miens », explique un planteur de cacao et d'hévéa.

Une source proche du dossier invoque « un dysfonctionnement administratif ». « D'ici la fin de la semaine, tous les verrous seront levés », assure cette source. Jointe par RFI, la société Ivoire Sépulture, où les corps étaient conservés depuis 2015, n'a pour l'instant pas donné de suite.

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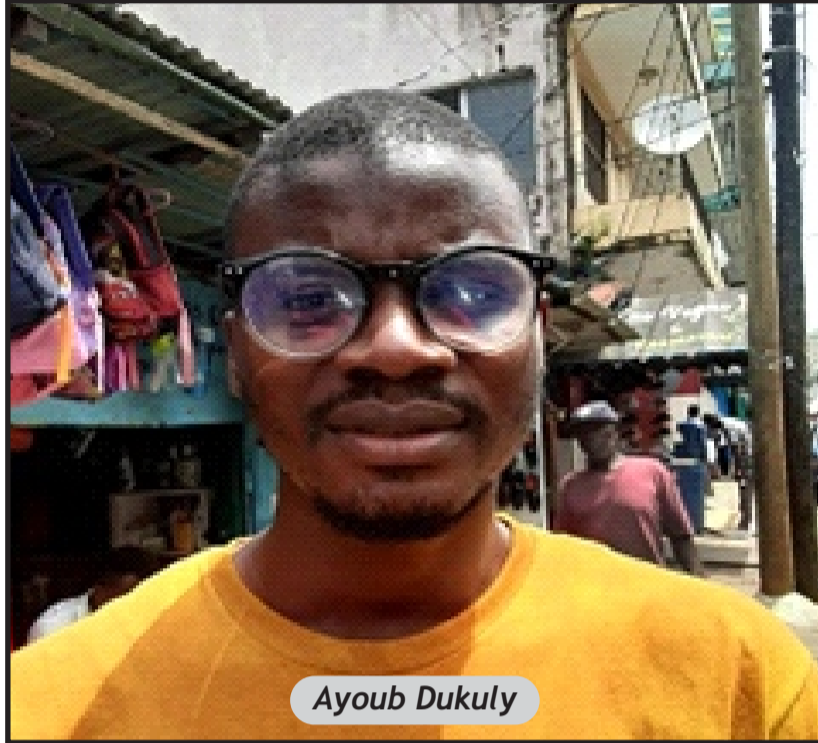
LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Substance Abuse

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Substance abuse in Liberia is prevalent, creating serious social problem, including crimes and insecurity.

In this random interview with some residents of Monrovia, the NEW DAWN solicits views on what should be done to address this issue. Read their responses as compiled below.



Ayoub Dukuly

who participated in the war, were abandoned in the streets, doing nothing; they have no skills, no job, and are not in school. Even seeking daily bread, they don't have the means so at the end of the day, they are in the street taking in drugs. So, I think government should grab the issue from the bottom by stopping illegal drugs or substances coming into the country; that would mean passing the drug law that is currently on the floor of the Legislature. If that is done, then we can see how best we can solve this problem."

“This has been an age-old issue in Liberia, where disadvantaged youths have taken over the country. Lots of immoral acts are going on in the country. I think it is due to government's reluctance in tackling the issue of drugs abuse. One thing we forgot as a country, after we laid down our guns, we have forgot about the war. But the next thing we were supposed to do was to rehabilitate the minds of our people. Most of these young people,

“It is so discouraging to see our society like this, but it is not a strange case. We all expected this after the war, but just that it has spread across the country. It will get to a stage where if the government doesn't intervene now, it will become a national embarrassment. There are things government should be fighting to put in place to be able to minimize the current situation. But at this stage, where lawmakers should be thinking about a way forward to minimize the drug rate. It should put security measures in



Rannies F.G Wolo

to create laws that will enforce drugs abuse and transform lives of those people in the streets. If you can't do it today, tomorrow may be late.”

place and strengthen the judiciary to bring perpetrators to book. All these kinds of things people are not doing it and it becomes a problem. They need

“I think the government should build rehabilitation centers to take in drugs-affected youths commonly called zogoes. They need to be in camp so that the streets will be clear because some of us who saw the 80s, we know how our streets were like. We were free to move around and go home at any time. But after the war, the streets are just occupied with so many zogoes, sleeping all on the sidewalks with bad



Jackson Victor

weapons. They are not State security but are holding bad weapons to destroy mankind, so these guys should be encamped. And if we don't do it, the zogo rate is increasing on a daily basis. Government needs to act because we are not safe. After 6:00 pm, we are running home.”



