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# Continental News

## Zimbabwe to Launch Digital Currency Backed by Gold

**H**ARARE – Zimbabwe will launch a digital currency next month by introducing “tokens” that are backed by gold reserves and can be transferred between people and businesses as a form of payment, the

money or conduct “person-to-person and person-to-business transactions and settlements,” Mangudya said. People will be able to buy the tokens through banks and make transactions using “e-gold wallets or e-gold cards” held by banks, he

currency and banned foreign currencies for local transactions. But few took heed and the black market thrived, while the local currency quickly devalued. The government relented and unbanned the U.S. dollar.

Zimbabwe has tried to stave off the depreciation of its currency with unusual ideas before. In July 2022, it launched gold coins as legal tender to stabilize the local currency. But many people struggling to buy everyday basics such as bread found them too pricey.

The digital currency's introduction will ensure that “those with low amounts” of money can trade them “so that we leave no one and no place behind,” Mangudya told Zimbabwe's The Sunday Mail newspaper last weekend.

International gold prices determined by the London Bullion Market Association will dictate the local pricing of the tokens, Mangudya said.

The Bahamas, Jamaica and Nigeria have already launched digital currencies backed by their central banks, with several other countries, including China, running trial projects. The United Kingdom is moving closer to it by asking for public input on the idea. The U.S. and European Union are considering similar moves.

More than 80% of the world's central banks are considering issuing digital currencies or have already done so, the consultancy PwC said in a report last year. VOA



John Mangudya, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor, holds a sample of a gold coin at the launch in Harare

country's central bank said Friday.

The move is aimed at shoring up Zimbabwe's faltering national currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, which is fast depreciating amid years-long economic woes in the southern African nation.

The new tokens “will be fully backed by physical gold held by the bank” and will go into circulation on May 8, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Gov. John Mangudya said. People can buy the tokens and use them as a way to save their

said.

Trust in Zimbabwe's currency is desperately low after people in 2008 had their savings wiped out by hyperinflation, which reached 5 billion percent, according to the International Monetary Fund, nearly a world record.

The hyperinflation resulted in the country at one point issuing a 100 trillion Zimbabwe dollars banknote before the government was forced to temporarily scrap its currency and allow the U.S. dollar to be used as legal tender.

In 2019, the government reintroduced a Zimbabwean

## Guinea Book Festival Turns the Page on Low Literacy

**C**ONAKRY – Guinea's national sports stadium buzzed with people seeking a different kind of workout this week, as minds flexed and stretched in pursuit not of muscle gains, but literary enrichment.

The 15th edition of Guinea's “72 Hours of the Book” festival unfolded in venues across the capital Conakry, bringing together a wide array of writers, publishers, and readers from the West African country and across the continent.

The annual three-day event is aimed at celebrating books and promoting literacy in a nation where over half the population is illiterate, according to World Bank figures, and access to libraries is limited.

“We Guinean authors have mobilized strongly to come together and promote this event,” Conakry-based author Bademba Barry said between bouts of signing copies of his works. “It's been 15 years of continuously valuing books.”

Despite its low literacy rate, Guinea boasts a rich literary heritage and more than a dozen publishing houses. Most,

however, struggle for funds to undertake large production runs. Those that do tend to focus on foreign works.

But Conakry's arena transformed into a haven this week for readers clamoring to meet their favorite local authors, writers seeking to expand their audiences, and budding creators who took part in workshops. VOA



A Screenshot of children seated at round table with writing templates at the 15th edition of Guinea's

## Sudan crisis: Air strikes and fighting in Khartoum as truce collapses

**A**ir strikes have intensified in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, despite a truce aimed at allowing civilians to flee.

The army said it was attacking the city to flush out its paramilitary rivals, the Rapid Response Forces (RSF).

The latest truce was due to end at midnight on Sunday. The RSF said it had been extended for another three days.

Millions remain trapped in the capital, where food is running short. The first major aid flight, laden with medical supplies, has arrived in the country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says a plane landed at Port Sudan with eight tonnes of relief supplies, including health kits for hospitals.

“With hostilities still ongoing, ICRC teams will need guarantees of safe passage from the parties to the conflict to deliver this material to

There are few signs the army will respect the further extension announced by the RSF on Sunday.

The army said it had conducted operations against RSF troops north of the city centre.

Eyewitnesses told Reuters news agency that army drones had targeted RSF position near a major oil refinery.

“We woke up once again to the sound of fighter jets and anti-aircraft weapons blasting all over our neighbourhood,” one resident told AFP news agency on Sunday.

BBC diplomatic correspondent Paul Adams, who is monitoring events from Nairobi in Kenya, says the army will find it difficult to expel the RSF from Khartoum.

For all the army's superior firepower, the RSF are highly mobile and more suited to urban warfare, our correspondent adds.

The UK government announced on Sunday that it would organise a final evacuation flight on Monday - two days after it said it had ended its operation to bring British nationals out. The Foreign Office (FCDO) advised those wishing to leave to



The army has urged people in Khartoum to remain indoors as it target RSF positions

medical facilities in locations with active fighting, such as Khartoum,” a statement said.

More than 70% of health facilities in the capital have been forced to close as a result of the fighting that erupted on 15 April.

More than 500 people have been reported killed, with the actual total number of dead and injured expected to be much higher.

Army commander Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF chief Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, are vying for power - and disagree in particular about plans to include the RSF into the army.

Foreign countries have been evacuating their nationals amid the chaos.

The warring sides agreed a humanitarian truce after intensive diplomatic efforts by neighbouring countries, the US, UK and UN. It was extended, but did not hold.

travel to the evacuation point in Port Sudan before 12:00 (10:00 GMT). So far, 2,122 people have been evacuated, the FCDO statement said.

A US-organised convoy has reached Port Sudan to evacuate more US citizens by ship to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. It said hundreds of Americans had already left, in addition to the diplomats evacuated by air a week ago.

Also on Saturday Sudanese former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok warned that the conflict could become worse than those in Syria and Libya. Those wars have led to hundreds of thousands of deaths and caused instability in the wider regions.

Speaking in Nairobi, he said: “I think it will be a nightmare for the world. This is not a war between an army and small rebellion. It is almost like two armies.”

Meanwhile, there are chaotic scenes in Port Sudan where people are desperate to board ships, some of which are heading to Saudi Arabia and Yemen. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## No Liberians should die because of voter trucking

**RECENT NEWS** that three Liberians died and 12 others left hospitalized recently following a motor accident near Yao - Lepulah Town, in Nimba County while they were being trucked from Ganta towards Buu-Yao electoral district#5 to participate in the biometric voter registration is unfortunate. No Liberian has to die just to please a politician's quest for power.

**THE VICTIM** reportedly included a pregnant woman and 58-year-old Beatrice Glanma, identified as sister of a representative aspirant, James G.K. Sumah, who was allegedly trucking some eligible voters to have them registered.

**ACCORDING TO** report, since the BVR process kicked off in Nimba, representative aspirants, including those seeking re-election have been allegedly trucking people from one county to another, including from Ganta to Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru County in the southeast, while some leave from Ganta to Bong County, and from Monrovia to Ganta, respectively, among others.

**THE NEW DAWN** gathered that this act is taking place in all nine electoral districts of Nimba and elsewhere across the country in flagrant violation of the electoral law.

**SOME OF** the people being trucked are offered an initial amount of US\$50 each to go get registered and then wait until after casting the vote on polling day on October 10, to receive the balance US\$50 each.

**THIS PRACTICE** in our electoral process needs serious intervention to put an end to it or else, more lives could get lost before actual voting day, as poverty-stricken citizens in desperation are lured by selfish politicians.

**THE NATIONAL** Elections Commission under the chairmanship of Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah has persistently warned that voters-trucking is a violation of the Constitution and the elections law, as citizens 18 and above, are required to register and vote where they reside.

**HOWEVER, WE** urge the NEC to go beyond mere warning in the face of widespread trucking and stamp its feet down firmly by bringing perpetrators to book which will serve as deterrence to would-be truckers. We suggest that if caught, both those being trucked and those facilitating the process should be punished.

