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

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Who becomes Cummings' running mate?



-CPP two-Day National Convention in Ganta will decide



Speaker denies "Vote Buying" Stunt

-Says LD Bank notes in display were an extension of no-interest micro loan programs

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Continental News

UN Calls for Effort to Push Sudan's Warring Sides Toward Resolution

United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk urged countries with influence in Africa to encourage Sudan's warring sides to end the fighting that began last month. Addressing an emergency session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, Turk said the conflict has pushed "this much-suffering country into catastrophe."



Smoke rises in Khartoum, Sudan,

"I condemn the use of violence by individuals who have no regard for the lives and fundamental rights of millions of their own compatriots," Turk said. Fighting in Sudan's capital worsened Wednesday,

with witnesses reporting airstrikes, rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in several neighborhoods. The Sudanese meeting in Saudi Arabia for almost a week. A Western diplomat familiar with the talks told Reuters that mediators were focusing on an agreement on a cease-fire and humanitarian access.

Nigeria's Tinubu off to Europe to 'fine-tune' transition plan

U.S. Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland has said U.S. negotiators were "cautiously optimistic" on both points. The two generals are former allies who together orchestrated an October 2021 military coup that derailed a transition to civilian rule following the 2019 ouster of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir. Tensions between the generals have been growing over disagreements about how the RSF should be integrated in the army and who should oversee that process. The restructuring of the military was part of an effort to restore the country to civilian rule and end the political crisis sparked by the 2021 military coup.

Repeated cease-fire agreements have failed to end the conflict or even do much to reduce the violence. The U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday more than 700,000 Sudanese have fled their homes since the violence broke out last month — a figure that is more than double the 334,000 the agency reported to be internally displaced last week. VOA

Nigerian President-elect Bola Tinubu has departed for Europe, in what his aide described as a "working visit", and part of final preparations for his assumption of office on 29 May. This is the second time Mr Tinubu will be travelling out of the country since he was declared president-elect in March. He returned to Nigeria on 24 April after a four-week vacation in France.

In a statement on Wednesday, his spokesperson Tunde Rahman said Mr Tinubu "will use the opportunity of the trip to fine-tune the transition plans and programmes, and his policy options with some of his key aides without unnecessary pressures and distractions".

During the visit, the president-elect will also engage with investors and other key allies hoping to

convince them of Nigeria's readiness to do business under his leadership. He is scheduled to return shortly for preparations towards his official swearing-in, his aide said. Mr Tinubu's victory is being challenged in a election tribunal

by several opposition candidates, including Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi. Outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari has extended his London trip for dental treatment after he attended the King's coronation last week. BBC



He returned to Nigeria last month after a four-week vacation in France

South Africa accused of supplying arms to Russia

The US ambassador to South Africa has accused the country of supplying weapons to Russia despite its professed neutrality in the war in Ukraine. Reuben Brigety claimed that a Russian ship was loaded with ammunition and arms in Cape Town last December. President Cyril Ramaphosa's office said it was disappointed by the claims and said no evidence has been provided to support them.

The country has maintained claims of neutrality in the invasion of Ukraine. Mr Brigety said at a media briefing in Pretoria on Thursday that Washington had concerns about the country's stated non-aligned stance on the conflict. He referred to the docking of a cargo ship in the Simon's Town naval base between 6 and 8 December last year which he was "confident" uploaded weapons and ammunition "as it made its way back to

of the invasion of Ukraine. The naval exercises took place over 10 days in February and were criticised by opposition figures as an endorsement of the Russian invasion. The South African authorities denied the war games were provocatively timed to coincide with the one-year anniversary and said the country routinely hosts similar drills with other nations, including France and the US. South Africa previously abstained from a UN vote condemning the invasion. It also refused to join the US and Europe in imposing sanctions on Russia.

In response to a question raised by the leader of the opposition John Steenhuisen, President Ramaphosa told parliament on Thursday that the comments made by the US ambassador would be looked into.

The president asked opposition parties to allow for the process to be completed, adding that "in time we will be able to speak about it". The US State Department has not yet commented on the claims. If they are true, they not only weaken South Africa's claim of neutrality,



The Russian fleet sent to South Africa for naval exercises was led by the Admiral Gorshkov warship

Russia". The presence of the ship, the Lady R, had seemed curious at the time and raised questions from some local politicians. "The arming of the Russians is extremely serious, and we do not consider this issue to be resolved," Mr Brigety said, in a damning accusation that seems to have caught South Africa's officials off guard. In the wake of the allegations, the South African government announced the establishment of an independent inquiry led by a retired judge, a spokesman for the president's office said. The US has been critical for months about South Africa's continued cosy relationship with Russia.

It also expressed concerns about South Africa's participation in military exercises with Russia and China during the anniversary

but some may even go as far as saying the country is complicit in the ongoing aggression of Russia in Ukraine. "If South African bullets are found on Ukraine bodies, that is not a position we would want to be in," one expert in international relations said. The details around the arms cache are still thin. It is not clear if the weapons would have been acquired from a state-owned arms company, or a weapons company based in South Africa.

But either way, this does not bode well for South Africa's international ties, especially with the US, one of its largest trade allies. At the heart of the issue for South Africa now, off the back of these claims, will be the impression this could create that the country is not only non-aligned but has in fact chosen to be a "soft ally" to Russia, at a time when some Western countries see Russia as an aggressor guilty of human rights violations. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

NEC should intervene now

Turning the Corner on Inequality?

Reports of logistical breakdown in the ongoing Biometric Voter's Registration exercise in some parts of Lofa and Maryland Counties should draw the immediate attention of authorities of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Monrovia. Reports indicate that eligible Liberians turning out to register specifically in Foya District, Lofa and some parts of Maryland are unable to do so because NEC staff on the ground face technical problems with their machines.

Last week, the national chairman of the opposition Unity Party (UP) Rev. Luther Tarpeh, drove to the headquarters of the NEC in Monrovia and filed an official complaint about the situation that he said is occurring in the district that is stronghold of his standard bearer, former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Rev. Tarpeh also spoke of similar occurrence in Maryland County where solar panels, cameras and computers of NEC are reportedly malfunctioning.

These developments are being corroborated by independent reporters on the ground with NEC staff in the counties unable to provide any immediate remedy unfortunately, instead, looking up to headquarters in Monrovia for solution.

The electoral commission transitioned from manual registration to biometric voter's registration process, but gadgets provided to staff in the fields are malfunctioning, sometimes for days, leaving citizens turning out for the exercise frustrated. This is happening so despite no extension of the BVR process by NEC.

It is unfair for innocent citizens who sincerely want to register in order to exercise their political franchise on polling day by voting candidates of their choice to face such problem. Similar experiences were recorded during Phase I of the BVR process, which left citizens complaining.

It is important that the NEC moves expeditiously to address the concerns raised by the UP chairman, Rev. Tarpeh, not only to ensure a smooth exercise, but to assure political parties and their leaders and other stakeholders that this is not deliberate, especially so when BVR is going on in districts where the ruling CDC commands significant support, while districts in which the opposition are said to be heavily concentrated face such challenge.

The NEC should leave no room for any suspicion or contention, as we move to the October 10th Presidential and General Elections by giving attention to problems coming from the field and addressing them promptly.

No complaint should be ignored no matter how insignificant, where it comes from or who is involved. Paying prompt attention would assure all sides, including the electorate, political parties, would-be Independent Candidates and other stakeholders that the NEC is on top of its game.

At the same time, we call for trust on all sides which will give the NEC time in addressing concerns coming out of the field. Lest we forget, this is the constituted body responsible for conduct of elections in Liberia.

It is important that all hands remain on deck, as we endeavor to have free, fair and transparent elections to further strengthen our emerging democracy for the benefit of the entire nation.

MILAN - Economic policymakers around the world have struggled to stem rising inequality - a trend that has impeded economic growth, fueled populist electoral victories, and jeopardized liberal democracy. It was thus widely and understandably feared that unskilled workers would suffer deeply as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and, more recently, the energy-price shock that followed Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. But, in both cases, the impact has been relatively benign.

After the initial pandemic shock in early 2020, economies and job growth rebounded strongly. Thanks to the robust recovery, together with far-reaching government support programs, income inequality fell by most measures, especially in the United States, owing to substantial cash transfers to households, but also throughout Europe, where government income support was more moderate.

