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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023	L\$166.1500/US\$1.00	L\$168.1675/US\$1.00

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

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New future of hope

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Continental News

Kenyan Government Acknowledges Failure in Not Preventing Cult Deaths

Kenyan President William Ruto has said his government takes responsibility for the deaths of more than 200 members of a

Kenyan news media on Sunday, President William Ruto took responsibility for the government's failure to prevent the tragic deaths.

plea to any criminal charge.

Kenyan authorities say more than 200 bodies have been exhumed in Shakahola forest in Kilifi County, where the church's followers met their deaths. Postmortem examinations showed that some of the victims died of hunger, while others were killed by strangulation or suffocation, and some had injuries to the head. Francis Wanje rescued one of his three grandchildren in March. He said the government officers in the area failed the community.

"Some of us went to the high offices, and they started taking action one month after the first report was done at the police station. So, there were quite a number of things that were happening, a lot of laxity. I don't know if there was corruption or whatever. If the people in charge would have gone faster after our reports that's on the 17th, then I think they could have saved many lives," said Wanje. Mackenzie was arrested on March 14 after police raided his church. Investigators are charging the pastor with radicalization and terrorism. The local community and family members have accused some government officers of failing to stop rogue preachers teaching harmful beliefs to their followers. Ruto pledged to address the issue without tramping on freedom of religion. VOA

"I am taking responsibility that as president, this should not have happened. And certainly, some people who are responsible for this failure on the part of the government will have to give an account, because it should not have happened when we have all the agencies," he said. The leader of Good News International Church, Pastor Paul Mackenzie, is currently detained in Mombasa, facing charges of preaching dangerous beliefs that led to the deaths of his followers. He is yet to comment on the allegations against him and has not entered a



Forensic experts and homicide detectives carry the bodies of suspected members of a Christian cult named Good News

Christian cult who starved themselves. Kenyan investigators have accused preacher Paul Mackenzie of instructing his followers not to eat so they could meet Jesus. Ruto on Sunday said officials in Kenya's coastal county of Kilifi must explain how so many people died without their knowledge. The Kenyan government admits state officers in Kilifi County failed to protect the followers of Good News International Church from starving to death. In a joint interview with

South Africa and Russia to boost military ties

Senior military officers from South Africa and Russia have agreed to boost cooperation, and increase the combat readiness of their armies, in talks held in Moscow, Russia's defence ministry has been quoted as saying by the state-owned Tass news agency.

The high-level talks come days after the US ambassador to Pretoria, Reuben Brigety, accused South Africa of supplying arms and ammunition to Russia, despite its professed neutrality in the Ukraine war.

The commander of South Africa's land forces, Lieutenant General Lawrence Mbatha, led the talks with his Russian counterpart, Oleg Salyukov, in Moscow, Tass reports.

"The sides discussed issues of military cooperation, and the implementation of

projects geared to enhance the combat readiness of the two countries' armies.

"The meeting between the military commanders yielded agreements on the further expansion of cooperation between the land forces in various areas," the ministry is

quoted as saying.

Last week, South Africa found itself at the centre of a diplomatic storm with the US after Mr Brigety said he was confident that arms and ammunition were loaded on a Russian ship at a naval base in Cape Town in December.



Ethiopian Journalist Melkamsew Puts Women at Show's Heart

Ethiopian journalist Melkamsew Solomon broadcasts a weekly radio program, Yimechish, which focuses on rural women in Ethiopia.

But for some listeners, Yimechish — an Amharic slang term which roughly translates to "You go, girl" — is too niche and too narrowly focused. "We get told, 'You keep talking about women all the time, what about men's issues? Is it only women who have problems in this country?' They say that we have a lot of other societal problems. Some people say it's luxury to talk about this," Melkamsew said.

Yimechish, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been running for the past four years, highlighting issues that can improve the lives of women in areas of health and

Bethlehem Negash, a member of the Ethiopian Media Women's Association, says that women traditionally don't have a voice in the media in Ethiopia. "Mostly women are the subjects of the media, as victims and, you know, passive voices rather active ones who are, you know, who can contribute to the society," Bethlehem said.

According to a 2021 research report that Bethlehem co-authored, 30 percent of the journalists employed by seven major media houses were women. Bethlehem says media houses which offer a better work-life balance for women through providing daycare and improved maternity have been successful in growing women's participation.

"I think, maybe, what we take from that is that, for us to advocate for, you know, more balanced and female-friendly newsrooms and also media operations. So, maybe we need to



education.

In Ethiopia, most women — like men — live in rural areas, and making space for their voices is important, says Melkamsew. "We get the stories of these women to be heard," she said. "We show how hard their life is, how they don't have any help ... how far they go to fetch water, how much they carry by themselves to the market, they don't have any help. We also do stories on what they could accomplish if used this time working on something that can earn them money."

