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## "I have nothing against Boakai"

ANC leader Mr. Cummings      Former VP Boakai

**-Cummings responds to citizens call for one ticket**



## Weah must take a drug test first

Pres. Weah      Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe

**-Cllr. Gongloe suggests**

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# Continental News

## US State Departments Sets Up Special Task Force for Crisis in Sudan

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,

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

Khartoum's security alert of April 18 stated that because of the uncertain security situation in Khartoum and the closure of the airport, there are no plans for the U.S. government-coordinated evacuation of private U.S. citizens. It said travel alerts and Sudan's Travel Advisory will be updated as the situation evolves. The State Department said, "It is imperative that U.S. citizens in Sudan make their own arrangements to stay safe in these difficult circumstances."

The State Department says the U.S. Embassy is continuing to closely monitor the situation in Khartoum and surrounding areas, where there is ongoing fighting, gunfire, and security force activity. It says U.S. citizens also are advised to remain sheltered in place; to attempt to stay at the lower levels of their location, remain away from windows, and attempt to keep away from the roadways; to monitor local media for updates; and to review State Department travel advisory for Sudan. The State Department says Americans in Sudan should enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security alerts and email if they need assistance. All routine consular services at the U.S. Embassy Khartoum are suspended at this time given the unsafe environment. The Embassy is providing only emergency consular services as the security situation in Sudan permits. VOA

## Why Sudan's descent into violence matters

If you want to know why Sudan matters to so many other countries, just take a look at a map.

There's a reason why the fighting that has erupted there over the past week is ringing so many international alarm bells. Sudan is not only huge - the third largest country in Africa - it also stretches across an unstable and geopolitically vital region.

Whatever happens militarily or politically in the capital, Khartoum, ripples across some of the most fragile parts of the continent.

The country straddles the Nile River, making the nation's fate of almost existential importance; downstream, to water-hungry Egypt, and upstream, to land-locked Ethiopia with its ambitious

relatively new nation, South Sudan, which formally broke away from its northern neighbour in 2011 after one of Africa's longest and bloodiest civil wars. That border, too, remains unstable.

South Sudan quickly spiralled into the sort of broad scale civil war that some fear could now be Sudan's fate too. Upon independence, South Sudan took with it most of the region's precious oil fields, leaving Sudan far poorer, and contributing, indirectly, to the current crisis in Khartoum, as rival military groups now struggle for control of shrinking economic resources, like gold and agriculture. As part of that struggle, Sudan's generals - the military have always been big, allegedly corrupt players in the local economy - have gone in search of foreign partners. For agriculture, that has meant inviting Gulf states to invest in the huge, and relatively underused potential of the rich soil



*This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows fires and destroyed market stalls in a commercial area of northern Khartoum*

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

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. State Department officials told VOA late Tuesday they are unaware of the death or injury of any U.S. citizens in Sudan at this time.

The U.S. Embassy in

## Nigeria denies defaulting on Chinese loans

Nigeria's Debt Management Office (DMO) has denied claims that the federal government defaulted in the payment of interest to China for loans.

Local media had reported that Nigeria accrued a penalty of \$90m (£81m) after its debt from China accumulated to \$240m (£217m) in the last two years.

The loans were reportedly taken to renovate some of the country's railway lines.

In a statement on Wednesday, the DMO termed the reports false saying Nigeria was fully committed to honouring its debt obligations and had not defaulted on any of its debt service commitments.

"Nigeria remains unwaveringly committed to fulfilling its debt obligations

in a responsible and timely manner," the statement added.

It urged the public to ignore the reports.

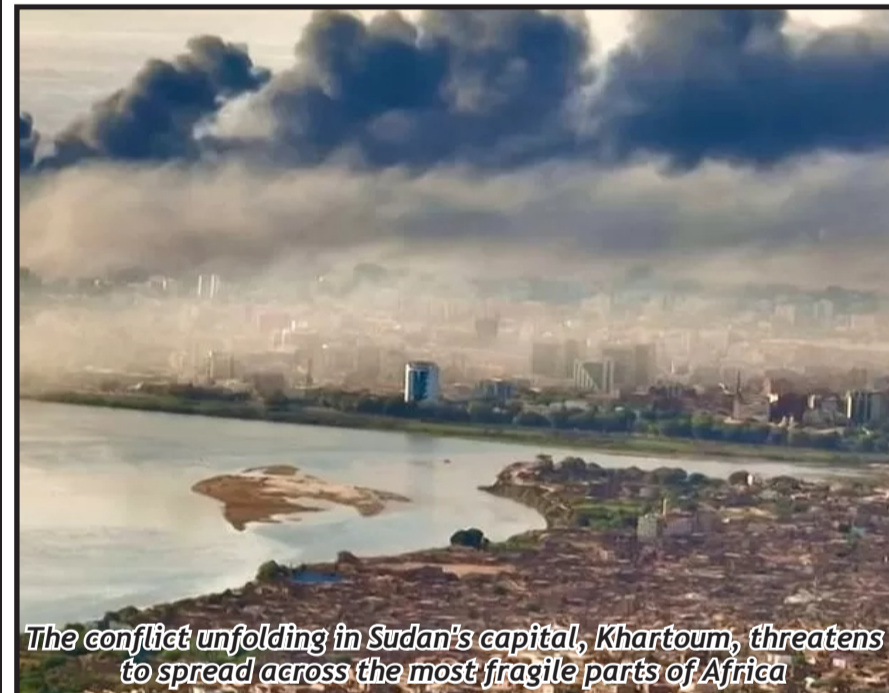
As of December 2021, the DMO said, Nigeria's debt to China stood at \$4.1bn. It was, however, silent on the current status of the Chinese loans to

Nigeria.