Before the pandemic recovery was complete, however, another shock arrived: Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and energy prices spiked. But not all energy shocks are created equal. Whereas in the past they were driven largely by crude oil prices - which peaked immediately after the invasion, but are now in line with the pre-war average - natural gas is the main problem today. While natural-gas prices have fallen from their post-invasion peak in the summer of 2022, they remain 2-3 times higher than the pre-2021 average.

This is not a problem for the US. On the contrary, as a (small) net exporter of natural gas, the US has benefited from the energy-price shock, as its terms of trade have improved (export prices have increased by more than import prices). As a result, the country, in the aggregate, can consume more.

But while high gas prices have made the US a little bit richer, they have made Europe substantially poorer. Because Europe imports most of its natural gas, consumers and firms are still paying significantly more for energy than they were before the war, and the eurozone's terms of trade have deteriorated, implying an income loss of close to 2% of GDP.

With wage growth lagging behind inflation, real wages have fallen sharply throughout Europe (they have remained roughly constant in the US), creating the impression that inequality has increased. But the average values might be misleading. After all, wage growth is not necessarily consistent across income groups, and the inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index, does not reflect differences in cost-of-living fluctuations across the income distribution.

Both across and within countries, lower-income households tend to spend a larger share of their budget on energy than their high-income counterparts. In Romania - one of the European Union's poorer members - energy and food account for 25% of all consumption expenditure, compared to 13% in much wealthier Germany. At the same time, the bottom quintile of the income distribution within Germany spends more on non-transport energy (8%) than the top quintile (5%). This means that, when energy prices increase, the official inflation rate might understate the extent to which poorer households lose purchasing power.

But other forces might offset the increase in energy costs. For example, poorer households tend to rent, rather than own, their residences, and rents have increased more slowly than the overall price level.

Such effects do not necessarily fully offset increased energy prices. If one measures the impact of inflation on households at various income levels, adjusted for their group's consumption patterns, one does find some cases where the effective inflation rate for the lowest-income quantile is several percentage points higher than it is for the richest quantile. This phenomenon is especially prevalent in poorer countries.

But there are also cases where low-income households have suffered a smaller loss in purchasing power than wealthier households. This is the case in Germany, where home ownership is less common, and France, where the price of energy has been kept low for households. Since these two countries account for a significant share of the eurozone economy, the average difference between the purchasing-power losses suffered by the richest and the poorest households in the eurozone is small.

Moreover, in the US and some European countries, wages are increasing faster at the bottom end of the income distribution - what in the US has been called "unexpected wage compression." In Germany, unskilled employees' wages have increased by about 8% over the last year, while senior specialists or executives have secured increases averaging less than 2%.

Observers are not wrong to highlight the hardship that the pandemic and the Ukraine war have wrought for many poorer countries and households, some of which struggled to keep warm this winter. But average figures and blanket statements fail to account for important differences across income groups, not least the disproportionate increase in income gains for those at the bottom of the distribution.



Lord, LIB 2023 election da real action movie drama ooh-Rescue 1&2, Fixer 1&2-awaa...

Dear Father;

I say dis orlor LIB 2023 election here wen you hear de ticket them name sef, you will forget da election and think da some kinda action show ooh. Names leh Rescue 1&2, Fixer 1&2, awaa. Then we geh, de Broom man, de Sweeper. De man mon go sweep de big Courtyard again! You say watin?

Oh, Father, de thin I tellin you da na fun ooh. De pepo ticket them name sef can geh you so excited da you wan de election to come quick, quick. Bor, wah de meanin for all dis one na?

Oh, Father de pepo say our highly forested village na get in some wrong hands and de pepo from de different, different group them say they comin to retake de village from de Country Giant and him pekin them. You wan come see de Country Giant and him owner pepo planning again? Da Fire!

So, da who be Rescue 1 & 2 na? Ehn you remember da old pappy who used to be with de Iron Lady, de one who say he wor a racing car parked in de garage? Yes, my son.

Da him. He na geh one new engine. Da Old Sojar man who de pepo can be making scarry with war crime court na gav him son to him to be de Rescue 2. I wonder who him son aye?

Oh, Father you na remember da Yanna Boy, who used to be passing around here. Ay mehn, he chopped Paramount Chief job de orlor time and he one of de big chiefs at de Traditional Council na. You mean da him comin to drive de parked racing car?

No, Father, he and de oldman da Rescue 1 and 2 and de Old Sojar man na gav him blessing to them so da him country pepo can join them too.

See me see trouble, da na easy rescue mission ooh. De Old Sojar man who wor with de Country Giant and him pekin them just de orlor day na turned to rescue vehicle too? Dis sound leh war show for true ya.

Father, ehn da de Old Sojar man, him on revenge mission plus recue-it na for fun! So, tell me, I heard you say they geh one orlor ticket called Fixer 1 and 2, da one da crime movie or romance?

Father, da de orlor ticket. Right na da only de Taxi Driver one on da ticket. Ehn you know da brabee who used to sell Coca-Cola from Uncle Sam's Village da him. He say him wan fix our village becus Country Giant and him pepo fini spoiling it with bad, bad thin them. You joking!

Father dis thin da na joking matter ooh. De man right, right na he in de Old Sojar back yard having big meetin with him pepo to choose him number two to be Fixer 2. De thin da happenin here you think da fun. Ehn hen, so tell me abot de Broom man, who him carrying too?

Umm, Father, we na hear nathin about him number two yet oo. Maybe he still lookin around with him broom. Bor de way nobody feel leh sweeping right na, da de one I am thinkin on.

So, all de noise da goin on wah thin de Country Giant and him pekin them doin? Ooh Father, da small thing Country Giant and him pepo doin? Right na they na scattered barracks all over de village. You know wathin it mean for you to take somethin weh you enjoyin for pepo to say giv it back? It na small thin.

You know da de Country Giant and him pekin them even throw bomb in de pepo camp da wah make scattered them all over de place. Tell me something!

Father, da na small thin ooh. Da small bomb Country Giant and him pepo throw in de orlor pepo camp; de one Uncle Sam threw in da Japan Village sef small. Till date, de pepo can't see eye to eye. Anyway, we here; we waiting for de show to start. I tiyah yah.

OPINION

By Ayşe Zarakol

Turkey's Democratic Resilience

CAMBRIDGE - Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections on May 14 have been called the most important of the year. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) is trailing in polls behind his main opponent, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP) who is backed by a broad opposition alliance. If Erdoğan is defeated, the elections will have global significance, demonstrating that the erosion of democracies worldwide in recent years can be reversed - and that even firmly entrenched strongmen can be shown the door.

While other leaders cut from the same cloth, including former US President Donald Trump and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, have also lost elections in recent years, the Turkish opposition faces a tougher task. The country's slide towards full-blown authoritarianism is nearly complete. Erdoğan has been in power for more than 20 years - much longer than either Trump or Bolsonaro was - and has used this time to shape the state in his own image.

Erdoğan formally or informally controls all of Turkey's political institutions, further centralizing an already-centralized state. There are hardly any checks on his executive presidency: the parliament is a rubber stamp, and the judiciary answers to him. The military is defanged; the police are loyal. His alliance with the far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) means that he has a semi-organized civil militia at his disposal (the opposition suspects that such a group was involved in the stoning of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and his supporters at a campaign rally in Erzurum last Sunday). A nationwide network of cronies and political appointees feed on the regime's corruption, with much to lose if Kılıçdaroğlu wins.

Erdoğan also maintains a firm grip on Turkey's media. Most TV channels and print outlets run nonstop pro-AKP coverage, while opposition candidates must campaign via online interviews and social media. Selahattin Demirtaş, the erstwhile leader of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), campaigns from prison.

Many international observers are understandably skeptical that the opposition will win or, rather, that Erdoğan will allow a loss. After all, leaders who amass so much power do not tend to give it up willingly. Opposition voters are being warned not to get their hopes up.

But such "realism" misses a key point: the fact that we are even speculating about the possibility of Erdoğan's ouster next Sunday (or later in the month, if the election goes to a run-off) is the result of the opposition bloc's dogged refusal to give up hope. As Max Weber said in his 1919 lecture Politics as a Vocation, "man would not have attained the possible unless time and again he had reached out for the impossible."