People have that "aha" moment when they hear these stories, she says.

Yimechish has received positive feedback from male audience members amidst the pushback.

appreciate some of the work done by a few media houses and also try to advocate, you know, for other media houses to replicate that as well," Bethlehem said.

Yimechish airs weekly on Sheger Radio in Ethiopia, whose owner, a veteran woman journalist, has supported the show in content production.

"She has advised me, based on her own professional experience, on who to speak to for the show, and then helped make those connections happen," Melkamsew said. "She has helped me meet a lot of distinguished women."

Shows like Yimechish are not common in Ethiopia, but media expert Bethlehem says including women's perspective in media can be used to counter the same narrative that it is guilty of echoing. VOA

EDITORIAL

Skyrocketing exchange rate is unbearable

Liberians are experiencing a sudden rise in the exchange rate between the United States Dollar and the Liberian Dollar with US\$1.00 costing as much as 168 to 170 Liberian Dollars in just a month from LRD150.

The sudden rise in the exchange rate is creating corresponding increases in prices of basic commodities especially food, petroleum and transportation, imposing serious constraints on ordinary citizens.

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, recently alarmed here about the rapid rise in the exchange rate, which he attributes to uncontrollable infusion of Liberian Dollars into the market by the ruling CDC-led government to attract voters for the re-election of President George Manneh Weah.

“They are dumping the Liberian Dollars on the market and keeping the United States Dollars. They are saving the United States Dollars because they are not too sure of winning [the] elections”, Cllr. Gongloe explained.

Members of the ruling establishment currently in government and out of government that vying for public officials are dishing out huge amounts of Liberian Dollars to citizens across the country to solidify their chances for election and re-election with serious adverse consequences on the heavily import-reliant economy.

An economist and law professor, Cllr. Gongloe warned that ordinary Liberians are going to be pushed to extreme poverty and hardship as a result of what is happening in the economy with huge amounts of Liberian Dollars chasing few United States Dollars.

“Economically, what is happening now is terrible for Liberia. However, between now and the elections, lives [are] going to be much more difficult than Liberians had ever realized”, he said.

Even prior to the official start of campaign the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change is carrying series of political projects in several counties, including Lofa and Nimba to soften the ground and rally citizens’ support.

As experienced in both the 2017 presidential election and the 2020 Special Senatorial Election when ruling party candidates dished out millions of Liberian Dollars to communities and voters, and flooded the market, a similar replay is expected, as Liberians go to the polls on October 10.

We can but only join Cllr. Gongloe in warning fellow Liberians to tighten their belt and brace themselves for the negative economic consequences during and after the elections that they would have to face as a direct result of election spending though the election law of Liberia has a ceiling on campaign finance.

COMMENTARY

By Yvonne Greenstreet

Innovating Against Injustice in Health Care

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yvonne Greenstreet is CEO of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

OP-ED

By Mariana Mazzucato

Financing the Common Good

LONDON - The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank recently held their annual spring meetings, which, according to the organizers, produced a “strong message of confidence and a willingness to cooperate.” But lofty rhetoric and good intentions will not be enough to create a truly inclusive and sustainable economy fit for the twenty-first century. For that, deep structural change is needed.

Some are calling for it. Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, advocates a “New Consensus” between wealthier and less wealthy countries. Similarly, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for a “Common Agenda” - a roadmap for global intergovernmental cooperation aimed at moving from “ideas to action.”

Reforming international finance and cooperation goes to the heart of how we “do capitalism.” If we are serious about the Common Agenda, then it needs to be complemented by a new economics of the common good.

The international monetary system that emerged in the aftermath of World War II undoubtedly represented an important innovation. But its structure is no longer fit for purpose. The challenges we face today - from climate change to public-health crises - are complex, interrelated, and global in nature. Our financial institutions must reflect this reality.

Because the financial system echoes the logic of the entire economic system, this will require a more fundamental change: we must broaden the economic thinking that has long underpinned institutional mandates. To shape the markets of the future, maximizing public value in the process, we must embrace an entirely new economics.

Most economic thinking today assigns the state and multilateral actors responsibility for removing barriers to economic activity, de-risking trade and finance, and leveling the playing field for business. As a result, governments and international lenders tinker on the edges of markets, rather than doing what is actually needed: deliberately shaping the economic and financial system to advance the common good.

This helps to explain why the world is making so little progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, which are supposed to be achieved by 2030, and why, as action lags, the costs of meeting the SDG targets are rising. Reflecting the current system’s inability to respond promptly to crises, let alone prevent them, the SDG financing gap has increased from \$2.5 trillion annually before the COVID-19 pandemic to between \$3.9 and \$7 trillion today. While compensating countries for the loss and damage they suffer as a result of climate change or other crises is essential, creating the kind of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies envisioned by the SDG agenda will require a proactive approach.