Nigeria has in recent years suffered revenue losses following a spate of attacks on rail tracks and the kidnap of train passengers that resulted in the stoppage of train services on some routes for a while. BBC



*The country has recently suffered revenue losses following spate of attacks on rail tracks*



*The conflict unfolding in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, threatens to spread across the most fragile parts of Africa*

hydro-electric plans that now affect the river's flow.

Sudan borders seven countries in all, each with security challenges that are intertwined with the politics of Khartoum. Trouble in Sudan's western Darfur region almost inevitably spills over into neighbouring Chad, and vice versa. Weapons and fighters from coup-prone Chad, and from the war-torn Central African Republic, often flow freely across the region's porous borders. Much the same has proved true with Libya, to the north-west.

Sudan borders the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia - only recently emerging from a gruelling conflict that involved another unpredictable neighbour, the isolated and highly militarised autocracy of Eritrea. There is also tension on other parts of Ethiopia and Sudan's shared - and in places, contested - border.

To the south, Sudan faces a

that borders the Nile River.

When it comes to gold, far murkier deals appear to have been done with Russia's notorious Wagner group, which is accused of smuggling gold out of Sudan. The US Treasury has accused Wagner's head, Yevgeniy Prigozhin, of "exploiting Sudan's natural resources for personal gain and spreading malign influence" online through his "troll farm".

Russia's interests in the country, and region, go much further. Eastern Sudan's stark coastline looks out onto the Red Sea.

The Kremlin has, for years, been seeking to establish a military base in Port Sudan, giving its warships access to - and influence over - one of the world's busiest and most contested sea lanes. Moscow has come close to finalising a deal about the base with Sudan's military government - which seized power in 2021 in a coup.

Not surprisingly, a vast range of governments are now seeking to influence events on the ground in Sudan.

# 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 Yvonne Greenstreet

## Innovating Against Injustice in Health Care

**C**AMBRIDGE - 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.



## Lord, is it true da de Footballer ask for 200k just to rent car?

Dear Father:

Huh, dis orlor gees here it full my mouth oo. Is it true da the Footballer asked for 200k of Uncle Sam money to just to rent car in Uncle Sam's Cousin village?

Da news ooh, bor da true? I heard one insider crying all over de place ooh. Huh, dis one da na small gallah ooh. My son you say whatin na happen again?

Huh, Father, they say the Footballer tell him people he wan 200k jus to rent one car in those Obroni village for two days ooh. You say whatin?

Father, dis one da na benny seed popping from my mouth ooh. They say de people fini doing de paperwork for de money and our Big Brabee will soon be leaving to go for some kinda program in Obroni village.

Hmm, so you mean all da plenty money da jus for renting one car? Wait ooh, de car get gold on it, or diamond scattered all over it? De thin sef na full my mouth.

Bor wait ooh, dis 200k here ehn dey geh perdiem and all kinda small, small thin insah it? I beg you yah Father, they say it na insah oo da jus for de car one ooh-chey!

Anyway, we insah propro. So, dey say what da orlor Palestinian man say he wor doing de orlor day?

Oh, Father, you na heard, dey say conned man say he wor holding some kinda dry face march for all de people in de orlor side to come together oo.

You say whatin? He better go and find himself a place to go sit down. He think da Palestine her ehn?

Those people dem look leh people who wan come together. Da na so, so scam dey on there whole day. All lor your geh one man to fight bor instead of yor putting all yor energy whole day yor sit down there pulling each other apart nonsense!

Wait, ehn we here. De good news is da dis our village here de people know how to rub thins in people face. Our old people say de child who can't hear will suffer.

Bor Father, you, yor self too ya, wah do you expect from greedy people? Wen you na wan share da wah can happen; you can lose everything.

The one I can't understand sef da de cussing each orlor dey can be doing. Yor na enemy. All lor yor wan remove one man bor yor can't even stand each orlor in de face. SO, who will support who na?

No wonder, everyday somebody jumping ship. Bor how de people will na be jumping ship and the side they belong to de only thin dey know is to be fighting each orlor. If dey na in the Palaver Hut today, tomorrow dey to de voting house, Da how yor will be?

## OP-ED

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



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with grief, and profound sorrow, we announce  
the sudden demise of our beloved

**Dr. Sajjan Singh Sachdeva,**

father of Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety)  
former Honorary Consul General of India and  
owner of Jeety Conglomerate, Vai Town, Monrovia, Liberia.

This sad event occurred on April 20, 2023 in India at his residence.

The Mortal remains of Sardar Sajjan Singh Sachdeva shall be cremated in  
India.

All Jeety Conglomerate Stores will be closed until Cremation is done in  
India.

We pray to Guru Baba to bless the departed soul and light perpetual always  
shine over him.

Sorrowfully yours,

Sd/-  
The Management

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## ULCHS Receives Full Accreditation to Offer Basic Midwifery Program

The University of Liberia College of Health Sciences (ULCHS) has received full accreditation from the Liberian Board for Nursing and Midwifery (LBNM) to offer direct entry to BSc in Midwifery. The decision was announced by LBNM authorities on April 17, 2023, through a letter addressed to

commendable accomplishment.

A school must meet 80% or above of the achievement standards to achieve full accreditation and recognition status. Having completed the required standards for accreditation, LBNM has granted ULCHS all honors, rights, privileges, and obligations to function as an

in the first sixty days of admission using the LBNM indexing portal. Each student receives a Clinical Logbook after the successful and timely completion of the indexing process. Additionally, ULCHS is required to share with LBNM the full name, license number, email, and cell number of the head of the Midwifery Program.