It is forgotten now, but a common complaint about pre-Erdoğan Turkey was that its citizens lacked a proper civic culture and understanding of democracy. It was said that Turks always looked to the armed forces to save them from political crises. Had this characterization been true, Turkey's opposition would be as cowed as Russia's by now. Yet here we are.

Regardless of the outcome on Sunday, Turkey's democratic forces have truly proven their resilience. Most of the country's opposition parties have united behind one presidential candidate, who has promised to restore the parliamentary system that Erdoğan overturned in 2017. Many journalists, politicians, and civil-society leaders have been imprisoned, yet others continue working. Many ordinary citizens have been detained on spurious charges of insulting Erdoğan or for their social-media posts, yet people continue criticizing the regime.

Individuals volunteer to monitor voting and protect ballot boxes. Civil-society groups organize buses to take those displaced by the recent earthquake back to the cities where they are registered to vote. At the heart of these efforts is the belief that no strongman is as strong as he seems in the face of determined opposition.

Moreover, those fighting for democracy in Turkey can rely only on themselves, not on the military - or even on the international community. The support Erdoğan receives from other autocratic leaders is more visible, but democratic governments have also given him free rein. Western leaders may complain about Erdoğan but are willing to make deals with him as needed, whether to reduce irregular migration or to restart Ukrainian grain exports. In some ways, an opposition victory would create more uncertainty for the West.

If the opposition wins more votes than Erdoğan, the credit will belong wholly to Turkey's citizens. By standing up to an autocrat, they have shown, once again, that the demand for democracy is not confined to the West. No matter what happens on or after Sunday, their commitment is the best guarantee that democracy will prevail.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nimba elder warns PYJ, Yekeh Kolubah

An elder of Nimba County, William Kanneh, a.k.a "American", is warning Senator Prince Y. Johnson of Nimba and Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, to desist from publicly abusing President George Weah. He warns that the two

invectives on the President as the nation goes to elections is tantamount to promoting violence and should not be encouraged. He maintains that if they do not stop, traditional elders from Nimba, Bong and Lofa would call them for advice. He says such behavior against the highest office of the land sends a very bad

intervention for peaceful resolution rather than resorting to verbal attacks. "We elected them so, they supposed to call us if there is any problem", he adds. He observes that the Head of the National Traditional Council of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Kawah, is silent on this matter, which is not good, saying "We are not excluding Chief Zanzan Kawah, but we cannot sit and watch things go out of hand."

He calls on all those aspiring for political offices in the pending elections to promote peace and unity among their supporters in order to keep Liberia stable. Senator Prince Johnson, who supported Mr. Weah's election in 2017, fell out with the President and has taken his MDR party to former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai with its standard bearer, Senator Jeremiah Koug, now running mate to Ambassador Boakai.

Opposition lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah is a vocal critic of President Weah and is noted for publicly ranting abuses against President Weah, much to the displeasure of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change. Story by *Jonathan Browne*

signal to youths of Liberia that it's ok to disrespect leaders. Elder Kanneh, who presently resides in Soul Clinic community, Paynesville, says if the two legislators have any qualms with President Weah, they should seek the traditional leaders' lawmakers risk being dragged before traditional elders of the land if they do not stop publicly disgracing the President. Speaking to the NEW DAWN in an exclusive interview Thursday, May 11, Mr. Kanneh notes that raining

was among other things, to hold discussions with the established fisheries cooperatives on the usage of the free Yamaha outboard engines they have received from the government through NaFAA, to clear issues surrounding lands acquired for the construction of landing sites and at the same time, hold discussions with the various fishmongers on NaFAA's plan to provide loans through its partners for the enhancement of their activities. During Madam Glassco several meetings in the four coastal counties she urged all

fishermen and fishmongers to form part of the established fisheries cooperatives. Moreover, some of the fishermen who are part of the cooperatives disclosed the fully utilization of the outboard engines during discussions with Madam Glassco and team. Others disclosed that they have not begun the utilization of their engines since the free distribution by government, however said they are carving canoes to begin using those engines. DG Glassco assured the Fishermen and Fishmongers

Celebrating Mothers by deeds, not words; The APM Terminals Liberia example

The second Sunday in May every year has become an important calendar day all over the world and especially in Africa. It is dedicated to celebrating mothers and the mother figures in our lives. Because of the recognition of the role mothers play in our society, corporate brands also join in this celebration with solidarity messages and social media activations perhaps in an attempt to demonstrate how important mothers are to them. But how should corporate brands demonstrate their love for women, mothers, and potential mothers all year long beyond the pomp and pageantry of Mothers' Day? APM Terminals Liberia, port operators of the Freeport of Monrovia through their company culture and corporate social initiatives set the right examples

Every year, APM Terminals Liberia visits maternity wards during the Christmas holiday period to celebrate with newborn babies and mothers. Care packages are given to these mothers and in the past two years, more than 500 mothers at the Redemption and John F Kennedy Memorial Hospitals, Duport Road Clinic, St Joseph Catholic Hospital, ELWA Hospital, and J&J Memorial Clinic amongst others have benefitted from this program. The company has done this with the belief that outside the work environment, women, as our mothers, nurture the next generation and must be given all the help necessary to deliver on this mandate. By making these donations, the beneficiary mothers are able to get a head start on their journey as mothers. But APM Terminals Liberia does not stop there. Under its community outreach program



for the corporate world to follow. As part of its core principles and values, this global leading port-operating company is using the power of diversity and acknowledges the gains a gender-balanced workforce can chalk for any contemporary organization. For this reason, the company has purposefully committed to developing a gender-balanced staff role, despite the sector being a male-dominated one. This global principle trickles down to all APM Terminals across the world and in Liberia examples abound of the many Liberian female professionals who have developed their practice working at APM Terminals Liberia at the Freeport of Monrovia. This culture is backed by the belief that women are equally capable as their male counterparts. Outside of the work environment, APM Terminals Liberia has demonstrated its leadership in acknowledging the role of mothers in society at large by making corporate social responsibility contributions to aid women in society.

dubbed the Go-Green campaign, the company purchases food supplies on a yearly basis from local vendors and distributes them to the vulnerable in society, majority of whom are women. Acknowledging the challenges some of our mothers face in their old age, the company provides food supplies to aged women, many of whom are living on their own and may not have access to the resources they need. As we celebrate Mothers' Day this year, it is important to acknowledge the important role that motherhood plays in our society. APM Terminals is setting an example for other companies by actively supporting the empowerment of women in a number of ways. The company continues to lead the way in acknowledging the important contributions of mothers and women and as we remember and celebrate mothers, corporate brands are reminded of the need to channel interventions specifically at women and our mothers to improve their well-being.

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NaFAA boss tours Southeast Liberia

The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, (NaFAA) has completed a tour of four coastal counties, including Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland, assuring fishermen and fishmongers of government continuous support to the fisheries sector. According to a press release, Madam Emma Metieh Glassco and team during their 14 days of stay out of Monrovia, visited fishing communities across the four coastal counties and held discussions with county authorities, fishermen now formed into cooperatives and fishmongers, (women involved into the processing and sale of fish). Some of the fishing communities visited in southeast Liberia were Fish Town, Harper, Cavalla, middle town and rock town all in Maryland; Grandcess and Sass town all in Grand Kru county, Kru and Fanti fishing communities in Sinoe and Kru and Fanti fishing communities in Cestos City, Rivercess, respectively. The purpose of the tour

was among other things, to hold discussions with the established fisheries cooperatives on the usage of the free Yamaha outboard engines they have received from the government through NaFAA, to clear issues surrounding lands acquired for the construction of landing sites and at the same time, hold discussions with the various fishmongers on NaFAA's plan to provide loans through its partners for the enhancement of their activities. During Madam Glassco several meetings in the four coastal counties she urged all

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Madam Glassco addressing fishmongers and Fishermen in Greenville City Sinoe County

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'Koung deceiving voters' -Gongloe supporters on war crimes court commitment

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe's supporters say Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koung is deceiving voters by announcing support for establishment of a war and economic crimes court. The Gongloe

and economic crimes court often irritates Senator Johnson, notorious for overseeing the brutal murder of then-sitting President Samuel Kanyon Doe during the civil war.

There is no public record if Senator Johnson and Mr. Koung shared the same thoughts regarding the call for Liberia to

into their deception and falsehood to treat them as they have been treated by President Weah," GYM alleged.