**AS LIBERIANS,** it is important that we sincerely endeavor to making our electoral process as clean and fair as possible, not only to maintain the trust of our international partners, but to maintain our respect as a people.

**ANYONE GOING** into a competition must be ready to play by the rules and demonstrate confidence in winning at the end rather than devising schemes to cheat in a bid to gain undue advantage just to satisfy their selfish desires. Such people, when they managed in getting their way thru, are nothing but a complete disservice to those they claim to lead, as we have experienced over the years in our body politics with painful consequences.

# COMMENTARY

By Ahmed Ogwel Ouma

## Global Health Institutions Need Africa

**ADDIS ABABA** - Public-health policy has adopted an increasingly expansive perspective in recent years, reflecting a growing awareness of the many factors influencing human well-being, including the health of ecosystems and animals, and the need to facilitate global collaboration. By bridging disciplines and transcending borders, we can better address emerging threats and improve health outcomes for all.

Global pandemic preparedness, for example, requires international alignment on how to modify health infrastructure and tailor responses. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), of which I am acting director, has participated in several global discussions on the subject, ensuring that Africa's interests - and the Global South's perspective more generally - are represented in venues where they have been historically sidelined. Genuine inclusion of African voices in policy deliberations, especially early in the process, is the only way to establish common positions that do not leave low- and middle-income countries to fend for themselves.

As the public-health arm of the African Union (AU), the Africa CDC collaborates with member states on numerous regional programs. The next step is to increase the continent's participation in global decision-making, especially when policies have greater implications for places where disease outbreaks and health emergencies are more frequent - like most countries in Africa. Currently, voices from the Global South are rarely heard on the international stage, and African participants at global health forums and conferences are often isolated, or else included further downstream only after decisions have already been made. Thoughtful, deliberate action is therefore required to bring these stakeholders to the table early on.

The Africa CDC and similar organizations must take the lead in conceptualizing and developing new platforms that give voice to the countries most affected by global inequality. In parallel, existing institutions and working groups must consult with African governments in a genuine and serious way.

The ongoing review of the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations is a good example of greater inclusion. Member states of the WHO African Region proposed amendments that reflect their unique needs and advocated for increased collaboration and equity, including a stronger requirement for state parties to deliver health products and technologies to other jurisdictions that need them to fight public-health emergencies. The proposed changes also called for expanded benefit-sharing as a prerequisite for transferring biological material and data, and the establishment of a financial mechanism that provides grants or concessional loans to developing countries, which often lack the funding to prepare for future health crises.

By contrast, suboptimal representation of Africa in the World Bank's Pandemic Fund represents a missed opportunity. Considering that the Africa CDC directly supports AU member states in responding to health

emergencies, we could have played an essential role in this new decision-making body. While the AU is not yet one of the Pandemic Fund's Implementing Entities, we encourage member states to participate in the Fund's first call for proposals.

There are signs that institutional change is taking root. The zero draft of the WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, created for the intergovernmental negotiating body, proposes granting single votes to states at the Conference of the Parties. It also recognizes the potential for regional bodies to exercise the full number of their members' votes (if none of the member states exercises its right). This system would better reflect the majority view of the Global South in the Conference of the Parties, while also acknowledging the coordinating role of regional organizations. The regional representation and co-chairing arrangements envisaged for the instrument's intergovernmental negotiating body are likewise a step in the right direction. More should be done, however, to normalize equity by using binding language for relevant financing and intellectual-property commitments.

More forceful terms are also important in realizing the 100 Days Mission, which aims to develop and enable access to safe and effective vaccines against new pathogens within 100 days of an epidemic or pandemic threat being identified. The Africa CDC will closely monitor the initiative and related projects, which should guarantee, rather than merely enable, equitable access and distribution. The recent announcement of a vaccine-manufacturing partnership between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Institut Pasteur de Dakar, for example, should boost domestic drug supplies.

The Africa CDC recognizes that promoting African countries' influence on global health policy must be combined with efforts to shape priorities and policies on the continent. This includes leading discussions and creating platforms like the Conference on Public Health in Africa. Two areas ripe for partnership and investment are the regional manufacturing of medicines and medical supplies and the implementation of a "One Health" approach - balancing the health of people, animals, and ecosystems - to reduce the threat of zoonotic diseases and prevent future public-health emergencies.

While COVID-19 demonstrated the Africa CDC's ability to marshal a well-coordinated response, it also revealed that promises and pledges from foreign partners do not always translate into meaningful support. Guided by the New Public Health Order, the Africa CDC's latest health-security agenda, and the need to correct imbalances and make our public-health systems more self-sufficient, we will continue to amplify voices from the continent and champion partnerships between African institutions and like-minded global actors. We are committed to playing our role in ensuring that Africa is part of an inclusive global health system and is represented at forums that impact global health security. The next serious disease outbreak is just around the corner, and it is up to us to be ready.

## OP-ED

By Richard Black

# The Coming Crackdown on Corporate Greenwashing

**B**ERLIN - Judging by the growing number of companies vowing to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions to zero these days, it may seem like the corporate world is finally taking the climate crisis seriously.

According to the Net Zero Tracker, more than one-third of the world's largest publicly traded companies have announced such targets, up from one-fifth in late 2020.

While some of these corporate pledges appear to be genuine, others are clearly a fig leaf to obscure pollution as usual. One can easily imagine an oil executive telling an airline boss: "A net-zero target, some ads featuring trees, and everyone will love us."

If that was the plan, it is rapidly falling apart, owing to a slew of regulatory decisions and court actions that signal a crackdown on corporate greenwashing. And last year's report by the United Nations High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments, which provided detailed recommendations for maintaining the integrity of such pledges, heralds limits on companies' ability to make promises they have no intention of keeping.

New regulations in France and the United Kingdom, for example, aim to prevent advertisers from making extravagant claims about the carbon neutrality of their products. Research commissioned by the UK's Advertising Standards Authority found that when people hear such a claim, they assume that an absolute reduction in emissions has occurred. So, the ASA's updated guidelines instruct companies to avoid claiming carbon neutrality if the emissions associated with the advertised product were merely offset.

The French climate law, passed in 2021 and amended last year, goes further. To claim carbon neutrality, the product must be neutral across its entire life cycle. Companies must disclose how emissions were avoided, reduced, and offset (the order is important). They must also show how these offsets qualify as measurable, verifiable, permanent, and additional. Companies that get it wrong could face a €100,000 (\$110,000) fine for misleading consumers.

Underlying this trend is the obvious mismatch between what some companies say and what they do. After all, one does not need to be a sleuth to figure out that when a company can claim that a barrel of oil, a cargo of liquefied natural gas, or some tar sands bitumen is carbon-neutral, something has gone wrong.

A spate of recent lawsuits promises to draw a line in the (tar) sand. Over the past year, companies such as food giant Danone Waters, cement maker Holcim, oil companies TotalEnergies, BP, and Shell, cosmetics manufacturer Beiersdorf (Nivea), and KLM have been sued in various countries for making misleading sustainability claims. The Australia Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, has filed a complaint with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission claiming that the government's own certification scheme, Climate Active, is misleading under national consumer law, because it assures people that products are carbon-neutral when they are not.

Companies' net-zero pledges look just as flimsy under scrutiny. For example, a recent report by the Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor examined the net-zero plans of 24 major corporations purporting to be "climate leaders" and found numerous flaws, loopholes, and omissions. On average, according to the report, these companies will cut just 36% of their emissions by their net-zero target year. Moreover, their plans imply a median reduction of 15% by the end of the decade, rather than halving emissions, as the current science says is necessary.

Similarly, an earlier report by CDP found that fewer than one in 200 companies that submitted climate data to its environmental-disclosure platform have devised credible transition plans.

The UN group's recommendations, commissioned and endorsed by Secretary-General António Guterres, are a potential game changer. As they become mainstreamed, companies will no longer be able to claim that they have a credible net-zero plan unless they have set a decarbonization pathway compatible with the 2015 Paris climate agreement's targets. Such plans must include measures to reduce emissions along the entire value chain, phase out fossil fuels, invest in renewable energy, abstain from lobbying for high-carbon industries, disclose emissions annually, have reductions data independently verified, and so on. An ad campaign, a cheery speech, and some tree-planting will no longer do.