The assessment evaluates ULCHS compliance with LBNM educational standards on Clinical Instruction & practice (Clinical Training Resources & placement), Institution Infrastructure and Training Materials (Physical Facilities & Educators/Faculties) and Institution Management (Governance, Program evaluation & Continuous Quality improvement).

On February 23, 2023, a team from LBNM visited ULCHS to conduct an accreditation assessment for the proposed midwifery program. During the meeting, ULCHS administration met with LBNM assessment team to discuss the processes involved with the accreditation assessment proceedings. Dr. Bernice T. Dahn, Vice President of the College of Health Sciences, welcomed the assessment team and assured her staff's commitment to the process. ULCHS's full accreditation to offer a Basic Midwifery Program by LBNM is a significant achievement, marking a new milestone for the institution. With this accreditation, ULCHS is empowered to provide quality education in midwifery while maintaining the high standards required by LBNM.

accredited Basic Midwifery Program to offer Direct Entry BSc for three years starting from April 17, 2023, to April 17, 2026. ULCHS is required to sustain and improve the standards achieved while rectifying any missed verification criteria. LBNM will conduct Quality Assurance (QA) assessments in the first two years of ULCHS' operation, adding classroom standards that could not be assessed once the institution has students.

LBNM requires that all Midwifery students be indexed



Dr. Bernice T. Dahn, Vice President for the College of Health Sciences at the University of Liberia.

Authorized by LBNM Chairperson Mr. Humphrey Gibbs Loweal and LBNM Registrar/Executive Secretary Ms. Cecelia C. Kpangbala-Flomo, the communication stated that ULCHS had met 92% of the total standards and verification criteria, resulting in full accreditation. The LBNM authorities termed the achievement as a

## AfDB Approves US\$255,000 to Establish Regulatory Database Management System for LERC

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved US\$255,000 to support the establishment of a Regulatory Database Management System (RDBMS) at the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC).

In a request to the AfDB, the LERC informed the Bank that while it was making significant progress in developing the necessary regulatory instruments, the Commission lacked a robust automated regulatory database management system. The RDBMS will improve the Commission's operational efficiency and quality of regulatory decisions as indicated by the three key regulatory indexes - governance, substance, and outcomes. In a letter of response to the Commission's request, AfDB's Manager for Energy Policy, Regulation &

Statistics Mr. Callixte Kambanda said "the Bank was pleased to inform the Commission that it had

Bank's Special Initiative Budget and will work with the Commission to expedite implementation of project



Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo, Chairman Board of Commissioners, LERC

obtained funding approval to support the establishment of RDBMS at LERC". Mr. Kambanda said RDBMS will be funded and implemented through the

within a twelve-month period.

Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (BoC) thanked

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

## Kemayah reaffirms Liberia's commitment to free and fair elections

--As EU Electoral Observation Exploratory Mission Visits Liberia

Monrovia, April 20, 2023: Liberia's Foreign Minister Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., has assured the visiting six-man EU Electoral Observation Exploratory Mission and other international partners of Liberia's unwavering commitment to holding free, fair and transparent elections in October 2023.

Amb. Kemayah further indicated that the forthcoming General and Presidential Elections in October 2023 are very crucial to consolidating the Liberia's democracy as well as the sustenance of peace and national development.

Foreign Minister Kemayah

governance process of the country.

Amb. Kemayah said the government of Liberia, under President Weah welcomes and cherishes the EU and other members of the international community's desire of deploying observation team in Liberia to observe the campaign processes, leading to the day of the elections and post-election activities.

Speaking earlier, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Liberia, H. E. Laurent Delahouse, who escorted the team to the Foreign Ministry, said the Observation Mission is in the country to engage and hold discussions with the Government of Liberia and other stakeholders in the country as it relates to the



Liberia's Foreign Minister Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., along EU Electoral Observation Exploratory Mission WEBM

also reiterated the unwavering commitment of President Dr. George Manneh Weah to maintain the peace and stability in Liberia, adding "our government is prepared to conduct a free, fair, transparent, peaceful, inclusive and credible general and Presidential elections in October 2023 this year."

The Dean of the Cabinet made these remarks on Thursday, April 20, 2023 when the Visiting EU Electoral Observation Exploratory Mission to Liberia paid a courtesy call on him at his Foreign Ministry office on Capitol Hill.

The Liberian chief diplomat told the visiting EU team that he is absolutely confident that the outcome of a free, fair, transparent, peaceful and inclusive electoral process will further enhance the sustenance and consolidation of peace in Liberia, which he said is the foundation for a thriving democracy, and the pursuit of the national development agenda.

Foreign Minister Kemayah recounted that an inclusive process will ensure the continual participation of all Liberians in the political and

October 10, 2023 General and Presidential Elections, noting that the mission will observe the logistics, financial and security situation in the country among others.

Ambassador Delahouse stated that members of the Delegation are happy to host the Visiting team, which is an autonomy Observation mission of the EU, in Liberia.

For her part, Mrs. Yasmina Sioud, who heads the delegation from the Democracy and Election Division of the EU disclosed that they are in Liberia for two weeks on a technical observation mission.

According to her, while in Liberia, her team is expected to meet and hold discussions with all stakeholders in the country, adding that the EU Electoral Observation Exploratory Mission looks forward to receiving an invitation from the Government of Liberia to come and observe the upcoming elections in October.

Madam Sioud also narrated that they are in the country to explore on how the EU will deplore its Observation mission in Liberia for the October 2023 General and Presidential Elections, as well as to make an informed decision on how the Observation team will work in all parts of Liberia.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## ECOWAS signs €1.3 Million grant agreement

As part of the implementation of the ECOWAS Agroecology Programme co-funded by the European Union and the French Development Agency, the President of the ECOWAS

increase agricultural productivity and create resilient rural society. Selected following due consultation and assessment process, the 15 training centres represent one per Member State.