The Gongloe supporters argued that there is no guarantee that Mr. Koung will support a war and economic crimes court when he has no record of supporting it in the past. "We can't trust him even when his political godfather consistently frowns on people that call for the court," they added.

Recently, Senator Koung pledged his commitment to the establishment of the war and economic crimes court.

Senator Koung indicated that he supports the court's establishment so that all Liberians that committed war crimes and crimes against humanity can account for their wrongs.

In reaction, GYM National Chairman Mr. Ephraim T. Nyumah described Senator Koung's commitment as a political rhetoric that is intended to fool the electorate. In an exclusive telephone interview with the NewDawn Newspaper Thursday, 11 May 2023, Nyumah said while he supports the establishment of the court, he disagrees with its continued politicization.

"The first thing I want to say

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Sen. Jeremiah Koung

supporters contend that Mr. Koung, running mate of Liberia's opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, has no record of supporting war crimes court.

Mr. Koung is the political leader of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR), founded by former Liberian warlord, now Nimba Senator, Prince Y. Johnson. The campaign to establish a war

establish a war crimes court. Notwithstanding, the 'Gongloe Youth Movement' (GYM),

a group of youthful volunteers from across the country supporting Cllr. Gongloe presidential, insist that Mr. Koung is announcing support for war crimes court because he wants state power. "This statement is not just a deception, but a call to blindfold the electorate to buy

Truck Workers Union suspends operation

By Naneka Hoffman

The President of the National Dump Truck Workers Union of Liberia has temporarily grounded all trucks in Caldwell, Montserrado County because of frequent accidents along the route.

Mr. Morris Sangare, says the decision is aimed at creating awareness among truck drivers to curtail wave of accidents as a result of excessive speed.

He says the Union held a workshop for drivers on Thursday that was graced by authorities from the Traffic Division of the Liberia National Police.

He explains that no truck was allowed to run in Caldwell during the workshop, adding "Before we can start any business, I will have a meeting with all the drivers to see how best they will be running and police will be there to put things under control. We do not want anything to happen between us and the citizens."

Mr. Sangare notes that if accident is too much it could lead to angry mob burning their trucks, which will create problems among drivers, motorcyclists and citizens.

"Because of the too much accidents on the road, the last time the community chairman called me and we held meeting with the commissioner; we went straight forward with that discussion but now, I want to have a series of meetings; I am going to start with the drivers and I will not get exhausted

with the meeting with them to see how best we can put things under control so the accident rate can be limited in the country."

Mr. Sangare says drivers are being abreast of their rights and advised to exercise care while driving. "When they are driving, they shouldn't be on the phone and they shouldn't overtake on the road; they shouldn't drive with slippers."

He continues that each

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Judge unhappy over Liberia's failed waste management system

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian judge assigned in Nimba County, hopes the country can combat and defeat plastic waste, expressing disappointment over the country's failure in waste management.

Delivering a change recently, Judge George W. Smith said it's so saddening that Liberia fought collectively and defeated COVID-19 and Ebola, and yet, the country is unable to defeat environmental waste especially plastic waste.

"When EBOLA and COVID-19 invaded this Country and waged wars on us, we showed patriotism, honor, and duty to our Country and therefore we won those wars," said Judge Smith.

"Unfortunately, we are yet to defeat one war that is continuously being waged on us - a war that continues to affect

battle against the war [of] plastic bags and dirt ... waged against Liberia," he said.

He suggested that the Executive and Judiciary must provide their combatants by prosecuting and punishing those who violate the Environmental Sanitation Laws and City Ordinances.

Generally, he said, the courts do not go outside looking for cases to judge.

He, therefore, called on the Executive to prosecute violators in court.

On the other hand, he said since this war is against all including members of the Judiciary, the courts have a direct stake in this deadly war. "Therefore, the Supreme Court of Liberia has availed a contingent of soldiers, our magistrates, on the war front to fight this war against the littering of plastic bags and dirt in our country,"

He said. He explained that any



Judge George W. Smith

our health and even sometimes takes our lives," he said further.

According to Judge Smith, plastic waste destroys properties and besmears and degrades the environmental beauty of the country.

"That war, a war easier to combat and defeat than EBOLA and COVID-19, is the war of littering of plastic bags and other dirt in the streets," he said.

According to him, the Public Health Law of Liberia, the Environment Sanitation provisions thereof, and the City Ordinances prohibit the disposal of plastic bags and dirt in the streets, gutters, drainages, and all public and private places.

Judge Smith indicated that violation of the City Ordinances is punishable by fines up to imprisonment.

"The ... Legislature has set the stage by providing their contingent of soldiers, through direct and dedicated (City Ordinances) legislations to

Justice of the Peace or Magistrate exercising functions within the limits of cities, towns, and commonwealth districts are vested with jurisdiction over cases arising under the Sanitary Act of December 19, 1930, as amended, and the City Ordinances.

He detailed that the Justice of the Peace or Magistrate shall set aside every Monday in a week for the trial of all cases arising out of the Sanitary Act and City Ordinances issued from time to time.

"Such trials shall be summary and judgments shall be rendered and enforced without delay," Judge Smith noted.

He, therefore, charged the local and municipal governments and law enforcement departments to cause the arrest and prosecution in the magistrate courts.

Judge Smith stated that violators of the Environmental Sanitation Law and City Ordinances must be punished.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Who becomes Cummings' running mate?

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is expected to select its leadership team at the party's planned National Convention in Ganta, Nimba which kicks off today. The convention is also expected

South Sudan, Madam Leymah Gbowee, a 2011 Nobel Laureate, former Senate Pro-temp Gbezhongar Findley and former Bong County Senator Franklin Siakor.

The CPP Ganta convention is also expected to elect its Senatorial and Representative

Canada, and other parts of the world.

The 2023 Convention will be held under the theme, "Real Change is Coming: Time to Fix our Country Together".

Twelve committees, including Transportation, Lodging, Feeding, Finance, Communications, and Resolution have been constituted, with Counsellor Aloysius Toe as Chairman, and Madam Ruggie Barry as Co-Chair of the CPP National Convention.

The National Elections Commission (NEC), members of the Diplomatic Corps, opposition political parties, including the ruling party, the media and other prominent Liberians have been invited to observe the convention.

Cummings, 66, has over 40 years of working experience as an international businessman.

He worked with Pillsbury Company and moved to Coca Cola Company, where he served as Regional Manager for Coca Cola in Nigeria and later as Manager of Coca Cola Africa, culminating his career as Chief Administrative Officer for Coca Cola Global.

He was conferred the Distinction of Knight Great Band-Humane Order of African Redemption by Liberia's former President, Madam Ellen

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Red Cross cries for support

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) says lack of budgetary support is hindering the effective running of the institution particularly in swiftly responding to emergencies and disaster cases.

Secretary General Gregory Blamoh, addressing a media briefing on Thursday, May 11, disclosed that there has been no direct government support in the last five years to the Red Cross to adequately build strong resilience in vulnerable communities.

He criticizes the government for being complacent in providing support, reminding that the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) was established in 1919 and

the most vulnerable are not left behind, which includes prioritizing access to basic needs such as food, water, and shelter as well as providing critical health care services", he adds.

As part of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent month and official celebration, which is being held under the theme: 'Everything we do comes from the heart' Blamoh told a press conference on Thursday that there is a need for support, coordination and combined efforts and consolidated resources to demonstrate exceptional kindness toward humanity in response to the immense needs of the most vulnerable.

The pledge for continued efforts comes on the heels of the observance of this year's Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Day.

Disclosing its activities for this



Secretary General Gregory Blamoh

to witness the announcement of a running mate to presumed CPP standard bearer Alexander B. Cummings by close of Saturday May 13.

Currently there are about four shortlisted candidates, one of which is expected to emerge as running mate to Mr. Cummings alias "Fixer 1". Those shortlisted are Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti currently United Nations Resident Representative in

Candidates for the 2023 General and Presidential Elections slated for October 10.

The CPP comprising the Alternative National Congress (ANC), the Liberty Party, and other political affiliates and interest groups have as its current Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings. The two days National Convention is expected to bring together 500 delegates from the 15 counties of Liberia, as well as the United States of America,

trend in COVID-19 deaths. He also named a decline in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and ICU admissions. According to him, the circulating variants are not associated with increased disease severity and high levels of population immunity to SARS-CoV-2 from infection, vaccination, or both.