Companies without detailed transition plans in place can expect regulatory as well as legal action, as more and more countries require corporations to disclose climate-related risks. The European Union, India, New Zealand, and Switzerland are expected to join the UK and China by introducing such measures this year, followed by Canada and South Korea in 2025. The International Organization for Standardization has also recently published its own set of net-zero guidelines, providing regulators with clear rules and criteria for credible climate strategies.

But if the world is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, regulators must insist on independent verification of corporate claims, interim targets, and binding commitments to phase out fossil fuels. In countries where national net-zero plans rely on offsets and wishful thinking, citizens must use all the legal tools at their disposal possible to force their governments to do the hard work that a credible decarbonization path demands.

While there is still much work to be done, a carbon-neutral future is within reach. Net-zero targets now cover 91% of global GDP, compared with 16% just four years ago. But to have any hope of meeting the Paris agreement's targets, the first step is to ensure that governments and companies are setting realistic goals that they can back up with credible data. We can see the right path ahead, but the right decisions are still needed to ensure it is taken.

## OPINION

By Arvind Subramanian &amp; Josh Felman

# India's Welfare Balm

**P**ROVIDENCE - During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Indian economists and commentators believed the economy would skyrocket as soon as life returned to normal. But, despite the country's robust recovery in the two years since the pandemic's peak, the predicted boom has not materialized, nor does it seem imminent.

The latest data shed light on the country's economic predicament. While many analysts have estimated India's potential annual GDP growth at 7-8%, the most recent figures indicate a subdued rate of 4.4%. Private investment remains weak; credit uptake has slowed in recent months after a brief spurt; and while high-value service exports have soared, manufacturing exports' global market share has plateaued.

The employment and inflation figures are also sobering. India's worker-to-population ratio - perhaps the best measure of job opportunities - has declined steadily from about 44% in 2016 to 37% today, according to the Center for Monitoring the Indian Economy. Moreover, many industrial workers have been forced to shift back to agriculture, as the manufacturing sector's share of total employment is still below pre-pandemic levels. And the increasing number of students with college degrees that are unemployed or underemployed attests to the predicament of millions of tuition-paying middle-class families. For them, the demographic dividend risks turning into demographic disappointment.

Meanwhile, inflation has persisted at 6% for most of the past three years, driven by soaring food prices, which disproportionately affect the poor. Typically, such figures spell anxiety for political leaders. Food-price inflation has contributed to the ouster of previous Indian governments, most famously when soaring onion prices helped dislodge the BJP-ruled Delhi government in 1998.

This time, however, there has been remarkably little demand for political change. There seem to be three explanations for this.

First, most Indians seem to believe that the government's economic reforms will eventually yield large dividends. International firms, edged out by an increasingly inward-looking China, are considering relocating to India, thanks to improving infrastructure and connectivity as well as the lure of generous government subsidies. Apple, which is in the process of moving its iPhone production to India, is a prominent example. If the current trickle turns into a wave and enough domestic and foreign enterprises succeed in becoming globally competitive, manufacturing could be rehabilitated, allowing India to finally follow the export-led development path that guided East Asia to riches.

Second, the economy is just one of many issues that affect voter behavior, along with leaders' personal characteristics, the political alternatives on offer, and the avenues available to citizens to express their disapproval.

The third possibility remains underappreciated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unique approach to redistribution, which one of us dubbed "New Welfarism," emphasizes funding for items such as toilets that are essential but normally provisioned privately, as opposed to public goods such as primary education and basic health care.

To be fair, very few Indian governments have paid much attention to providing public goods. After all, educational and health reforms take years to deliver measurable results and often produce meager political returns, giving policymakers little incentive to pursue them.

Instead, governments have focused on building social safety nets. Modi's immediate predecessor, Manmohan Singh, flush with tax revenues from rapid economic growth and determined to spread the boom's benefits more widely, introduced a nationwide rural employment guarantee scheme and converted existing food-subsidy programs into expanded legal entitlements. Both served India well during the pandemic as millions of newly unemployed migrants were forced to return to their rural homes.

The Modi government inherited this safety net and maintained it, but without enthusiasm. Rather than strengthen the existing schemes, the government focused on providing cash payments and subsidies for cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing, and water. This effort has been extraordinarily successful, with access to these goods and services increasing significantly, even if some of the government claims are exaggerated.

What the different elements of New Welfarism have in common is that they are "attributable tangibles." Stuff, not fluff, is being given; cash is delivered efficiently using India's seamless digital infrastructure. Unlike education reform, the goods benefit people today, rather than at some point in the future. Given that many of them fulfill basic needs, Modi's strategy has arguably improved Indians' quality of life significantly.

The surge in cash transfers has been critical. According to government data, roughly \$45 billion in direct cash payments were delivered in the fiscal year that just ended, benefiting about 700 million (not necessarily distinct) people via 265 public schemes. If transfers from state governments were included, these figures would be even larger. Taken together, the cash transfers are tantamount to a universal basic income, an idea that one of us advocated while serving as the Indian government's chief economic adviser several years ago.

Against this background, New Welfarism's role starts becoming evident. Initially, delivery of attributable tangibles and improvement in people's standard of living contributed to the increase in Modi's popularity, especially as the government's unrelenting marketing made the benefactor unmistakably clear to the beneficiaries.

Now, New Welfarism is playing an equally important role in dampening disaffection. Anxieties about the limited employment opportunities and high food prices are lessened by the cash flowing into bank accounts, providing an assured minimal level of purchasing power.

An exaggerated Marxist formulation of New Welfarism might position it as the new opium of the masses. A more restrained explanation would say that, though it began as an economic boost, New Welfarism now is becoming a soothing balm.

*Arvind Subramanian, a senior fellow at Brown University, is a distinguished non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development and the author of *Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy (India Viking, 2018)*. Josh Felman is Principal at JH Consulting.*

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Why Liberian opposition marriages don't last

A house that is built on sand would easily fall, when the rain descends, the floods come, and the wind blows-Matthew 7:27 (Paraphrased), unlike the ones built on solid foundations.

This is the graphic story of Liberian opposition political parties and why their political unions or "arranged marriages" usually crumbled at the most significant moment.

On Friday, April 28, former Vice President Joseph Boakai announced his running mate ahead of the October 10 polls. Though his choice of running mate did not come as a surprise to many here as per the ongoing political scramble for Nimba, the absence of three of his key allies at the ceremony was the most surprising.

The likes of businessman turned politician Mr. Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party (ALP), Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, the embattled political leader of the Liberty Party (LP) and talk show host Henry Costa were all conspicuously absent from Boakai's pronouncement of Senator Jeremiah Koung as his running mate for the 2023 Presidential election.

Their absence speaks volumes of how Liberian politicians have viewed collaborations-"if it is not me, then we will all just watch to see it collapse."

These three have kept close to former Vice President Boakai since the disintegration of the once viewed formidable Collaboration of Political Parties (CPP) previously comprising the Unity Party, ALP, LP, and the Alternative National Congress (ANC).

The trio UP, ALP, and a faction of the LP led by its Sen. Karnga-Lawrence stayed with Boakai while ANC and the faction of the LP led by Musa Bility remained in the CPP to date.

One would have thought that their loyalty to Mr. Boakai over the period since the demise of the original CPP was based on their belief that he is rightly positioned to wrestle power from incumbent President George Weah.

This is what many Liberians had been led to believe was the main purpose of their union. No, it was all about greed and personal interests. And when none were chosen, they showed their disappointment by boycotting the program.

Greed and personal interest, not country has played a major role in all the political arrangements among Liberian political parties' collaboration and unity. The lack of defined ideology or purpose to hold parties together regardless of internal outcomes is lacking.

Therefore, at the very least minute of disenchantment, such unions are destined to fall apart.

In any given scenario, it is very difficult, if not impossible for individuals driven by diverse agendas and personal interests without a defined goal or oneness of purpose can come together and last in that uniformed group.