Macclean Renner

“This is raising serious alarm all over the country. Mind you, if you thought to wonder that only in Montserrado County our underprivileged brothers and sisters are [doing drugs] I will say no. if you travel to the various counties, you will come to

realize that it is on a high increase. There are factors that government can put in place that could help to resolve this problem. One, provide a law that will safeguard and reduce importation of harmful drugs to Liberia. There is an urgent need for the national government to enact law to make drug trafficking nonbailable. And to create a rehabilitation center that would contain schools and everything, so that after the guys are rehabilitated and acquired skills, they can return to society to take care of themselves and their children.”

“Actually, it is very essential; the government has to look at the rehabilitation sector because it is due to substances abuse in New Kru Town, we lost several lives. So, we want to call government's attention to opening rehabilitation sectors. The government really needs to put attention on zogoes because tomorrow, zogoes will be running after



Pukar Robert

citizens in the streets, to their houses and it will not be good, even the President too, his life will be at risk because the zogoes will take over the Capitol Building one day and the Executive Mansion.”

Liberian kids risk life for survival

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

on street corners. Recently, a NewDawn report unearthed one of the lead custodians of bread-making in Liberia, the Town's Bakery, along the ELWA road, which allegedly sends teenagers in the streets to sell bread. But the producer of bake-bread denied the report.

Amid Liberia's economic hardship, the NewDawn

School (AGM), explained to the NewDawn newspaper that she sells soft drinks daily in the traffic for her mother after school.

She said she sells to support their home and help pay her school fees.

"I can come from school after 4 pm, find something to eat, and go in the traffic to sell soft-drink for my mother. The

Liberia's economic hardship has fueled an uncontrollably rising number of young people selling in between moving vehicles on major routes, regardless of all the dangers they face in the streets.

Hundreds of young people



aged between 11 and 35 years old have found street selling, including risking their lives between moving vehicles, as a way of finding daily bread due to poverty here.

Most of them are either high school or secondary school dropouts.

Jobs are scarce here, resulting in a lot of qualified people remaining jobless while the earnings of the few working people can barely cater to them and their families.

A NewDawn newspaper inquiry finds that not all occupations are undertaken by choice, but some are influenced by economic factors.

Selling in traffic has become a common practice in Liberia as many youths are engaged in risky hustles regardless of the dangers.

A U.S. State Department report released last month referenced the World Bank report regarding the informal sector, saying 90 percent of the population worked in the informal sector.

The report said the informal-sector workers included rock crushers, artisanal miners, agricultural workers, street and market vendors, and domestic workers.

The report added that no official entity provided social protections for informal-sector workers.

Previous governments tried to regulate street sellings and subsequently stopped children from doing so, but that effort has not been sustained.

Teenagers continue to sell between moving vehicles and

newspaper finds that a lot of young people see selling in the streets and risking their lives between moving vehicles as an alternative means of getting their daily bread.

Many of them sell both imported and locally made items including plantain chips, soft drinks, mineral water, bread, biscuits, and popcorn, among other assorted food and non-food items.

They queue between vehicles for buyers from ELWA Junction, and Boulevard Junction in Paynesville through Congo Town, and Sinkor to central Monrovia.

Others are also selling from central Monrovia through the route to Vai Town on Bushrod Island with high hopes that commuters both in private and commercial cars would buy their goods.

Speaking to some of the street vendors who navigate their way between moving vehicles, James Barry, a 19-year-old high school dropout said selling between cars is his only means of surviving.

"All my people are in the interior (rural area), so no means of survival but to sell in the street to feed and send myself to school," Barry said.

According to him, he was a 10th-grade student of the Apostolic Foundation High School in Sinkor before he dropped out.

"This year you see, I'm not in school because of tuition. I got [to] sell, save some money, and get back [to] school next year and continue from where I stopped," he said.

11-year-old Hawa, a 4th-grade student from the Assemblies of God Mission High

money I can make she can keep some to pay my fees," Hawa explained.

She added that her money uses some of the money was for food.

Alexander Kollie, spokesperson of Traffic Sellers from 18th Street, Sinkor to Vamoma, acknowledged the risks involved in street selling but said their survivability solely depends on the street-selling.