In supporting the centres

of young people trained, in particular rural people, and (iii) their networking in the long term, (iv) facilitating their connection with support organisations/partners for possible financing in the scaling up of agroecological practices.

ECOWAS support to training centres falls within the objective of the Programme to facilitate networking and dissemination of pilot experiences and promising approaches in agroecology (with the Songhai Centre in Benin and the CIDAP Centre in Togo as reference centres) in other countries of the sub-region, particularly in the Sahel. To recall, the ECOWAS Agroecology Programme aims to stimulate the development of innovative practices that optimise the mobilisation of ecological processes in the field of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production in the ECOWAS zone by supporting family farms towards an agroecological transition that enables them to reconcile economic performance, food security, environmental preservation, and the health of the population. With a total budget of 16.2 million euros, it is composed of two projects, namely the Support Project for Agroecological Transition in West Africa (PATAE), funded by the French Development Agency (FDA) at 8 million euros and the Support Project for the Dissemination and Implementation of Good Practices for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (PAIAD) funded by the European Union at 8.2 million euros. It covers the 15 ECOWAS Member States and is scheduled to end in 2024.

through the agreements, ECOWAS seeks to improve the quality of training and the development of the centres capacities on topical issues related to agroecology and to increase the annual number of people trained in agroecology. The total target of the Programme is about 12000 young people including men and women trained by 2024 in agroecology in the region.

More specifically, the objective of the support is to contribute to strengthening the training capacities of the centres in (i) the promotion of quality training systems integrating application of theoretical and practical lessons on agroecological techniques and good practices according to the environment, (ii) the increase in the number

Commission, H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray signed grant agreements with 15 training Centres to build capacity on Agroecology in Member States. The total budget of the grant agreements funded by the European Union is €1,320,784.43 representing about €88,000 per centre and for an average duration of 18 months aimed at training 12,000 young persons in the Region. The purpose of each grant is to establish the framework of collaboration between ECOWAS and the recipient Centre for the implementation of the Programme activities in West Africa with the general objective of building the human resource and environmentally friendly system that will sustain and



## Cummings Storms New Kru Town

- Tells Citizens Good Leadership Matters

Amidst rousing welcome by thousands of citizens including students, teachers, CPP partisans and well-wishers, the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, on Thursday, April 20, visited several areas and learning institutions in New Kru Town (NKT) and Bushrod Island, District #16, Montserrado County.

Mr. Cummings accompanied by his wife, Teresa, and CPP stalwarts, visited with hundreds of beach and waterway workers at the New Kru Town Lagoon Beach, interacted with cross-section of teachers of the NKT Teachers Association, and held three separate meetings with joint assemblies of students from 14 high schools across District #16.

At the Lagoon Beach, hundreds of workers accorded Mr. Cummings warm welcome and entertained with cultural dances, indicative of

making life difficult for teachers and school workers.

They spoke of the lack of government subsidies, especially for private and faith based schools, badly needed to improve the learning environment and ease the huge financial burdens on parents and guardians.

Cummings held four other separate discussions with joint assemblies of students at the Trinity United Methodist School in New KruTown; the St. Mary Catholic School in Duala, Bushrod Island; the Assembly of God High school; and the Wesleyan Academy, both on Caldwell Road. Schools in attendance included the Juah School, the Greater Vision School System, the Diana E. Davies School, the New Era International School, and the Assembly of God High School in New Kru Town amongst others.

Student representatives of the various schools spoke of the many



ANC leader Mr. Cummings

their appreciation for his visit. Mr. Cummings sought to obtain firsthand information about the deplorable and harsh living conditions of the people of New Kru Town. The beach and waterway stretches from the then Hotel Africa belt to New Kru Town, Sinkor and through Congo Town, with thousands of youth dependent upon it for their livelihood.

While claiming backlog of compensation owed them by the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government, they acknowledged with gratitude, the assistance by Mr. Cummings and acceptance of their invitation as the first Presidential candidate to visit with them. Mr. Cummings also had an encounter with a cross-section of teachers of the New Kru Teachers Association, with estimated membership of 2,400, from 43 schools in the District. The teachers lamented the deteriorating school conditions including the lack of libraries and laboratories, and inadequate salaries and incentives, which is

challenges, including lack of libraries and laboratories in schools, and the increasing high cost of tuition and other fees, warranted by the lack of government support to schools.

New Kru Town, predominantly of the Kru tribe, followed by the Grebo, Bassa and other ethnic groups, was founded in 1916 by Kru Fishermen, with John Naklen as its first Governor. It is one of the most densely populated communities and considered a stronghold of the CDC in District #16, Montserrado County. In separate remarks, Mr Cummings expressed gratitude for the high turnout and warm reception accorded him and his delegation, especially in the Borough of New Kru Town. The CPP Standard Bearer, while stressing the imperative need for adequate government funding to education, with emphasis on teachers training, better salaries, and well equipped schools to better prepare young people considered

## UL digitizes admission of new students

The University of Liberia (UL) has launched a digital platform through which candidates can apply for admission in a bid to ease the burden of students queuing in long lines to be processed for registration and admission.

UL President Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson. Jr. launched the platform on the UL Fendall campus Thursday, 20 April 2023.

Candidates for undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools who have passed UL entrance will pay their admission fees through a mobile money platform, and upload all their

required information onto the UL digital admission portal.

Candidates who meet all requirements will receive their

admission letters digitally.