Given the circumstances in which political parties arranged themselves in Liberia, the term marriage of convenience does not even apply, because even though in marriages of convenience there are no love and commitments, there are some sorts of strategic purposes that bind the actors involved together.

These strategic purposes could be shared values or ideologies that hold key to the marriage and the desire to achieve such strategic goals are above all else regardless. That also goes to say that an individual or group of individuals coming together in such a marriage may not like the desired outcome of the choices being made within the group but once the intention therein still serves the same strategic purpose, the marriage holds for that period.

The lack of political traditions and ideologies as foundations of Liberian politics has also played significant role in the disintegrations of attempted political collaborations, particularly among opposition blocs.

This sort of political alignment and subsequent dissolution or split even before a pending election is held, is not new among opposition political parties in Liberia.

In 1997, for example, dozens of political parties came together to form a political marriage for the sole purpose of defeating then warlord Charles G. Taylor of the rebel faction National Patriotic Front of Liberia -NPFL, which was transformed into the National Patriotic Party (NPP).

The dream of that opposition union then collapsed at the convention and parties went their individual ways all because political leaders were not committed to the process but were bent on personally defined interests. The result of that election is now history.

Greed, personal interest amidst dishonesty, and personal gains above country will always undermine opposition unity in Liberia.



By Jones Mallay

## LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

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## Amb. Boakia Dances with the Wrong Devil. Did he ask the late Pres. Doe?

**A**mb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, flag-bearer of the Unity Party, a one-time defeated presidential candidate in the then 2017 general and presidential elections, a break-away from the CPP and has 40 years of public service under his belt. Amb Boakia has chosen Sen. Jeremiah Kpan Kuong as his vice-presidential running mate, a deal brokered surreptitiously by Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson, standard bearer, Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR), former warlord, Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INNPFL) who is on US active sanction list.

Senator Jeremiah K. Koung is undoubtedly one of the sons of Nimba County, highly respected within his circle of Stewarts, a fabulous icon with impeccable business records, a family man with a distinct political career who exhibits a salient opinion on issues in the 54th Legislative House of Senate. Sen. Koung should be politically overwhelmed with his VP portfolio.

It is conspicuous that what led to the selection of Sen. Koung as vice-running mate remains the most hidden secret with Amb. Boakai, which is also the million-dollar question on the lips of many Liberians at home and abroad and only Amb. Boakia knows the solid intent of his decision. However, political pundits can only make future projections by analyzing the cause and effects of Amb. Boakia's final decision to choose Sen Koung as his Vice running mate.

Amb Boakia's political Romanization with Sen. Johnson could probably cause him the remainder of his entire political career for several apparent reasons. First, Sen. Johnson is stigmatized with war crimes and crimes against humanity within the context of the then-Liberian civil wars. Second, he is on the US active sanction list, and the war crime is not an amnesty.

Third, Sen. Johnson's finger printers are all over the brokered deal, which may raise the eyebrows of the US government. Fourth, Sen. Johnson jammed Amb. Boakia's political space which could affect Amb Boakai's political relationship with the US. Fifth, Sen. Koung is Sen Johnson's vice-presidential surrogate to Amb. Boakai which means the final death of the TRC under Amb Boakai if he wins the presidency in 2023. Moreover, the brokered deal has widened the political enemy listing of Amb Boakia.

Sen Johnson being on the US sanction list is a sign of political rejection as a persona non grata. At the same time, was it politically expedient for Amb, Boakia to accept Sen Johnson's surrogate as vice running mate, knowing fully well that Sen Johnson is a war criminal in the eyes of the US? Amb Boakia association with Sen. Johnson could be detrimental to Amb Boakia's political enterprise in Liberia if he wins the 2023 elections.

Amb Boakia should understand that Sen. Koung is a staunch political surrogate of Sen Johnson, who cleverly orchestrated such a brokered deal which is a big deal to the US government. This deal would undermine the bilateral relationship between Liberia and the US.

What remains more devastating is that Sen Johnson will be on the campaign tours holding hands with Amb Boakia and Sen Kuong, which will send a negative connotation to the US government seeing Amb Boakai holding hands with a war criminal on campaign tours.

Since Sen. Koung is a surrogate of Sen Johnson, the Senator would be behind the scenes, remotely controlling Sen Koung politically. Sen Johnson did not get his wishes with Pres. Weah that lead to his departure from Pres. Weah. Did Amb Boakai investigate what went wrong before dancing with Sen Johnson? But why should Amb Boakia bless a deal that poisons his close relationships with his allies (Costa, Kyonblee, Urey, and the UP win of former President Johnson Sirleaf)? Was Amb Boakia wise, as he claimed?

But here is the real crux of the pending political bombshell, which is most distasteful. There are strong political predictions that Sen Johnson and his surrogate, Sen Koung, would undermine Amb Boakai if Amb Boakai wins in 2023. Here is the predictable layout analysis, knowing Sen Johnson for his terrible, dubious, and deceptive operations in the past.

The political predictions are as follows: Sen Koung and Sen Johnson could betray Amb Bokia for Sen Koung to be President. If such a plot fails and Pres. Boakai ends his first term peacefully, then Vice Pres. Koung would be the next President. But interestingly, Sen Johnson's party MDR would then be the ruling party under the watchful eyes of Sen Johnson.

Consequently, since the MRD will be in power, Sen. Johnson would then be instrumental in picking President Koung's next vice-running mate. If Sen. Johnson will not be in the Senate by then, President Koung would appoint Prince Johnson as Defense Minister of Liberia, which would result in political outcry by Liberians at home and abroad, and the US will not standby.

# National Red Cross celebrate World Safety and Health Day



A bill board constructed by LNRC on 15st in sinkor



Liberian National Red Cross Employees explaining some safety measure



Liberian cement company employees demonstrating safety measures



LNRC Workplace first aid business manager Marcus D. Washington



Employee of Liberia cement corporation and Liberian National Red Cross

# NEC to shortly distribute Farmington Declaration

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says the historic Revised 2023 Farmington River Declaration signed by 25 registered political parties on 4 April 2023, is being processed for release shortly to the public.

The NEC noted that the political Commission on 9th Street, in Sinkor. According to the NEC, the signing of the Revised 2023 Farmington River Declaration by the EFFL brings the total number of political parties who have signed the declaration to 26. With this, the Commission says the final Revised Farmington River



party, Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) on Monday, 24 April 2023 signed the Revised Farmington River Declaration at the headquarters of the Declaration for 2023 is finally being processed for printing, publication, and dissemination to the public.



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company operating in Southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for International Marketing Head to join our Monrovia Team.

**Position:** International Marketing Head  
**Number needed:** One (1)  
**Duty Station:** Monrovia  
**Category:** Local  
**Application Deadline:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**General Scope of Work/Duties:**  
 The candidate must be an experienced senior international CPO & PKO/PK sales and marketing. You will be fully responsible for ensuring the achievement of international sales and marketing strategy & operational targets.

**Duties and Responsibilities-**

1. Achieves international marketing and sales operational objectives by contributing marketing and sales information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; preparing and completing action plans; implementing production, productivity, quality, and customer-service standards; resolving problems; conducting audits; identifying trends; determining system improvements; implementing change.
2. Responsible for building and developing Liberia-produced CPO & PKO/PK trading.
3. Plan, develop, direct, control & own trading & marketing activities, including international strategic trading plan.
4. Use international market intelligence such as competitors, product profiles, and prices to enlarge market share.
5. Use international market analysis to mitigate risk and identify new business.
6. Build good rapport with the existing client base and develop a new one.
7. Regularly inform & update the Management on international market trends & business progress.
8. Monitor shipment logistics running efficiently.
9. Establish and build long-term relationships with customers.
10. Monitoring international market trends to capitalize on trading opportunities.
11. Responsible for providing execution and after-sales services to clients for palm oil.
12. Monitor clients' trading activity to assess and identify their needs and provide solutions.
13. Build and maintain international market intelligence through market mapping of all account-relevant activities in the region and sharing relevant customer insights;
14. Represent the Company in important industry events, both locally and overseas.
15. Department data and proceedings confidentiality must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to a third party, regardless of who they are, is a severe offense.