At the same time, the WHO Country Representative to Liberia said the Emergency Committee considered three reasons to conclude that COVID-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.

He recounted that COVID-19 was declared a public health

emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020, and characterized as a pandemic in March of the same year. According to Dr. Clement Peter, COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue.

Meanwhile, the WHO through its Country Representative to Liberia has encouraged countries to implement some essential recommendations.

He admonished countries to sustain the national capacity gains and prepare for future events to avoid the occurrence of a cycle of panic and neglect.

'COVID-19 is no longer public health emergency'

-Dr. Clement Peter
By Ethel A Tweh

The Country Representative of the World Health Organization to Liberia, Dr. Clement Peter has disclosed that COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a public health emergency of international concern. Dr. Peter told a news conference Wednesday in Monrovia that the International Health Regulation Emergency Committee on COVID-19 met for the fifth time on May 4, 2023. He added that after the meeting, the Committee issued a statement on May 5, 2023, advising the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General that the pandemic is no longer considered a global health concern.

Dr. Peter stressed that the global risk assessment of COVID-19 remains high, but there is evidence of reducing risks to human health.

According to him, the Committee members highlighted some key criteria to reach its decisions, including the decreasing



reaffirmed in 2008 by an act of the National Legislature to assist with humanitarian services to vulnerable people and communities in Liberia.

Since its formation, the LNRCS has been a voluntary humanitarian organization, buttressing government's efforts to deliver services to the most vulnerable during emergencies, including disasters and conflict.

The Red Cross is represented in each of the fifteen counties by a chapter and in districts by a branch.

SG Blamoh says at this critical juncture, it is imperative that Liberians come together to address pressing humanitarian challenges that require concerted efforts.

"We need to invest in innovative approaches that build resilience and ensure that

year's celebration, Mr. Blamoh said, "The LNRCS team will focus on people in communities, the next door, who often are the first to step up and support those in need around them."

He says the LNRCS will visit homes of people with disabilities, orphans and those with special needs to present food and essential non-food items.

"Volunteers will also engage in community services by cleaning the homes and rendering domestic services to people in need of our help."

May of each year is known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Month and an official celebration is held on May 8 to commemorate the birthday of the movement's founder, Henry Dunant. This year's celebration is under the global theme: "Believe in the power of kindness." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Français

Le Libéria va perdre un diamant d'une valeur de 2,7 millions de dollars

Certains courtiers en or et en diamants seraient sur le point de faire sortir clandestinement du Libéria un diamant de 53,27 carats évalué à 2,7 millions de dollars, selon des informations recueillies par ce quotidien. Cela représente une perte énorme pour le

chasseur, pêcheur et mineur de diamants.

Le diamant devrait être passé en contrebande du Libéria vers l'Italie dans les prochains jours, mais le ministre adjoint des Mines, Emmanuel Swen, a dit que cela n'a pas été le cas.

L'État, selon lui, va bénéficier de sa redevance ou de sa taxe

“Claim-9”.

Mais Mohammed (Junior) a déclaré aux enquêteurs que le diamant avait été trouvé sur le site d'un autre mineur, également identifié comme “Claim-12”.

Mais le président de la Gold and Diamond Brokers Association of Liberia, M. Fallah B. Kamara, a exprimé son mécontentement face à la procédure menant à la propriété du diamant.

Membre du conseil d'administration de l'Initiative libérienne pour la transparence des industries extractives (LEITI), M. Kamara a accusé le ministre adjoint des Mines Swen d'avoir mené une enquête inappropriée.

Il a dit que M. Swen cherche à priver Madame Fatu Borbor de la propriété du diamant.

Il a expliqué que Mohammed Kamara travaillait sur le site minier de Madame Borbor lorsque le diamant a été découvert.

Cependant, le président de Gold and Diamond Brokers a fait valoir que le ministre adjoint Swen et quelques autres, dont Ishaka B. Konneh, alias “Kpaku”, ont incité Kamara à nier que le diamant ait été trouvé à Claim-9.

Selon M. Kamara, lorsque le diamant a été trouvé, il se trouvait à Monrovia. Mais il a dit avoir appelé un certain Manju Kamara, ancien

après la transaction.

Pendant ce temps, il y a une controverse sur la zone minière dans laquelle le diamant a été trouvé.

Les propriétaires de différentes zones minières prétendent que la pierre précieuse a été trouvée dans leur site minier et ils le revendiquent donc.

L'une d'entre elles, Madame Fatu Borbor, soutient que le diamant a été découvert dans sa zone minière identifiée comme

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Manifestations en Guinée : libéré, un responsable du mouvement FNDC attend désormais son procès

En Guinée, trois cadres du Front national pour la défense de la Constitution (FNDC), mouvement qui avait été en pointe contre un troisième mandat d'Alpha Condé et qui s'oppose désormais à la conduite de la transition, sont sortis de prison le 10 mai 2023 après 10 mois de détention. Ibrahima Diallo, responsable des opérations du FNDC, revient sur le contexte de sa libération.

Après 10 mois de détention, ils sont sortis de prison le 10 mai 2023 en Guinée : trois responsables du Front national pour la défense de la Constitution (FNDC). Parmi eux, Ibrahima Diallo. Enfermé le 30 juillet, le responsable des opérations du FNDC a finalement été libéré ce mercredi. Un FNDC qui avait été le fer de lance de la contestation au troisième mandat d'Alpha Condé et qui s'oppose

désormais à la conduite de la transition.

Ibrahima Diallo a profité de ces premiers moments en famille. Assis sur le canapé du salon, il est en train de regarder la télévision avec ses proches. La veille encore, il était incarcéré à la maison centrale de Conkary, réputée pour ses conditions de détention difficiles et sa surpopulation

carcérale. Là-bas, il est tombé malade, a contracté le paludisme.

Sa sortie de prison, il la doit, dit-il, aux « pressions exercées par les militants du FNDC et ses sympathisants, les citoyens pro-démocratie qui n'ont jamais cessé de se mobiliser

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Éditorial

La NEC devrait intervenir maintenant

Il y a des informations qui font état des pannes du matériel logistique de l'opération d'inscription biométrique des électeurs en cours dans certaines localités dans les comtés de Lofa et de Maryland. Que cela attire immédiatement l'attention des autorités de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) à Monrovia.

Les rapports indiquent que les Libériens qui se présentent pour se faire enregistrer spécifiquement dans le district de Foya à Lofa et dans certaines parties du Maryland ne peuvent pas le faire parce que le personnel de la NEC sur le terrain a des problèmes techniques avec le matériel électronique.

La semaine dernière, le président national de l'Unity Party (UP), le révérend Luther Tarpeh, s'est rendu au siège de la NEC à Monrovia et a déposé une plainte officielle concernant la situation qui, selon lui, se produit dans le district qui est le fief de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Le révérend Tarpeh a également parlé d'un événement similaire dans le comté de Maryland où des panneaux solaires, des caméras et des ordinateurs de la NEC ne seraient plus fonctionnels.

Ces développements sont corroborés par des journalistes indépendants sur le terrain. Le personnel de la NEC dans les comtés seraient incapables de remédier immédiatement à la situation. Ils se tournent malheureusement vers le siège à Monrovia pour trouver une solution.

La commission électorale est passée de l'inscription manuelle au processus d'inscription biométrique des électeurs, mais les gadgets fournis au personnel sur le terrain fonctionnent mal, parfois pendant des jours, au point de frustrer les citoyens qui dans demeurent dans les longues pendant des jours sans se faire enregistrer. Pourtant, la commission électorale elle-même refuse de procéder à une extension de la durée impartie pour l'opération d'inscription des électeurs dans les comtés.

C'est une injustice notoire à l'égard des citoyens qui souhaitent sincèrement s'inscrire afin d'exercer leur droit de vote le jour du scrutin et choisir leurs dirigeants. Des expériences similaires ont été enregistrées au cours de la phase I du processus. Beaucoup de citoyens s'en sont plaints, mais en vain.

Il est important que la NEC agisse rapidement pour répondre aux préoccupations soulevées par le président de l'UP, le révérend Tarpeh, non seulement pour faire en sorte que l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs ne soit confrontée à des heurts, mais surtout pour faire comprendre aux partis politiques et à leurs dirigeants et autres parties prenantes que ce n'est pas délibéré, surtout quand tout va bien dans les localités favorables au pouvoir tandis que tout va mal dans les localités hostiles au régime en place.