The platform allows incoming students to do an online admission process without going through the

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▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# Français

## Des enfants libériens risquent leur vie pour survivre

Les difficultés économiques du Libéria poussent de plus en plus de jeunes à vendre entre les véhicules en mouvement sur les routes principales, en dépit des dangers auxquels ils sont confrontés dans les rues.

ce qui fait que de nombreuses personnes qualifiées restent sans emploi tandis que les revenus de quelques personnes qui travaillent peuvent à peine subvenir à leurs besoins et à ceux de leurs familles.

Une enquête du journal NewDawn a révélé que toutes les

rapport de la Banque mondiale sur le secteur informel, indiquant que 90 % de la population travaille dans le secteur informel.

Le rapport indique que les travailleurs du secteur informel sont des concasseurs de pierres, des mineurs artisanaux, des travailleurs agricoles, des vendeurs et des travailleurs domestiques.

Le rapport a ajouté qu'aucune institution étatique n'offre de protection sociale aux travailleurs du secteur informel.

Les gouvernements précédents ont essayé de réglementer les ventes de rue et ont par la suite empêché les enfants de le faire, mais cet effort n'a pas été soutenu.

Les adolescents continuent de vendre entre les véhicules en mouvement et aux coins des rues.

Récemment, un rapport de NewDawn a mis au jour l'un des principaux gardiens de la fabrication du pain au Libéria, la boulangerie de la ville, le long de la route ELWA, qui aurait envoyé des adolescents dans les rues pour vendre du pain. Mais le producteur de pain a démenti l'information.

Au milieu des difficultés économiques du Libéria, le journal NewDawn constate que de nombreux jeunes vendent dans la rue et risquent leur vie entre des

professions ne sont pas exercées par choix, mais que certaines sont exercées par contrainte en raison des facteurs économiques.

La vente parmi les voitures est devenue une pratique courante au Libéria. De nombreux jeunes se livrent à des activités risquées.

Un rapport du département d'État américain publié le mois dernier faisait référence au

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

## Burkina Faso : les détails de la mobilisation générale connus suite à la signature d'un décret

Au Burkina Faso, le président de la transition Ibrahim Traore a signé ce 19 avril 2023 le décret portant sur la « mobilisation générale et la mise en garde ». Annoncées il y a une dizaine de jours, et acceptées par le Conseil constitutionnel quelques semaines plus tôt, ces dispositions législatives permettent aux autorités de prendre des mesures exceptionnelles au nom de la sécurité nationale. Elles offrent un cadre juridique à la stratégie militaire de lutte contre le terrorisme. Explications.

D'abord, les autorités instaurent « un droit à l'appel à la défense ». Les jeunes à partir de 18 ans, physiquement aptes, peuvent être « appelés à s'engager ».

D'autre part, les populations civiles « peuvent également

s'organiser, sous l'encadrement des forces de défense et de sécurité, pour défendre leur localité contre toute forme de menace, notamment les groupes armés terroristes ».

Toutefois, le texte ne stipule pas la forme de cet encadrement, ni la nature des moyens mis à la

disposition des populations pour se défendre.

Ensuite, les biens et les services sont soumis à réquisition. À cet égard, une commission est mise en place auprès du ministre de la Défense et des gouverneurs

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## 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

## Des enfants libériens risquent

véhicules en mouvement pour gagner leur pain quotidien.

Beaucoup d'entre eux vendent des articles importés et fabriqués localement, notamment des chips de plantain, des boissons gazeuses, de l'eau minérale, du pain, des biscuits et du pop-corn, entre autres aliments et produits non alimentaires assortis.

Ils font la queue entre les véhicules d'ELWA Junction et de Boulevard Junction à Paynesville en passant par Congo Town et Sinkor jusqu'au centre de Monrovia.

D'autres vendent également depuis le centre de Monrovia via la route vers Vai Town sur l'île de Bushrod avec de grands espoirs que les usagers achèteront leurs marchandises.

Au cours d'un micro trottoir avec certains des vendeurs de rue qui naviguent entre les véhicules en mouvement, James Barry, un décrocheur du secondaire de 19 ans, a déclaré que la vente entre les voitures était son seul moyen de survie.

"Tous mes parents sont au village, donc il n'y a pas d'autre moyen de survie à part vendre dans la rue. Cela me permet de me nourrir et d'aller à l'école", a déclaré Barry.

Selon lui, il était un élève de 10e année au lycée de la Fondation apostolique de Sinkor avant d'abandonner.

"Cette année, vous voyez, je ne suis pas à l'école à cause des frais de scolarité. Je dois vendre, économiser de l'argent et retourner à

l'école l'année prochaine", a-t-il déclaré.

Hawa, 11 ans, une élève de 4e année de l'école secondaire Assemblies of God Mission High School (AGM), a expliqué au journal NewDawn qu'elle vend quotidiennement des boissons non alcoolisées dans la circulation pour sa mère après l'école.

Elle a dit qu'elle vend pour subvenir aux besoins familiaux et payer ses frais de scolarité.

"Quand je rentre de l'école vers 16 heures, je trouve quelque chose à manger et je vais sur la route parmi les voitures pour vendre de la boisson non alcoolisée pour ma mère. Avec l'argent que je gagne, elle nourrit la famille et paye mes frais de scolarité", a expliqué Hawa.

Alexander Kollie, porte-parole de Traffic Sellers de la 18e rue, de Sinkor à Vamoma, a reconnu les risques liés à la vente de rue, mais il a déclaré que leur survie dépend uniquement de la vente de rue.