**Education**

A Bachelor's or Master's degree in Marketing, Business Administration, or a related field,

**Experience/Competencies/Skills:**

- Successful five years' experience in the International Palm Oil industry and ten years of experience in related fields.
- Experience in training a new, growing team.
- Experience in management may be advantageous.
- Understanding and knowledge of sales and marketing.
- Strong analytical, organizational, and creative thinking skills.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and customer service skills.
- Knowledge of data analysis and report writing.
- The ability to understand and follow company policies and procedures.
- The ability to work under pressure
- Proactive, team player, loyal, honest, helpful, recognized good character.
- Adaptable to multicultural settings with mutual respect

**How to Apply**  
 Interested Candidates should address a cover letter with CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:  
 The Human Resources Department  
 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.  
 Butaw Main Office  
 Sinoe County

**Kindly note the followings:**

- the information & application shall optionally be dropped at the GVL Butaw Main Office (HR Department)
- applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to: [alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com](mailto:alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com) or [daniel.cephas@veroleum.com](mailto:daniel.cephas@veroleum.com)
- Only selected candidates will be notified for the interview.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Minister Cooper Kruah a traitor!

**-Rep Acarous Gray**

*By Lewis S Teh*

The only member of President Weah's cabinet from Nimba County, Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Cllr. Cooper A. Kruah, is under

present. But an executive of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Montserrado County Electoral District# 8 Representative Moses Acarous Gray, is branding the Minister a traitor and wants him to immediately resign from the

embarrassment. Gray: "The Traitor Cooper Kruah, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications must resign and resign now! You are a dangerous sellout and good to have lunch with you on Monday; no room for political polytheist quislings."

It's not clear whether Minister Kruah is a member of the ruling CDC, but being a member of President Weah's cabinet, his presence at the opposition rally might have sent mixed signals to the administration, as regards divided loyalty.

Kruah has not publicly responded to calls from the ruling party to step down. But commenting on the news, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba and leader of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party that Koug was picked from, said every qualified Liberian citizen under the Constitution is entitled to employment in government irrespective of political affiliation or difference.

Sen. PYJ called on the Weah administration to go ahead and dismiss all citizens of Nimba County in his government if he (Weah) so desires but this will not dampen their resolve to vote Mr. Weah out in October for his failures.

Speaking to Spoon Talk late Friday, the Nimba Senator, who withdrew support from President Weah last year, accused the President of denying the county social development fund totaling US\$80 million.

CDC-led government, for attending the opposition program.

Minister Kruah was visibly seen sitting in the front row clapping his hands, as one of his kinsmen, Senator Koug was named vice presidential candidate by the former vice president much to the dislike of the ruling establishment.

In his Facebook podcast on Saturday, April 29, Rep. Gray described the minister as a traitor, who should muster the courage to resign immediately from his governmental post to avoid any future



Minister Cooper A. Kruah, at the UP ceremony

serious fire, with call for his resignation for attending the ceremony of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's naming of his running mate at the headquarters of the opposition Unity Party over the weekend in Monrovia.

Ambassador Boakai, standard bearer of the UP, named Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Koug as his running mate on Friday, 28 April for the October 10th presidential and general elections at which Minister Kruah, also from Nimba, was visibly

## 'I'm on a mission to rescue and renew'

**Amb. Boakai tells Liberian**

*By Lincoln G. Peters*

Main opposition Unity Party (UP) standard bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai says his quest for the Liberian Presidency is to rescue Liberia and renew the country's lost image.

The former Liberian vice president told his Friday, 28 April 2023 that Liberia has entered its lowest state.

Over the weekend, Boakai announced his running mate as Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Koug for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

He lamented the degradation of Liberia's value system, unprecedented economic hardship, devaluing, and demoralizing of civil servants.

He also claimed there is an upward trend in rewarding political patronage, a

practice that has undercut the merit-based system.

"My fellow partisans and Liberians, I have come to you with a message of Rescue and Renewal," said Boakai.

"When I set out on this journey many years ago, my focus was and has always been on one agenda: COUNTRY FIRST, LIBERIA FIRST!"

He noted that he is on

record to have said to the Liberian people that "Liberia is not a poor country."

He argued that "the perennial problem of this country is mainly triggered by greed, the lack of sound and honest leadership."

He said he has a mission,

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



Simeon Freeman

## Weah dedicates new football house

Liberia's Chief Patron of Sports, President George Manneh Weah has officially commissioned the newly constructed headquarters of the Liberia Football Association, first of its kind since 1936, when the LFA was established.

Speaking at the ceremony over the weekend in Swamkamore Community, Congo Town, President Weah, an Ex-football icon, hailed the leadership of the Liberia Football Association for what he described as a milestone achievement for Liberia, noting that it will help boost sports development here in general.

Mr. Weah was quoted as saying; "What we have here today, is a fruit of our commitment to support then FIFA President Sepp Blatter and now Gianni Infantino, who have

focused and achieving your goals as head of any entity."

The Chief Patron of Sports continues, "We are supporting football and will continue to do more; the LFA's Headquarters, the development of other sports infrastructure, support to the national teams and more are tangible evidence."

For his part, a member of FIFA Council and CAF Executive Committee member, Mr. Amaju Pinnich, representing FIFA President Gianni Infantino, and former President of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) thanked the Liberian government and President Weah for the development of sports in the country.

LFA president Mustapha I. Raji explained that the facility was completed through the FIFA Forward Project, and thanked the football body for the support while



dedicated themselves to improving football globally.

President Weah, then commended the president of the Liberia Football Association, Mustapha Raji, and all executives of the LFA for their great work in helping to improve the game in Liberia, while hailing the Ministry of Youth and Sports for a crucial role played in making a dream-into reality.

Mr. Weah, a former official of the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), and former FIFA World Player of the Year 1995, pledged his unwavering support to the world football governing body, for the development of football, particularly in Africa.

He explained that his government remains committed to working with both the LFA and FIFA for the development of the game in country.

He urged the leadership of the LFA, especially Mr. Raji, to remain focused in the midst of criticisms, noting that "once you are in the public space and making viable impact in the society, you will always be criticized but that should not deter you from being

noting that the initiative was made possible by the flawless cooperation of former LFA executives, who put in more effort to see their goals realized.

Meanwhile, Liberia's Youth and Sports Minister, D. Zeogar Wilson, acknowledges that sports in the country are making tremendous progress under President Weah unlike during other administrations.

Minister Wilson stressed that under President Weah's regime, there is no equal in terms of sports development, adding that, every major federation in the country has made great impact in international competitions because of the government's support.

The Program was graced by Liberia's Chief Patron of Sports President George Manneh Weah, Minister of Youth and Sports, D. Zeogar Wilson, FIFA Special Representative, member of FIFA Council and CAF Executive Committee member Mr. Amaju Pinnich, LFA Former President Izzetta Wesley, Usmane T. Jalloh, Religious Advisor to the President on Islamic Affairs and LFA staffs and EC members. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Français

## Après des mois d'attente, l'opposant Joseph Boakai a choisi son colistier

On sait désormais officiellement depuis le vendredi 28 avril 2023 qui est le colistier du principal chef de l'opposition Joseph Nyumah Boakai à l'élection présidentielle de 2023. Il s'agit de Jeremiah Koung,

finallement porté sur Jeremiah Koung.

Depuis un moment, Plusieurs noms circulaient dans les milieux publics, dont celui de l'ancien directeur Afrique de Coca-Cola, qui est actuel leader de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), une coalition de

politiques dont le Parti de l'unité, le congrès national alternatif, le parti de la liberté et le parti de tous les Libériens. Mais la Coalition n'a pas pu survivre face à des conflits politiques internes qui ont conduit à des poursuites judiciaires. Il est maintenant



sénateur du comté de Nimba et proche de l'ancien seigneur de guerre Prince Johnson

Après plusieurs années de tractations dans l'espoir de rapprocher M. Boakai et M. Cummings pour former un front commun à la prochaine présidentielle, le choix de l'ancien vice-président s'est

l'opposition, et du Congrès national alternatif (ANC). Beaucoup estimaient que si Alexander B. Cummings acceptait d'être le colistier de Boakai, l'opposition serait très forte et aurait toutes les chances de remporter les prochaines élections.