Que la NEC ne laisse aucune place à la suspicion ou à la contestation pendant que nous nous dirigeons vers les élections présidentielles et générales du 10 octobre. Elle a intérêt à se pencher rapidement sur les problèmes.

Aucune plainte ne doit être ignorée ou négligée, aussi insignifiante soit-elle, peu importe d'où elle vient ou qui est en l'auteur. Une attention rapide permettra à toutes les parties, y compris l'électorat, les partis politiques, les candidats indépendants potentiels et les autres parties prenantes, de dire que la NEC fait bien son boulot.

Dans le même temps, nous appelons toutes les parties à faire confiance en la NEC qui a besoin du temps pour répondre aux préoccupations qui émanent du terrain.

Il est important que tout le monde garde son calme. Aussi faut-il que la NEC fasse en sorte que les élections soient libres, équitables et transparentes pour renforcer davantage notre démocratie naissante au profit de toute la nation.

Français

Le Libéria va perdre un diamant d'une

président de l'Association des courtiers, qui aurait confirmé que le diamant avait été trouvé à Claim-9, dans le comté de Gbarpolu.

Selon lui, Manju s'est dit surpris d'apprendre que le diamant a été trouvé à Claim-12 après l'enquête du ministre Swen.

Il a en outre indiqué qu'il avait demandé à Manju de se saisir de l'affaire puisqu'il n'était pas sur le terrain à ce moment-là.

Il a dit avoir demandé à Manjur de s'assurer que le diamant est conservé en toute sécurité afin qu'il puisse passer par la procédure appropriée pour que le gouvernement obtienne sa part.

Kamara a déclaré que lorsqu'il est arrivé dans le comté le lendemain, il a demandé à Manju de faire venir le type qui avait trouvé le diamant.

Mais il a dit qu'il avait été informé que Kamara était en lieu sûr avec Ishaka Konneh et ne pouvait pas sortir.

Selon lui, c'est grâce à l'intervention du sénateur Saah Joseph qu'ils ont vu pour la première fois le diamant et "Junior".

"Quand nous les avons vus, nous sommes venus en ville avec tous ces gens au ministère des Mines, et le ministre proprement dit a demandé à "Junior" s'il était vrai qu'il avait trouvé le diamant. Et il a dit oui, mais ça n'était pas avec lui", a déclaré M. Kamara.

Selon lui, le ministre a ordonné à la police... de veiller à ce que Junior montre le diamant, mais le ministre adjoint Swen l'a interrompu et a dit que le suspect devait aller et venir le lendemain avec le diamant.

"Mais j'ai dit au ministre que son action était mauvaise et contraire à notre loi sur les minéraux."

Selon lui, la loi sur les minéraux stipule que quiconque n'est pas un revendeur et n'a pas de licence ne peut pas garder un diamant ou avoir de l'or.

Il pensait que donner le diamant à Konneh et Mohammed Kamara était illégal car le diamant aurait dû être en possession du ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie jusqu'à la fin de l'enquête.

Manifestations en Guinée : libéré, un responsable

afin d'exiger [leur] libération ».

Cette dernière s'est faite en deux temps. D'abord, les chefs religieux sont venus les voir le 8 mai, leur proposant, explique-t-il, un compromis : leur liberté contre l'assurance qu'ils renonceraient à leur lutte citoyenne. Les leaders du FNDC ont refusé.

En outre, M. Kamara a allégué que le ministre Swen a été impliqué dans des « transactions minières clandestines » en usant de son influence pour prendre illégalement les diamants des négociants, notant que la situation actuelle en est un exemple.

"J'ai perdu confiance dans le ministre Swen parce qu'il a eu tort de permettre à Kpaku de garder le diamant. Cette action justifie qu'il a caché ses mains sous cette chose", a noté M. Kamara.

D'autre part, Ma-Fatu Borbor affirme que le diamant provient de son site à Lofa River, à Smith Town.

Elle a dit que Junior avait participé à une opération illégale le 21 avril et qu'elle et son fils l'avaient vu creuser le sol le même jour.

Ma-Fatu accuse Junior et les autorités d'avoir l'intention de lui voler le diamant trouvé sur son site, notant qu'il y a des témoins pour le prouver.

Contacté, le ministre Emmanuel Swen a déclaré qu'il a mené une enquête approfondie sur la question conformément aux directives du ministère.

Il a déclaré que toutes les parties étaient présentes, ce qui suggérerait que le diamant avait été trouvé sur le site Claim-12 et non sur le site Claim-9.

Claim est le terme donné à un site minier pour réduire de moitié divers segments.

Selon lui, au cours de l'enquête, Kamara qui a découvert le diamant a dit qu'il subissait des pressions de la part du président Kamara et d'autres personnes pour déclarer que la pierre précieuse avait été trouvée à Claim-9.

M. Swen a dit que Kamara voulait que le diamant soit remis à Ma Fatu, sa belle-mère.

Le ministre Swen a dit qu'au cours de l'enquête, il y a eu des contradictions dans les témoignages de six témoins.

Selon lui, l'enquête est déjà terminée et la partie qui détient le diamant peut le vendre à n'importe qui, et le ministère ne peut pas l'arrêter.

"J'ai communiqué avec le ministère et on m'a dit que le diamant n'avait pas été exporté. S'il est acheté selon la bonne procédure, le ministère ne peut pas l'arrêter", a-t-il affirmé.

Puis, le 10 mai, autour de 20h, le directeur de l'administration pénitentiaire vient les voir, porteur d'un message du procureur général de la Cour d'Appel. Ils sont libres ! « Mais quelle liberté ? », s'interrogent alors les militants. À l'autre bout du fil, le procureur évoque une liberté sans condition, jusqu'à la tenue de leur procès.

Procès du 28-septembre en Guinée : la version de Moussa Tiegboro Camara remise en cause



Au procès du massacre du stade de Conakry, les parties civiles sont entendues depuis le mois de février. Parmi les 11 accusés de la répression qui s'est abattue sur l'opposition le 28 septembre 2009 faisant plus de 150 morts, Moussa Tiegboro Camara a été particulièrement mis en cause au cours des dernières audiences. À l'époque des faits, il était secrétaire d'État chargé de la lutte contre la drogue et le crime organisé.

Dans son récit, face à la cour, Tiegboro s'était donné le beau rôle. En octobre dernier, il avait nié toute participation au massacre, affirmant au contraire avoir sauvé certains leaders : « Monsieur Abdoulaye Bah, savez-vous que votre témoignage bat en brèche l'idée d'un quelconque sauvetage de leaders par le commandant Tiegboro et autres. »

« Matés au stade »

Celui qui remet en cause la version de Tiegboro, c'est Abdoulaye 3 Bah, garde du corps du leader de l'UFDG, Cellou Dalein Diallo à l'époque des faits. Mardi, il était interrogé par les avocats des parties civiles : « Est-ce que les leaders politiques n'avaient pas été matés au stade ? ». « Au stade, il a vu les leaders de l'opposition être roués de coups par les

bérets rouges, sous le regard impassible de Moussa Tiegboro Camara », dit-il en pular, pendant qu'un interprète assure la traduction en français.

Confrontations

« Vous avez également déclaré que les hommes de Tiegboro lui obéissaient quand il leur donnait des ordres, oui ou non ? ». Ce à quoi l'ancien responsable a répondu : « Lui seul pouvait sauver tous les leaders et que personne ne soit battu ».

Après les parties civiles, les témoins seront appelés à la barre, viendra ensuite le temps des confrontations. Tiegboro aura l'occasion de répondre à ces accusations.

Côte d'Ivoire : Chantal Nanaba Camara nommée présidente du Conseil constitutionnel

Composé de sept membres, le Conseil constitutionnel est l'organe régulateur du fonctionnement des pouvoirs publics. Sur le plan politique, elle aura notamment pour rôle de veiller à la conformité des scrutins présidentiels et parlementaires.

Le président ivoirien, Alassane Ouattara, a nommé mardi 9 mai par décret Chantal Nanaba Camara à la tête du Conseil constitutionnel. À 69 ans, elle a le rang de « magistrat hors hiérarchie ». Cette femme respectée a un parcours sans faute : première femme à avoir présidé la Cour de cassation, première femme à la tête du Conseil supérieur de la magistrature... Cette juge a par ailleurs été décorée de l'Ordre national de la Côte d'Ivoire par Alassane Ouattara.