"Nous sommes dans la rue non pas parce que nous voulons devenir riches, non pas parce que nous voulons être millionnaires, mais nos vies et notre capacité de survie sont en danger parce que nous n'avons personne pour nous aider", a-t-il déclaré.

"Nous devons nous débrouiller seuls dans les rues, entre les véhicules en grande allure, bien que nos vies soient en danger", a-t-il poursuivi.

Kollie a déclaré qu'ils faut survivre.

"Au Libéria, pas d'opportunité d'emploi, pas de carrière pour les jeunes, pas d'autonomisation. Beaucoup d'entre nous sont des diplômés, certains sont à l'Université. Nous vendons dans la rue parce que nous puissions survivre. Nous ne voulons pas être des criminels comme beaucoup de nos amis", Kollie a expliqué.

## Burkina Faso : les détails de

de région. Des compensations sont dues. Elles dépendent « de l'engagement et de la renonciation à ses droits de la personne requise ».

Là encore, les autorités en appellent à la solidarité des Burkinabè, qui peuvent contribuer à l'effort de guerre par des « initiatives privées ». Des mécanismes de gestion seront instaurés, avec la « participation bénévole d'organisations citoyennes », pour en assurer la transparence.

Dans un communiqué, le conseil des ministres salue « l'élan national de mobilisation des populations de l'intérieur et de l'extérieur du Burkina Faso [...] enclenché à travers des

contributions spontanées ».

Restrictions des droits et libertés individuels

Enfin, dans les zones d'opération, c'est le commandement militaire qui est désormais « responsable de l'ordre public » aux côtés des autorités civiles. « Les droits et libertés individuels peuvent être restreints », à l'exception des droits fondamentaux comme celui à la vie ou celui à ne pas être soumis à la torture ou à des traitements inhumains.

Cette dernière disposition inquiète particulièrement les organisations de défense des droits de l'homme, qui redoutent qu'un blanc-seing ne soit accordé aux Forces de défense et de sécurité, alors que des cas d'exactions ont été documentés ces dernières semaines.

## 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 : le RHDP publie ses listes de candidats pour les élections régionales et municipales

En Côte d'Ivoire, les élections municipales et régionales se tiendront le 2 septembre 2023. Le RHDP (Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix) a publié mercredi ses listes de candidats. Pour ces échéances, le parti au pouvoir aligne plusieurs figures de son gouvernement, notamment en ce qui concerne les régionales.

Sur 31 candidats, onze occupent actuellement un portefeuille dans le gouvernement. Parmi eux, le Premier ministre, Patrick Achi, candidat dans la Mé ; l'actuel ministre de la Défense, Téné Birahima Ouattara, candidat dans le Tchologo ou encore Anne Ouloto, qui brigue un second mandat à la tête du conseil régional du Cavally. À ceux-là, s'ajoutent le président du Sénat et le président du Conseil économique et social. Figure également les derniers ralliements. À l'image du député Albert Toikeusse Mabri, candidat dans le Tonkpi.

« Ces candidats sont des



personnalités fidèles au président, qui ont pour rôle de préparer le terrain en vue de la présidentielle de 2025 », relève un cadre du parti avant de nuancer : « C'est quitte ou double : s'ils perdent, certains ministres pourraient se voir fragiliser au sein du RHDP », poursuit cette source. Pascal Affi N'Guessan est le grand absent de ce mercato. Le leader du FPI avait pourtant annoncé en début d'année une alliance avec le RHDP. « Rien n'a été remis en cause, le principe reste valable », relativise ce responsable politique.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Cummings Storms

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the future of Liberia, said good leadership matters. Cummings said good leadership matters and it is critical in accelerating economic development that will ensure better living conditions and a prosperous nation.

The CPP Standard Bearer said by every measure, Liberia is bad off in terms of

The CPP Standard Bearer said, with few public officials in the Executive and Legislative branches of the CDC government amassing wealth, the vast majority of Liberians are lingering in abject poverty and deprived of essential social services including reliable electricity, pipe-borne water and better health care delivery service.

major encounter at the Borough Intellectual and Development Forum with questions and answers on the CPP agenda for real change, opposition unity, and his individual contribution to nation building and wellbeing of citizens.

Cummings said his individual and family contributions towards the wellbeing of Liberians and the nation, surpasses even President Weah, who is spending taxpayers money seemingly as his personal funds to appease Liberians.

The CPP Standard Bearer called on Liberians to evaluate their personal lifestyle and wellbeing, whether they are better off, than five years ago, and decide if President Weah deserves a second term of another bad and corrupt leadership.

Cummings rallied Liberians to act decisively, and change Liberia, come October 10, by making Mr. Weah a one term President. He noted that no amount of talking and wishful thinking will change Liberia, but rather through hard work, sacrifice and refraining from doing the same old thing and expecting different results.

Earlier, the CPP Standard Bearer dedicated a 10-room shower and latrine facility in the Borough of New Kru Town.

The shower and latrine facility erected through funding from ANC Global, will provide relief for an estimated 10,000 residents of New Kru Town.

“Our Office of Enrollment Services, the Registration and Enhancement Committee, the Office of Information Communication Technology, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who supervised this exercise will work with us to get the job done,” said Dr. Nelson. “The young men and women who were successful in the UL 2022 first and second entrance exams can now begin the process of admission to the University of Liberia,” he

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## FEATURE FEATURE

## Freedom Weeps

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

By Amb. Lewis Garseedah Brown

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

conduct of constitutionally-prescribed fair elections so that constituencies are reapportioned, the votes of citizens are equal in meeting both constitutional and international standards of universal suffrage, and the representation of the people in the government is not arbitrary but consistent with the growth and movements of the population.