"We are in the street not because we want to earn high incomes, not because we want to be millionaires, but our lives, survivability [are] at risk because we don't have anybody to help us," he said.

"We got to hustle on our own in the streets, in between speeding vehicles in the traffic, despite our lives being at risk," he continued.

Kollie stated that they need to survive, but they have no other option besides selling in the street and sustaining themselves and their families.

"In Liberia, no job opportunity, no career for the youth, no empowerment. Many of us you see here selling in the street are high school graduates, some of us [are] attending universities and we are selling in the street because we want to survive and don't want to be criminals like many of our friends," Kollie explained.

Precious Cooper, a 30-year-old female student of the University of Liberia, who sell ripe plantain chips, said many young people have become disadvantaged youth or Zogoes because of no job opportunities, and they are lazy and don't want to do anything for themselves.

Election controversy and land dispute rock National Muslim Council of Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

The chairman of the National Muslim Council of Liberia has publicly criticized the former Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abubakar Sumaworo, for rejecting the results of the March 3, 2023, election of the organization.

At a conference in the Chicken Soup factory on April 17, Chairman Ansu L. Massalay expressed his disappointment and revealed that the former Grand Mufti's refusal to accept the election results has caused unrest and division among members of the National Muslim Council.

The Chairman at that conference urged Sumaworo to hand over the reign to his successor, Dr. Moriken Kanneh, in order to maintain unity within the council. But the former Grand Mufti has refused to turn over the office, alleging fraud and cheating during the election.

Meanwhile, in the midst of the ongoing election controversy

protested at the Temple of Justice, accusing the former Grand Mufti of playing a double game.

The spokesperson of the group, Soko V. Kenneh, claimed that the former Grand Mufti had promised forty acres of land to them, but had only given them half of that number and was threatening to remove them from the remaining land.

The former Grand Mufti brought the matter before a court of law against them but has been absent from hearings.

"Former Grand Mufti Abubakar Sumaworo brought us to court so that we can move from on the land but since the case was brought to court, anytime we come for hearing he's always not around," Soko said.

At a press conference on April 17, the spokesperson for the protesters, Soko V. Kenneh, called on the Supreme Council of Imams and Mosques Affairs to take unspecified action against the former Grand Mufti, stating that his tenure expired in 2019.

The Muslim Council Secretary General described Sumaworo's



is a pending land dispute which involved the former Grand Mufti and some group of Muslims.

It could be recalled that on January 30, 2023, residents of the old L.P.R.C Fence in Garnerville, Japanese Freeway,

behavior as unconstitutional per the By-laws and Constitutions of the National Muslims Council of Liberia.

Meanwhile Attempts to contact Sheikh Abubakar Sumaworo for comment were unsuccessful.

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IDAD established

is a low-income country in terms of basic social services.

"We as civil society serving as a watchdog decided to formulate policies and form a collaboration to see how best we can advocate for policy reforms in our different tax system here in Liberia," he adds.

Giving the overview of the meeting, the Executive Director of IDAD Joseph Cheyan lauded the participants for showing up and taking knee interest in the

project. He said the meeting was funded by Action Aid Liberia.

According to him, the overall objective of the meeting was to consolidate ideas in the way where they will establish tax justice network.

He noted that as civil society organizations, private sector, trade unions, and business associations we all have a key role to play in the taxes that we pay we should be able to put more pressure on government to deliver those basic social services.

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NEC ends two days lecture on campaign financing and regulations

By Lewis S Teh

The National Elections Commission (NEC), through its Legal and Political Affairs Sections, has ended a two-day training on

relevant provisions of various regulations and or procedures. According to the Elections Commission, creating an atmosphere in which political actors understand how to file complaints during the electoral processes and understand the

executives would turn out to be trained in campaign finance, regulations, and guidelines so that they can work within the scope of the laws governing the 2023 General Elections.

The NEC Chairperson who



Participants after the opening of the training in Buchanan City sponsored by NEC.

Campaign Finance and Regulations ahead of the 2023 General Elections.

The objectives of the political parties training included informing political parties about NEC 2023 revised regulations and ensuring that political parties executives are aware of the

rules governing campaign financing and campaigning were other objectives of the political parties training in Buchanan.

Speaking at the program, NEC Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the Commission was glad that political party's

described political parties as key partners and stakeholders said the commission has proven that it has the capacity to conduct free, fair, transparent and credible based on their past performances during the 2020 Senatorial and By-elections in Liberia.

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