Son prédécesseur, Mamadou Koné, avait prêté serment à ce poste le 12 mars 2015, après la démission de Francis Wodié. Il avait assuré l'intérim pendant deux ans, avant d'être nommé à ce poste pour un mandat de six ans.

Chantal Camara prendra ses fonctions à partir du 21 juillet. D'ici



là, trois autres conseillers seront aussi nommés. Le Conseil constitutionnel, composé de sept membres, sera ainsi totalement renouvelé.

Veiller à la conformité des scrutins

Côté politique, cette instance aura notamment pour rôle de valider les candidatures à la présidentielle de 2025, de veiller à la conformité de ce scrutin et de proclamer les résultats définitifs de cette élection.

« Chantal Camara a fait ses preuves en tant que magistrate », relève le politologue Geoffroy Julien Kouao. « Pourra-t-elle se détacher le moment venu, pour ne dire que le droit ? », s'interroge ce chercheur.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia: The 54th Legislature Has failed the Liberian People

By. S.Karweaye

In May 2022, I wrote an article titled The National Legislature's Budget and Waste where I revealed how the Liberian lawmakers were eating Liberia's wealth through insane salaries, allowances, etc. In the article, I argued that a recurring theme of Liberia's 17 years of post-conflict democracy is the blurred lines between the executive and the legislative branches of government. Today, Liberians are seeing serious collusion between Liberian President George Weah and the National Legislature, with the ultimate goals of waste and misplaced priorities in the governing of the state.

In Liberia, the National Legislature makes the laws, has oversight functions over the executive, while the executive implements the laws, and the judiciary interprets them. Unfortunately, the executive branch has attracted all the attention and enjoys all the influence over and above the other two tiers. This reality has made some people question the relevance of our legislature and not reckon with it, especially in the recent past where, unfortunately, the National legislature looks more like a student dormitory of equals, with no exciting debates, bickering on the floor, and or innovative vision for the development of this country.

On April 2023, the US Ambassador, Michael McCarthy, through a press release lamented Liberia's misplaced priorities under the George Weah-led administration. According to Ambassador McCarthy, "While hospitals went without, and service centers withered on the vine, the 30 senators and the 73 representatives spent sixty-five million US dollars feathering their own nests." Ambassador McCarthy also questioned, "Why are legislators and ministers, those living on the top of the heap, given annual duty-free imports that deny the LRA much-needed additional revenue?" The controversy Ambassador McCarthy's disclosure generated has shaken the country especially the clear absurdity surrounding the monetary compensation of lawmakers while health centers around the country lie in poor condition.

Ironically, Montserrado County District #4 lawmaker, Rep. Rustolyn Dennis accused the US Ambassador, McCarthy of lying about the 54th legislature's budget. According to Representative Dennis, Ambassador McCarthy's press release was highly misleading and came as a result of what she described as his misunderstanding of how the Legislature's budgets work.

She writes "Your judgment is not only unfair but highly misleading in some areas. You have confused the citizens more than alerted them. Let me state unequivocally herein, our budget we passed is never US\$65m. Next the 40m [plus] that is passed is not for 30 Senators and 73 Representatives, rather it's for the over four thousand workers in central administration and all the legislative staffers for each member. Your failure to analyze those funds led to your blanket categorization of the legislature."

Truth be told, the National Legislature has powers under the Constitution to make this country better, but it appears to have been caught in its own web of malfeasance that has rendered it compromised and unwilling to do the needful. Rather, it has insisted and demonstrated over time that it is simply a part of government and cannot see any fault in the operations of the executive. This is the kernel of the legislature's failing, and it has badly rubbed off on the country.

The failures of the National Legislature to effectively activate its oversight roles over the

executive is the reason why Rep. Rustolyn Dennis of Montserrado County District #4 doesn't know that in the 2022 national budget, US\$ 64.3 million was approved for the national legislature, but the 2023 budget shows US\$65.6 million was captured as outturn (The payment of expenditure in the legislature budget). It is the failure of our representatives and senators to conduct legislative oversight that led to the revelation of Ambassador McCarthy that "most of the County Service Centers, and in 2022, NONE had received any of their budget allocation (usually around US\$13,333). One Center has not printed marriage certificates for four years because the printer broke, and their last allocation was received five years ago. Hospitals on which lives depend, where outbreaks are prevented and suffering is alleviated, did not receive any portion of the US\$100,000 or more appropriated by the legislature for them to operate."

Obviously, these vituperations coming from Rep. Rustolyn Dennis are less than sincere and are probably intended for the gallery, given the erstwhile disposition of the lawmakers to the executive arm. The National Legislature including legislators from opposition



political parties cannot extricate themselves from the failings of the government it is an integral part of. Not only Rep. Rustolyn Dennis's comment is puerile, but it is also offensive to the common sensibility of Liberians more so as the legislative and executive branches of government are jointly and severally liable for the bastardized state of the nation. An attempt by either to exculpate itself is not feasible.

Notably, of the three arms of government: Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary; the legislature is the most powerful. Apart from its lawmaking and oversight responsibilities, the National Legislature, to a reasonable extent, determines the composition of the top members of the executive arm of government except for the offices of the President and Vice President. This is because all ministerial nominees and heads of ministries, commissions, departments, agencies, and even the judiciary, must first receive its approval before they can substantively assume office.

Additionally, an institution that enjoys the exclusive prerogative to empower and enlarge the powers of the court combines the executive and judicial powers to investigate, arrest, summon, and examine any person and reserves the right to fix the remuneration of all three arms of government cannot claim to be handicapped. The constitution virtually placed the entire country under the control of the National Legislature. The only snag is that the National Legislature as presently constituted lacks the political will to put Liberia first!

The legislative arm of government at all levels has been slothful in discharging its oversight duties judiciously and effectively. The occasional instances of disaffection between the executive and legislature have largely been for selfish political gains rather than in the public interest.

Liberia is under dire economic constraints due to its huge debt profile and debt serving, yet the National Legislature continues to approve further borrowings without interrogating the utilization of previous ones and the implications of accumulating debts with compound and multiple interests. Instead of taking up their assignments seriously, the legislators have simply resorted to theatrics.

The President traveled abroad often and stayed for weeks or months, without legislative involvement only to stay abroad and write them an extension of stay abroad. Weah's non-committal attitude is a direct consequence of the laxity of the National Legislature. Otherwise, a proactive National Legislature would have commenced impeachment proceedings against the Chief Executive for recently violating the code of conduct.

It is not fallacious that the National Legislature is too weak to fight corruption and wasteful expenditure. The true position is that the legislators have refused to do the needful because they are equally caught in the web of corruption at the capitol building.

Furthermore, the National Legislature is partly responsible for the ballooning cost of governance in Liberia. The Liberian lawmakers are among the highest paid in West Africa. The legislative budgets have tended to increase over the years. An important hike occurred in 2009 when the total legislature budget rose from US\$9.4 million in 2007 to US\$19 million in 2009. By 2011, this budget stood at US\$26 million. By 2013, the legislature budget was US\$ 39 million, and by 2015, the budget was at US\$54 million. In 2016 and 2017, the budget was around US\$47 million, and US\$44.6 million in 2020. In 2021, it was 39.6 million. In 2022, another hike occurred to the tune of US\$65.6 million, the highest in the history of Liberia, and in 2023, the legislature budget is 42.7 million.

In 2021, Senator Darius Dillion reported through his asset declaration that lawmakers earned as much as \$126,588! Apart from bonuses and other incentives, the annual salary of the Speaker of the House of Representatives is US\$245,540 while the annual salary of the President Pro Tempore is US\$254,250. Ironically, the Speaker of the United States House Of Representatives' annual salary is US 223,500 while the salary of the US Senate President Pro Tempore is US \$193,400.

They avoid the interrogations of Liberians on their huge emoluments, allowances, and perquisites of office which in itself bloats the cost of governance that the legislature accuses the executive of perpetrating. They arrogate unto themselves the unconstitutional power to pad the budget in their favor but fail to render an account of how they utilize humongous amounts for their so-called legislative engagement funds, etc. Indeed, the National Legislature cannot free itself from the stunted development of the country of its failure to ensure that the executive arm lives up to its responsibilities. The legislators have proven to be self-serving and lacking patriotism.