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



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

The National Housing and Population Census mandated by Article 39 of the Liberian Constitution (1986) is both a critical electoral tool and an important socio-developmental gauge for the country. It provides figures and statistics for development planning and the

exceeded international standards.

On March 13, LISGIS wrote the Legislature to inform that it had conducted the census and issued provisional results, but due to ongoing post-conduct analyses and enumeration, it would submit final results in May. On March 20, starting in six counties, the NEC began the registration of voters. Three days to the registration, on March 17, the opposition CPP asked the Honorable Supreme Court to declare the registration of voters absent reapportionment of constituencies when census are conducted, “unconstitutional.” At issue and cited in full is Article 80 (c, d & e) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia:

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

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



ANC leader Mr. Cummings

high unemployment, high cost of living, lack of essential social services and infrastructures, and rampant corruption.

Cummings said Liberia considered one of the oldest nations in the world at 175, is the least developed country due to the country's persistent poor quality of leadership especially in the last five years under President George Weah's leadership.

Cummings reiterated that a CPP Government will lead by example in all spheres of public service, with zero tolerance for corruption and bad behavior on the part of any public official.

He assured that irrespective of political/religious affiliations, and ethnicity, all Liberians will have equal rights and access to opportunities and jobs in keeping with the merit system and the law.

Cummings' visit in New Kru Town, was climaxed with a

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## UL digitizes admission

stress of standing in long queues or commuting between Fendall and UL Capitol Hill campuses.

Aside from saving time, it also saves money for candidates. According to the UL President, the initiative will give new students who successfully passed the 2022 first and second entrances the opportunity to now begin their admission process from the comfort of their homes, offices, businesses, and wherever they are.

“Our Office of Enrollment Services, the Registration and Enhancement Committee, the Office of Information Communication Technology, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who supervised this exercise will work with us to get the job done,” said Dr. Nelson. “The young men and women who were successful in the UL 2022 first and second entrance exams can now begin the process of admission to the University of Liberia,” he

furthered.

Dr. Nelson indicated that the process will make it easier for the new entries to the UL, as the school continues on the path of digitalization. “Right now, on behalf of the University of Liberia, administrative and faculty staff, and students, I am happy on this Thursday, April 20, 2023, to ... launch the online admission process of the University of Liberia,” added Dr. Nelson.

Starts from back page

## Woman dies after

And when she bought it ... I left for my business,” she continued. Yamaha said Princess slept in the shop and she met here there the next morning. Through her interrogation, she said Princess explained that she had been used multiple times in her anus by a tall wheelbarrow man.

Yamaha said they looked

after Princess until her death. Mr. Abraham Kerkula, a brother of the deceased, said the late Princess loved the street. According to him, she used to leave their father's Soul Clinic residence to go out in the street, mainly in the Red-light area where she had most of her friends. Mr. Kerkula confirmed that his late sister used to appear sick. He said

she faced a series of punishments so that she could stay home, but that did not work until her death. Meanwhile, the Re-light Detachment of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Zone Five Depot has arrested a suspect believed to be Alhaji.

The police did not disclose any further information to the press.

# "I have nothing against Boakai"

By Lincoln G. Peters

**C**ollaborating Political Parties (CPP) Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says he has nothing personal against former Vice President Joseph Boakai and would support

standard bearer of the CPP and ANC in the likely case that we don't make it to the second round, we will support whoever makes it to the second round because they will be better" Mr. Cummings emphasized.

Meanwhile, he pointed out

with incumbent President Weah, former vice president Boakai, and former Coca-Cola Executive Cummings being the front runners in a race that is likely to feature dozens of presidential candidates including independents.

There have been repeated



ANC leader Mr. Cummings

Former VP Boakai

him if he makes the run-off instead of him (Cummings).

"I have nothing against former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. In fact, we have been the ones calling for opposition Unity. Moreover, I am not the one that left the CPP, it's Amb. Boakai. And so, we are open and willing to work with him once he comes back," Mr. Cummings told followers on Thursday at a Town Hall meeting in New Kru Town while responding to a call for an opposition merger. He continued: "However, I have said that when we go for second round, and I don't get to the second round, I will support Amb. Boakai because I believe he will do better than President George Weah. That is my opinion, and I will call on all my supporters that if I don't make it to the second round, I will support the opposition candidate" Mr. Cummings assured.

"I Alexander B. Cummings

that if the CPP works harder and reaches far in length and width of Liberia, the party can make it to the second round, hoping at that stage the opposition would be able to support him as well.

Mr. Cummings during his Town Hall meeting on Thursday rubbished claims that the opposition community in Liberia is weak. He said regardless of what many think of the opposition, they will ensure that Liberia gets the best in 2023.

He said the country is in reverse gear under the current administration, adding that poverty in the country has hit its zenith compared to 5 years ago. He bemoaned that the country has a lot of resources that have been misused, misapplied, and stolen by the CDC government, something he vowed that he will change and set standards.

Liberians head to the polls in October in what appears to be a hotly contested election

calls for a united opposition as a means of wresting power from football icon George Weah. The calls have been echoed throughout the country for both Boakai and Cummings, who were once part of the opposition CPP to reunite.

But the road to reconciliation has become wider since the former vice president testified in a forgery case against Mr. Cummings. The case was subsequently dropped by the government after six months of trial due to a lack of sufficient evidence to continue.

The case grew out of an allegation filed by the opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) of Businessman Benoni Urey accusing Mr. Cummings of forging his signature on a CPP framework document.

Both the ALP and Unity Party of former vice president Boakai pulled out of the CPP during the failed trail. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

# Weah must take a drug test first

By Kruah Thompson

**P**residential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe says President George Manneh Weah should be subjected to drug tests, cautioning him not to avoid it as he did with the Covid-19 vaccine.