Initialement, la CPP était composée de quatre partis

composé d'une faction du Liberty Party et de l'ANC.

Les autres noms qui circulaient ces derniers mois sont : Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa et leader politique du Parti de la Liberté, et le sénateur du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

## Le déplacement des électeurs d'une localité à une autre nuit au développement, selon président de la Chambre des Représentants

Le président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers, a averti que le fait de transporter les électeurs d'un comté à l'autre, ou d'un district à l'autre en échanges des miettes, ne profite qu'aux candidats et non aux citoyens.

Le président Chambers, qui condamne le camionnage des électeurs, a fait valoir que c'est également un tort fait au comté ou au district d'où les citoyens sont transportés, car cela diminue la population de ces localités.

Le président Chambers a dit que cette pratique est antidémocratique, car elle sape le développement. Il a donc appelé les candidats à cesser de transporter les citoyens d'une localité à une autre pour des raisons égoïstes. Qu'ils se fassent enrôler dans leur comté de résidence.

« Les politiciens qui ont l'habitude de transporter les électeurs ne le font que pour obtenir le pouvoir. Ils ne sont pas dans l'intérêt du peuple », a-t-il déclaré.

La pratique antidémocratique du camionnage des électeurs, a-t-il noté, n'impose que des dirigeants qui ne sont pas le choix des habitants du comté où ils ont

été transportés.

Pendant ce temps, Chambers a appelé les habitants du Maryland à profiter de l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs en cours.

« Je veux que vous vous inscriviez afin que vous

▶ 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'oublions 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

## Après des mois d'attente

comté de Nimba et leader du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction, Jeremiah Koung.

Bien qu'il ne fût pas fréquemment mentionné comme Koung et Karnga-Lawrence pour le poste de vice-président de Boakai, l'avocat des droits de l'homme Me Tiawan Saye Gongloe était également perçu comme un bon colistier potentiel pour Boakai. Avant que Boakai ne nomme son colistier, les radios locales avaient rapporté que Prince Johnson aurait dit à ses proches du Nimba que Boakai choisirait Koung. Ces radios n'ont donc pas eutort.

## Le déplacement des électeurs

puissiez réélire le président Weah pour son second mandat. Si vous ne vous inscrivez pas, vous n'aurez pas le pouvoir de nous réélire », a-t-il plaidé.

Il a rassuré les habitants du Maryland du soutien continu du gouvernement dirigé par le CDC, notant que le gouvernement s'est engagé à fournir des services sociaux de base, la prestation de soins de santé, la sécurité, l'éducation, l'agriculture et la connectivité routière.

Il a ensuite appelé ses partisans à voter massivement et à réélire le président Weah pour un second mandat afin d'achever le travail qu'il a déjà commencé.

"Le Maryland est l'un des bastions du gouvernement dirigé par le CDC dans le sud-est et nous ne sommes pas prêts à le céder à qui que ce soit le 10 octobre 2023", a-t-il déclaré.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé dans quelle mesure le processus était crédible et fiable, Chambers a déclaré que l'enregistrement garantirait que l'élection se

déroule sans vote multiple, ainsi que d'autres irrégularités, fraudes et de nombreux autres problèmes négatifs liés aux élections.

"Je considère l'introduction de l'enrôlement biométrique comme une étape importante pour l'organisation des élections libres, justes et transparentes le 10 octobre", a dit le président.

Selon Chambers, l'introduction de la biométrie montre que la démocratie au Libéria se développe et s'améliore sous ce gouvernement dirigé par le CDC.

"Dans la conduite des activités électorales, le Libéria doit sortir de la méthode traditionnelle et doit essayer de se mettre au même niveau que certaines nations de notre sous-région et de l'ouest", a noté Chambers. Chambers sollicite un 4e mandat en tant que représentant du district de Pleebo Sodoken. On se souvient que lors des élections générales et présidentielles de 2017, il a emporté la victoire avec 7 858 voix, soit 57,3%.

## Le Gabon et la Côte d'Ivoire intensifient leur coopération

Le Chef de l'Etat singulièrement, sur le plan Gabonais Ali Bongo économiquement au travers de Ondimba s'est centres d'intérêts entretenus le 29 avril à Libreville avec son homologue de la Côte d'Ivoire, Alassane Dramane Ouattara, en séjour au Gabon dans le cadre d'une visite de travail et d'amitié.

Selon la communication présidentielle, cette chaleureuse rencontre des deux Chefs d'Etat qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des consultations régulières entre deux personnalités qui partagent une estime réciproque, a été l'occasion d'aborder en tête-à-tête des sujets divers liés à l'actualité régionale, continentale et internationale ainsi que diverses questions d'intérêt commun.

Les deux dirigeants ont examiné la coopération qui lie nos deux pays sur des plans multiformes et qu'ils entendent hisser à un niveau supérieur,

mutuellement bénéfiques. Ils ont en outre instruit leurs experts d'explorer de nouveaux axes de coopération porteurs et innovants. Ils se sont par ailleurs félicités du cadre juridique existant entre nos deux États et instruit leurs experts à poursuivre et concrétiser les Accords en cours de négociation.

Le Président Ouattara a par ailleurs tenu à féliciter son homologue gabonais pour l'organisation du One Forest Summit qui s'est tenu du 1er au 02 mars dernier à Libreville. Il a également salué les enjeux de ce Sommet qui contribuent à trouver une solution aux questions liées à l'environnement et aux défis auxquels font face tous les continents et singulièrement l'Afrique.

## Le Liberia répond à des critiques "erronées" de l'ambassadeur des USA



Le gouvernement libérien a répondu à des critiques "erronées" de l'ambassadeur américain qui a accusé les parlementaires du pays de "beurrer leur propre pain" pendant que selon lui, les services sociaux du pays comme les hôpitaux et l'état-civil sont sous-financés.

"Le gouvernement reste déterminé à investir dans la situation critique des infrastructures de santé à travers le pays par la construction d'hôpitaux, tout en accordant la priorité au développement du capital humain", affirme le ministère libérien de l'Information dans un communiqué publié mercredi soir.

Monrovia, qui bénéficie d'un grand soutien financier de l'allié américain, "salue son partenariat de longue date avec les Etats-Unis et croit qu'une communication ouverte entre les deux gouvernements est importante pour le maintien de ce lien historique".

L'ambassadeur américain Michael McCarthy a sévèrement critiqué les parlementaires libériens dans un communiqué lundi, les accusant de "plumer leur propre nid", de ne pas consacrer suffisamment de fonds à la santé et à l'éducation et de laisser les populations rurales dans la pauvreté.

"Le blocage des ressources (destiné à ces secteurs) est tellement large qu'il doit être institutionnel: et l'absence d'alarme montre un syndicat impliquant les parlementaires, le ministère de la santé et le ministère de l'Intérieur", dit le

communiqué de M. McCarthy dont le successeur a été nommé en mars.

Le diplomate signale que son pays s'est engagé à financer à hauteur de 40 millions de dollars la construction d'un laboratoire national dont le fonctionnement doit être assuré grâce à une contribution du gouvernement du Liberia d'un montant de trois à quatre millions de dollars. Il s'inquiète de la capacité de Monrovia à tenir sa promesse sur ce laboratoire.

Le ministère libérien de l'Information "reconnaît qu'il est possible de faire mieux" et défend le bilan du gouvernement dans la santé et l'éducation dans son communiqué. "Les récents efforts, dont ceux de l'administration du président Weah visant à raviver les infrastructures dans une situation critique en investissant dans la santé et l'éducation lui ont valu les félicitations de plusieurs partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux", ajoute le texte.