Sadly, Liberians are equally blameworthy due to their passiveness. They fail to recognize the inherent power they collectively possess in determining the composition of the ruling class. Liberians should leverage the 2023 presidential and legislative elections to carefully elect deserving leaders while those that are responsible for the near collapse of the country are shown the exit door. We say thank you, Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy. Well done.

Speaker denies "Vote Buying" Stunt

House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers has refuted media reports about buying votes in his native Pleebo Sodoken year. Dr. Chambers said the money depicted in the picture accounts for three hundred thousand Liberian Dollars (LD300,000) valued at

biometric voter registration process. Liberians will go to the polls in October to vote in a democratic election. Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to complete the BVR process as of May 11, 2023.

Supporters say the social media stunt is a serious contradiction to the guidelines of the NEC relative to campaign activities.

It has been established that Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers is among several other Lawmakers involved with voters' registration and not pre-campaigning nor buying votes.

Meanwhile, Speaker Chambers has also dedicated two modern town Halls in Kwidoken and Seleken towns respectively in Maryland County at the cost of 20 thousand United States dollars each. So far, It's the first time that the two towns are benefiting from a modern concrete structure comprising flush latrines, and separate offices in order to conduct meetings among other gatherings.

It has been reported that Speaker Chambers has also been reaching out to several towns and villages in his native Pleebo Sodoken creating awareness of the BVR process.



District Maryland County. The Speaker, who is currently in his district, said the pictorial of some Liberian Dollars bank notes making rounds in some quarters of the Liberian Media linking him to buying votes is false and only intended to bring about a media stunt against him from political detractors attempting to impugn his integrity as Liberia gets ready for the holding of general and presidential elections, October this

US\$1900, he presented to beneficiaries of his loan scheme to empower some small-scale market women in a community called Hospital Camp in Pleebo Sodoken, to grow their businesses. The Speaker explained that he will continue to positively impact his citizens, adding that he is willing to meet some of the needs of his people at all times.

Maryland County is among eight other counties participating in the ongoing

Who becomes Cummings' running mate?

Johnson Sirleaf, for his great humanitarian work in Liberia and support to various institutions.

Grand Bassa County Community College and the Annur Islamic University in Liberia.

Cummings is the Founder of Cummings Africa Foundation, providing scholarships and educational assistance to hundreds of needy Liberian students. He is an alumini of the College of West Africa (CWA), attended the Cuttington University College, and worked with the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI).

Other learning institutions that have benefited from Cummings educational assistance program include the Gbalatua High School in Bong County, the St. Clements University and the College of West Africa (CWA).

With a master's degree in business and finance from Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia, Cummings said he wants to bring his decades of business expertise and passion to help improve the

Cummings also made substantial financial contributions towards the construction of the Bolongoidu Mosque in Lofa County, and constructed a bridge that connects Big Town to Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County.

The Cummings Africa Foundation (CAF) since its establishment has also implemented more than 22 quick

Starts from back page

Nonstop go-slow

employees of ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) in Yekepa and Buchanan engaged in industrial action, stalling the company's production and operations in both locations, posing a risk to other employees.

"As we monitor the situation closely, the safety and security of our employees, the community, and our contractors will continue to be of top priority. We are in contact with the Ministry of Labor and representatives of

the workers' union. The Ministry has scheduled a meeting with all parties to which we hope to find a resolution for all parties involved," The company statement further noted.

Starts from page 6

'Koung deceiving voters'

is that the call for the establishment of the war and economic crimes court can't be used by politicians or people who [are] ... 'beneficiaries of [a] spoiled system' to score political goals," said Nyumah.

marriage with the main opposition Unity Party is to save his political leader Mr. Johnson from being prosecuted.

how [the] leadership failed to establish the court and betrayed the Liberian people," Nyumah argued.

"This call from Senator Koung is a rhetoric, deception, and diabolical lie to secure state power," Nyumah continued.

He alleged that this was what they did with incumbent President George Manneh Weah and former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Judging from the past, Nyumah contended that there is no guarantee that a Boakai administration will establish a war and economic crimes court when Senator Johnson supports the Noakai-Koung presidential ticket.

He alleged that Koung's mission for his political

"In 2011, Senator Johnson supported President Sirleaf ..., he also supported President Weah. With all those collaborations, Liberians saw

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Truck Workers Union

time there is an accident involving truck drivers and commercial motorcyclists, drivers are blamed without any investigation so the best thing is to minimize the wave of accidents by careful driving.

the Union does not want to fall in trouble with government adding, "We don't want it that way so, we need to be careful with our driving and forget about telephone calls and take our own time because we don't have roads in the country."

appeals to government to have crosswalks along the Caldwell Road, and for motorcyclists to ride with care as the route is very narrow. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Mr. Sangare says he thought it wise to organize such meetings to conscientize drivers because

He discloses that the Union has more than 700 dump trucks in Caldwell.

At the same time, he



lives of Liberians as President, through massive economic development programs that will get Liberians back to work.

impact projects with 25 implementing partners, which benefited over 30,000 Liberians.

Cummings has made substantial financial contributions, as well as donated generators and set up modern computers laboratories at the University of Liberia Fendel campus, the Booker Washington Institute (BWI), the Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County, the Nimba County Community College (NCCC), the

At the height of the Ebola crisis, Mr. Cummings led a high-level delegation of Coca Cola Executives to Liberia and contributed US\$1 million, distributed relief items, and paid WAEC fees and tutorial support for 2,322 students from 21 schools nationwide.

Cummings is a family man, married over 40 years to Madam Treasa with two children and five grandchildren.

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May 9, 2023

Re-Survey Notice

The general public is hereby informed that based upon the request of **Mr. Godwin A. Amegashie** has duly authorized the undersigned Registered Licensed Surveyor of **Contours, Limited, Survey, Mapping, Construction and Technical Services** to Conduct Perimeter & Detail Re-Survey of **Two Point Zero (2.0) Lots** of land situated in the Township of **Paynesville, Montserrado County-- Republic of Liberia in Favor of Mr. George D. Kromah.**

The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated in **Zubah Town, Rehab Drive, Paynesville City, Montserrado County--Republic of Liberia.**

This Re-survey will commence on **Saturday, 13th of May 2023** beginning at **2:00PM.**

Therefore, all adjoining & adjacent property owners, and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals/ initials corner stones:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Daniel Tupodeh 2. Mr. Edwin Smith 3. Mr. Francis Nyumah 4. Mr. Abraham Sannah 5. All other interested Parties 	INITIAL A.S.M.S E.L.D T.C
--	---

Signed by: Albert D. Giah Jr.
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Licensed #: 093
Cell #: 0886740519/0770266609

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Nonstop go-slow at Arcelor Mittal

-As workers accuse mining giant of bad labor practice

By Thomas Domah / Nimba County
Nonstop go-slow is said to be continuing at ArcelorMittal Liberia mining facilities in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties as over 800 employees are said to be



demanding pay. Report says normal activities came to a standstill on Wednesday, May 10, as workers continue to push their demands for pay. "There will be no Work at this facility until our demands are met," Mr. Chea Romeo

Brooks, an aggrieved employee told reporters during an interview. He explained that their decision to stop the company from carrying out any operation is based on the order from the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Labour calling on the company

management to address the plight of the aggrieved employees. The workers are demanding equal rights and equal pay for all, while accusing management of partiality. According to the workers, since 2021 and up to present,

management has refused to address their plights. They are demanding more health facilities; salary increments and more jobs opportunities for Liberians among others. The aggrieved employees lamented that since 2021, they have been engaging the Management of ArcelorMittal and including the Ministry of Labour about their plights but there has been no redress. Our correspondent said the action by the employees have affected mining activities at the company, adding equipment being used for mining, transportation of ores from Yekepa, Nimba County to Grand Bassa County have been shut down.

"Truck drivers are paid 2,700 USD, but at ArcelorMittal, they paid us 750 US. They bring their brothers and sisters from outside of Liberia and pay them huge money compared to what they are paying we Liberians," they added.

When contacted, the Management of ArcelorMittal - Liberia issued a statement confirming that during early morning hours of Wednesday May 10, 2023, some

management to address the plight of the aggrieved employees. The workers are demanding equal rights and equal pay for all, while accusing management of partiality. According to the workers, since 2021 and up to present,

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