"They cannot be destroying our country when their children are not living here. And I highly suspect him of being involved in this narcotic, so he should also be subjected. Let him not avoid the drug test as he did with ... Covid-19," said Gongloe.

Gongloe's suggestion came during a press conference he held Thursday, 20 April 2023 in central Monrovia to give his perspective on growing calls for public officials to test for narcotic substances for every elected or appointed public office.

Cllr. Gongloe is a prominent Liberian lawyer and politician. He is the former Solicitor General of Liberia and has served as the President of the Liberia National Bar Association.

Gongloe is a human rights activist and has been a vocal

ago, drugs were discovered in a presidential escort car en route to Grand Cape Mount County. Based on such an alleged incident, Gongloe thinks drug tests for public officials should begin with President Weah.

He explained further that before Mr. Weah became President, one of his friends was arrested for drugs. He added that today, Mr. Weah has built a place in Liberia called Jamaica.

According to him, there is a lot of speculation that the same culture that is practiced in the Caribbean state of Jamaica might also be happening in Liberian-based Jamaica. Gongloe noted that in Jamaica narcotic drugs do not matter.

"There are people in the government that are bringing drugs here and Liberia is a major transit point for drugs," the opposition leader alleged. He told a group of journalists that he supports Gen. Johnson's call for officials to be tested for drugs on grounds that the presence of drugs in Liberia undermines national security.

He added that it also makes law enforcement and security in the



Pres. Weah

Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe

critic of corruption and human rights abuses in Liberia.

He is the political leader of the opposition Liberian People's Party, which is one of the oldest political parties in Liberia.

Gongloe's comment came after Liberia's Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Prince Charles Johnson, III, recommended that government officials should undergo drug tests.

In reaction, the Liberian human rights lawyer Cllr. Gongloe said President Weah should be first tested for drugs before others can follow. Cllr Gongloe alleged that a few years

country difficult.

"Because when you are dealing with people who are not normal, it affects everything you do. Therefore, the president must show seriousness about fighting drugs by subjecting himself to a drug test."

According to him, all opposition political parties in the country are willing and prepared because it is incumbent upon all of them to deal with the menace in Liberia.

He said if the president and his officials are not subjected to drug tests, the conclusion will be that they are promoting a pervasive flow of drugs in the country.

## Starts from page 6 AfDB Approves US\$255,000 to Establish

the AfDB for funding the establishment of the RDBMS and pointed out that this is another "major milestone in the short history of the Commission." Dr. Sekajipo asserted that the RDBMS when setup will digitize LERC's internal processes which will enable the Commission to improve operational efficiency, achieve higher productivity, and reduce turnaround times in business processes.

The RDBMS will automate key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor utilities' performance on benchmarks such as financial performance, technical and commercial quality of service performance, and quality of

service delivery and operational efficiency. Additionally, the system will automate LERC's regulatory processes to enable the Commission monitor compliance in an accurate and timely manner, regulate the operational and financial performance of the licensees and facilitate the provision of timely and reliable information and data on the electricity sector and regulated entities to consumers, stakeholders, and the public. It can be recalled that the 2022 Edition of the Electricity Regulatory Index (ERI) for Africa ranked the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission 10th out of 43 electricity regulators in Africa, compared to 37th out of 43 in

the previous year.

The 2022 ERI report is the fifth edition, and it measures the level of development of electricity sector regulatory frameworks in African countries and the capacity of regulatory authorities to effectively carry out their relevant functions and duties. The ERI report covers 43 of the 45 countries with confirmed regulatory authorities in Africa. The ERI is made up of three pillars or sub-indices: 1) Regulatory Governance Index (RGI); 2) Regulatory Substance Index (RSI); and 3) Regulatory Outcome Index (ROI). The ERI was developed by the AfDB as a peer review mechanism for electricity regulators in Africa.

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## Woman dies after alleged sodomy

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

A woman identified as Princess Kerkula has died after being allegedly sodomized by a wheelbarrow operator identified as Alhaji, through an alleged commercial sex transaction for L\$1,500. The sad incident occurred on

deceased was an alleged sex worker, but this paper could not immediately verify the claim immediately.

Ansumana Gaye, a disadvantaged youth in the area, took charge of Princess' remains while the deceased's family for the removal of the body. Ansumana explained to

get charged [Liberian way of saying to get drunk or to smoke weed]," said. "But I don't know how she died. All I can tell you [is that] it is sorrowful," Ansumana explained.

He said Princess complained that her stomach was hurting.

"We woke-up and heard the news she has died, and the wheelbarrow nigger had sex [with her] in her anus," Gaye noted.

Madam Yamah Kula, who used to sell drinks to the deceased, explained that the Princess had complained about severe pain in her stomach before she died. "Princess [came] here everything ... She usually [bought] her drinks from [me]. But from her appearance, she hasn't been feeling well," said Yamah. According to her, the late Princess said her waist and stomach were hurting, and she was also weak.

"And I asked her what had happened? She told me she was sick. And I asked her whether she had taken medicine, she said no," said Yamah. "So I gave her a \$50 dollar to buy the oral rehydration solution (ORS).



Thursday, 20 April 2023 at the Old Gobachop Market around a poultry farm in Paynesville, Red-light.

The victim was said to be in her 30s, and a mother of five children. Residents of the area said the victim complained of severe pains before her death.

Eyewitnesses said the

the NewDawn newspaper that he knew the deceased as a sex-worker.

He claimed that she used to hustle, leaving her Soul Clinic residence for Red-light in search of survival.

"You know, Princess that woman who used to come hustle here and all of us used to

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