La corruption est endémique au Liberia, pays qui occupe la 142e place sur 180 dans le classement de l'Ong Transparency international pour 2022. La lutte contre ce fléau était une des principales promesses de campagne du président George Weah, l'ancienne star du foot à la tête du pays depuis 2017, candidat à un deuxième mandat lors d'une élection présidentielle prévue en octobre.

## Les départs et les naufrages se multiplient au large de la Tunisie

Pas un jour ne se passe en Tunisie sans que la mer ne charrie de nouveaux corps. Les garde-côtes ont effectué cinq fois plus d'interceptions en mer au premier trimestre 2023 que l'an dernier. Tout s'est aggravé depuis le discours raciste du président Kais Saïed sur la présence de migrants dans le pays et la situation inquiète au plus haut point ses partenaires européens.

Cinq fois plus d'interceptions en mer au premier trimestre 2023 que l'an dernier... Les chiffres des garde-côtes tunisiens donnent la mesure du drame qui se joue au large des côtes tunisiennes, depuis le début de l'année. C'est désormais par dizaines que se comptent les corps repêchés chaque semaine. Plus de 200 cadavres reposent à cette heure dans la morgue de l'hôpital de Sfax dont la capacité est à présent très largement dépassée. Un projet de construction de cimetière dédié aux cadavres rejetés par la mer est dorénavant envisagé dans la région.

Depuis le discours du président Kais Saïed, assimilant la présence en Tunisie de milliers de ressortissants de pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest et



centrale à un projet criminel visant à modifier l'identité supposée arabo-musulmane de la Tunisie, les départs de Subsahariens se sont multipliés.

Discours attisant le racisme et crise économique Certains ont hâté leur départ vers l'Europe et d'autres ont décidé de prendre la mer pour ne pas avoir à rentrer au pays. Quant aux Tunisiens, la crise économique et politique qui secoue leur pays depuis des mois désespère une frange de la population qui dit parfois préférer la mort que de rester dans un pays qui, selon eux, n'offre plus aucun horizon. La période de l'Aïd - considérée comme plus relâchée en termes de surveillance des côtes - est également propice à ce genre de départs.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# 'CDC declines in corruption fight

## -CENTAL BOSS

By Ethel A. Tweh

Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) Executive Director Anderson Miamen

promotes transparency and accountability in national governance.

Mr. Miamen said the CDC regime met Liberia's score in the fight against corruption at 32 as reported by the CPI and other international institutions in 2018.

corruption is practiced.

The CENTAL Boss told the forum that it is so frustrating that corruption persists despite the availability and efforts of several integrity institutions across the country.

He called on the citizens to demand accountability and transparency from their national leaders.

Miamen said it is worrisome that those in power continue to abuse the country's resources to the detriment of the ordinary people.

Ahead of the October 10, 2023 presidential and legislative elections, Mr. Miamen admonished Liberians to examine themselves and determine what is best for them.

He said the citizens have the responsibility to critique those wanting state power and try to graduate from begging them for handouts in the name of poverty.

He urged them to set high standards and project people who have a track record in terms of transparency and accountability before entrusting them with national leadership.

Mr. Miamen also called on Liberians to rate the performances of previously elected officials, while most of them are seeking re-election in the October 10, 2023 polls.

At the same time, he encouraged citizens to express their feelings to their leaders without the use of invectives.

According to him, it is the responsibility of the people to be civil, respectful, and bold to speak truth to power in the faces of their leaders.

# Commerce Ministry ends stakeholders' workshop in Ganta

By Thomas Domah  
Nimba County

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has ended a three-day stakeholders' workshop on key components of the Liberia Investment Finance and Trade Project (LIFT-P) in Ganta City, Nimba County.

The forum sought to define roles and responsibilities of Technical Implementing Ministries and Agencies (TIMAs). The World Bank (WB) Hybrid Implementation Support Mission, headed by its Senior Private Sector Specialist, Thomas Vis provided technical support and guidance, while the Project Implementation Unit at the

Standards (ESS), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Labor Management Plan (LMP), and Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) among others. The forum was used to clearly informed Technical Implementing Ministries and Agencies (TIMAs) about their respective roles and responsibilities during the implementation of the US\$40M LIFT Project, when Terms of References (TORs) and concept notes are expected, including responsible parties and focal persons. The workshop brought together over 50 participants from project-affected institutions of the Liberian government, along with partners, including the World Bank Support Mission Group; Central Bank of



says the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government has continued to decline drastically in the fight against corruption.

Mr. Miamen made the claim while speaking as a special guest at the Borough Intellectual and Development Forum over the weekend in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island.

He said the country continues to decline in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) report.

CENTAL is a civil society institution that champions the fight against corruption and

He detailed that in CPI's 2021 report launched in 2022, Liberia dropped to 29 and again declined by 3 points, thus scoring 26 in the CPI report released in 2023.

Mr. Miamen noted that the highest score Liberia ever had was 41 as quoted by the CPI, and ranked 75 among 175 targeted countries.

Mr. Miamen stressed that the CPI report is done in such a way that countries will have low scores, indicating a high increase in the practice of massive corruption. He said the higher the score, the lower



Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the TIMAs exchange ideas on full implementation.

In addition, the exercise will raise awareness among Technical Implementing Ministries and Agencies (TIMAs) on the need for compliance with safeguard requirements of the World Bank (WB) which include Environmental and Social

Liberia (CBL); the PFMU, Aid Management Unit and the Business Climate Working Group Secretariat of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Liberia Chamber of Commerce (LCC); Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA); Liberia Business Association (LIBA); National Investment Commission (NIC).

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# I'm on a mission

and that mission is to ensure that the lost image of Liberia is restored.

He said God has given him the strength and His good grace to join millions of citizens in taking another step in the mission to rescue this country.

"...It is my honor and pleasure today to announce to the people of Liberia the much-anticipated selection of my vice presidential choice for the 2023 presidential Election-RESCUE 2," Boakai said, referring to Mr. Koung.

During the naming of his running at UP headquarters on Broad Street, several opposition leaders were in attendance.

They included the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) leader

Emmanuel Gonquoi, Rainbow Alliance, and Dr. Alric Tokpah, among others.

The program was also a scene of attraction and excitement as thousands of supporters and partisans turned out for the running mate naming ceremony.

The pronouncement of Senator Koung as Boakai's running mate was overwhelmingly accepted by supporters and partisans of the opposition UP, though other political leaders appeared unhappy.

During the program, the opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader Benoni Urey, Liberty Party (LP) political leader Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, and other long-time political allies of Mr. Boakai did not attend the program.

Amb. Boakai said drug abuse, allegedly facilitated by the failure of the CDC administration to stop its inflow, and stealing in government with impunity by officials, have become an acceptable norm.

The opposition leader said violations of the country's organic laws are no longer punishable.

According to him, all of these are happening because the current government doesn't listen and is not responsive to the needs of the people.

"The horrible leadership that Mr. Weah and his CDC have provided our country since January 2018 is killing our people and robbing young people of a future of hope and promise," he lamented further.

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# Minister Cooper

Earlier, addressing thousands of partisans at the UP headquarters, Vice President Boakai said his decision to have chosen Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung as running mate was not a search for a sinless angel but a real human being whose imperfections and belief in God compels him into seeking redemption and imbibes with humility and willingness to work with a team that will make Liberia better.

Boakai maintains that his search for a running mate was based on one who understands that life is about people, not self.

"Today, after several years, months, weeks and days of intensive consultations, alignments, realignments, vetting and soul-searching, we have come to announce RESCUE

TWO, our Partner for the ensuing October 10, 2023, Presidential Elections in our mission to rescue Liberia", the former Vice President for 12 years notes.

"My dear Liberians, the person I have selected as running mate, like many of you, shares my vision about building this country better than it has ever been, and like many of us, have a humble beginning, working very hard through the years to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps to provide for family and their community."

He points out that both Senator Koung and him will not only win these elections but intend to redirect the tragic course on which Liberia is now set.

The naming of running mate took Ambassador Boakai nearly a year amid public anxiety, with barely four months to elections.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

# A Cummings-Nyonblee ticket imminent?

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Following Friday's (April 28, 2023) picking of Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung as running mate

would consider the offer from Mr. Cummings if asked to join a Cummings-Lawrence ticket against President Weah.

Meanwhile, Archie Baynah, a strong UP supporter, has expressed disappointment over

the opposition is still experiencing tremendous headaches regarding how they can galvanize a united force, that will vigorously compete against President Weah, and perhaps defeat



by Unity Party Standard Bearer, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, speculations abound here that CPP Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings is likely to name Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence, as running mate.

Senator Lawrence had been widely named months back, as preferred running mate for Ambassador Boakai, but this did not happen on Friday. Instead, the UP Standard Bearer chose his running mate from Nimba, much to public surprise, leaving Sen. Lawrence in the cold.

A source close to the ANC told the NEW DAWN that Mr. Alexander Cummings, who is yet to name his running mate, ahead of the crucial October elections, is poised to picking Senator Nyonblee Lawrence as his vice presidential candidate.

The source explained Mr. Cummings is in closed doors meeting with the Grand Bassa Senator, on the CPP's desire to choose her as vice running mate.

Attempts to get Senator Lawrence's comment did not materialize, but a Liberty Party source said the Senator

the Boakai-Koung Ticket, instead, preferring a Boakai-Nyonblee Ticket that he says is the popular choice.

According to Archie, Koung is less known across the country except in his native Nimba County lamenting, "So, let Nimba vote for UP, as for me, I am disappointed and believe it is a terrible decision; that force cannot defeat President Weah."

"We could have loved a Boakai-Nyonblee ticket, rather than Boakai-Koung Ticket. What you really mean, Moses Togba, a UP supporter expresses.

"Now we hope that Mr. Cummings choose Nyonblee and we will support that force with all our hearts", a Liberty Party partisan, Abraham Nah, added.

With just four months to the October 10th Presidential and General Elections, members of the opposition bloc here are moving their muscles, strategizing how to defeat incumbent President George Weah at the poll.

Despite series of criticisms against his government, including incompetence, bad governance and massive corruption that have brought hardship on ordinary Liberians,

him.

In spite of their efforts, Mr. Weah still remains firm in his quest for re-election, rallying Liberians to his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

On the other hand, the opposition bloc is visibly divided, as they strive to defeat the ruling establishment with the once formidable Collaborating Political Parties now reduced to a single party - the Alternative National Congress headed by Mr. Alexander B. Cummings after the Unity Party and the All Liberian Party jumped the boat, citing alleged tempering of the Framework Document that brought them together - a claim they failed to substantiate in court.

Liberty Party, the third member of Collaboration, is split in the middle as a result of internal conflict, with one faction headed by Chairman Musa H. Bility in marriage with the ANC/CPP, while a faction led by Political Leader Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, struggles to find its bearing after Friday's development in the UP.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# " My search was not for a sinless angel"

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former vice president Joseph N. Boakai has defended his choice of running mate, saying that he was not searching for a sinless angel but a real human being with imperfection. But rather one who understands that life is not about self.

Mr. Boakai on Friday, April 28, announced Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung as his running mate at a well-attended rally in Monrovia.

But the ceremony witnessed the absence of key allies; businessman turned politician Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party, embattled political leader of the Liberty Party, Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, and Talk show Host Henry Costa.

" Today after several years, months, weeks, and days of intensive consultations, alignments, realignments, vetting, and soul-searching, we have come to announce RESCUE TWO, our Partner for the ensuing October 10, 2023, Presidential Elections in our mission rescue Liberia," Mr. Boakai told cheering supporters as he lifted the hand

redirect the tragic course on which the country has been set.

"We both come from a struggling and working-class background. We both rose by our bootstraps and demonstrated how courage and vision can lead to success even where adversity was evident. The Man I have chosen, like me, has the resilience, commitment, and love for country," he said of Koung.

According to the former Vice President, in his search for a running mate, he sought to find someone who would join him as a partner and build a dedicated team of leaders to rescue the country.

The announcement of Sen. Koung appears to have kept key allies afar, with Sen. Karnga-Lawrence issuing a statement a night before indicating that her party will consult to see its next plan of action.

She pointed out that Liberia was bigger than loyalty to an individual or individual's interest. Mr. Urey though not satisfied but much has not been heard from him, the same goes for Costa.

Accepting his nomination, Sen. Koung said his preferment as a running mate to the former vice president was like a dream to him.

He, however, expressed his



of Sen. Koung.

The former vice president who served two terms alongside former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, said Sen. Koung shares his vision about building Liberia better than it has ever been, adding that like many partisans of the Unity Party, Sen. Koung has a humble beginning and has worked his way up through the years to provide for his family.

He said with both he and Sen. Koung sharing similar visions, they will not just win the election together but will also

willingness to work with the former vice president, while calling on supporters to support change because the country can no longer afford another six years of incumbent President George Weah.

Koung also extended special thanks and appreciation to Sen. Prince Y. Johnson, founding father and first Standard Bearer of the Movement for Democracy Reconstruction whose involvement in the process led to the UP/MDR collaboration. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

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# LNRC celebrates World Safety

Washington added that this initiative plays an essential role in maintaining workplace environments by ensuring workers' safety and health.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) first observed

World Safety and Health Day in 2003 to avoid workplace accidents and diseases.

The day overlaps with the International Day of Remembrance for the Dead and Injured Workers, which has been observed by the

labor movement since 1996.

The day has significance in increasing awareness of ways to make work safe and healthy, as well as the necessity to enhance the political profile of occupational safety and health.

This year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023 theme is "A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work."

Washington explained that the focus of the theme is to provide highlights on fostering excellent workplace health

through a safe and healthy work environment.

He detailed that the primary goal for this day is to maintain high standards of safety and health, which should be distributed equitably in all sectors of society.

For her part, the Human Resource Manager at the Liberia Cement Corporation Madam Kulubo Eunice Korkorlor thanked the Red Cross for always partnering with them in ensuring that all workplaces are safe.

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# Speaker Chambers

Bleebo Brown also attended the occasion.

Maryland County is among eight others, currently

participating in the National Elections Commission Biometric Voters' Registration, expected to end on May 11, 2023.

## Speaker Chambers gets rousing welcome in Pleebo

.....Citizens assured him of overwhelming re-election

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers received a rousing welcome in his native Pleebo Sodoken District in Maryland County to participate in the ongoing National Elections

elaborate program, held in the square of Pleebo City. During such program, auxiliaries, youth, women, religious, and traditional chiefs among others renewed their commitment to the re-election

development projects including scholarships, loans, medical drugs to health centers, the construction of markets, schools, churches, radio stations, and the provision of jobs. The Marylanders were grateful to the Speaker and



Commission Biometric Voters' registration process amidst assurance from supporters of his overwhelming re-election victory. Thousands of Liberians loyal to the re-election bids of Dr. Chambers and Liberian President, George Weah, stormed the principal street to welcome him. The Speaker's welcoming ceremony ended with an

of Weah-Chambers during the upcoming October Presidential and Legislative Elections. The citizens renewed their commitments during a mass welcoming ceremony as part of his arrival for the ongoing Voter's registration in the County. The citizens among others also extolled the Honorable Speaker and President George Weah for the numerous

the Liberian President for their commitment towards the pavement of the southeastern road corridor. For his part, Speaker Chambers lauded the citizens for the overwhelming turn-up whilst pleading with them to register. A number of local leaders and the County's Senator,

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## LNRC celebrates World Safety and Health Day at work

By Bridgett Milton  
The Liberian National Red Cross (LNRC) over the weekend celebrated World Safety and Health Day at work at the Liberia Cement Corporation on the Japan Free Way. According to LNRC Business Manager of Workplace First Aid Mr. Marcus D. Washington, every year on 28 April, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated by the institution. He said the day promotes awareness and reduces occupational diseases and accidents worldwide. He noted that the emphasis is on the creation and upkeep of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) management system.

"After the Covid-19 pandemic, this strategy gained importance by establishing a culture of safety and health. During the pandemic, the

governments, employers, employees, public health actors, and other important parties at the national and company levels," he said.



effective OSH system had meaningful engagement from

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