At the same time, many developing economies are struggling with large debt burdens, exacerbated by an international trade and monetary system that favors rich countries. To mitigate, prepare for, and prevent crises, developing economies need patient, long-term finance. The question is how to mobilize and direct it.

The answer must reflect the principle of the common good. The need for governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), and multilateral development banks (MDBs) to account for the public good is well established. It is widely agreed, for example, that governance is needed to manage digitization, guide the energy transition, and protect public health. But this consensus remains rooted in an ex-post mindset: the state intervenes only to correct market failures. Instead, state actors should be deliberately shaping - even co-creating - markets in which the common good is the primary objective.

Acting Ex Ante

Such a system requires an outcomes orientation; collaboration and knowledge-sharing; equity, accessibility, and sustainability; and transparency and accountability. In each of these areas, the “how” is just as important as the “what.”

The first step toward ensuring that finance supports the common good is to establish a clear mission. The 17 SDGs - with their 169 underlying targets - offer an ideal framework. But governments, IFIs, and MDBs must articulate their objectives and commit to designing the tools, institutions, and financial instruments needed to advance them.

This will entail a fundamental rethinking of the “social contract” between the state and business, with governments (as well as IFIs and MDBs) using innovative incentives, partnerships, and conditions to align private finance with the public mission. For example, the German state-owned bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) has promoted the green transition by issuing loans to the steel sector, conditioned on firms’ reduction of their resource use and greenhouse-gas emissions. Such interventions work not by leveling the playing field, but by tilting it toward the desired outcomes.


If done right, missions can shift the emphasis from financing particular sectors or types of firms to promoting ambitious goals that require cooperation among many sectors and types of firms. Rather than picking winners, the state would coordinate intersectoral responses among the willing.

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of broad-based cooperation - within and across borders - to tackle global challenges. And yet, rich countries, aided by a flawed system of intellectual-property rights, hoarded vaccine doses when they became available, and subsequent efforts to support effective redistribution were far from adequate. By making accessibility and equity an explicit objective, this “vaccine apartheid” could have been avoided, and more than a million lives could have been saved.

Unfortunately, the world seems to be moving away from cooperation. Tensions between the United States and China are increasing the risk of financial fragmentation, and divergent

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Beyond corruption within the judiciary

In his 2008 US\$1.4 Million corruption trial, former interim President Charles Gyude Bryant (late), in accusing the government of unfair trial said he was not being tried by “jurors of his peers.”

From a legal perspective, a juror of one’s peer is a jury whose members are from the same community as the person on trial. It is also a way of getting a fair jury made up of men and women who could be considered peers of the person who is on trial. This helps in reducing the chances of bias among the jurors.

In the late Bryant’s argument, members of the jury who were charged with responsibility of deciding whether, on the facts of the case, he was guilty or not guilty of the offense for which he was charged were men and women outside of his social circle and therefore, not qualified to try him.

In other words, they could not understand the intricacies of the matter at hand and therefore could not have handed down a fair and unbiased verdict in the trial.

The late Bryant’s argument of not being tried by “jurors of his peers” is one of the fundamental problems facing the Liberian Justice System that is most often or not ignored by critics of the local justice system.

Human Rights reports on the Liberian Judiciary have remained focused on bribery and corruption within the local justice system and how the rich and powerful are able to manipulate the system to steer justice in their favor.

But what has not been mentioned beyond bribery and corruption, particularly in criminal trials is the role of jurors. An uninformed jury is totally not aware of the fundamentals of the case at hand and is unable to hand down a fair and unbiased verdict that could be considered a miscarriage of justice as well.

The argument here is that select individuals who are clothed with the authority to determine the factual questions and final judgment should have knowledge of the matter at trial and not just be hand-picked to sit on a juror panel.

From personal experience, it appears that some jurors are not just abreast of the charges or have no experience in such cases. In such situations, verdicts are most likely to be influenced by emotions, intimidation, etc.

When jurors are far from or not connected to the argument of the case at hand, they remained uninformed and have no idea about the factual question of the case at hand. Therefore, their verdict will not just be unfair and biased, but it will also compromise the entire trial.

This raises the question as to how jurors are selected to preside over jury trials here. In one particular case, I was told, the jurors were selected based on their college experiences and not their experiences on such matters.

Selecting a juror because he or she is a “college” graduate with no prior experience sitting on a jury panel to preside over a matter of national security speaks volumes.

In most jurisdictions, relevant life experiences as it relates to the case in question are considered an important aspect in selecting or de-selecting a potential juror.

Other things to consider could include but are not limited to the person’s ability to withstand social pressure, legal opinions, ability to be impartial, etc. To select a group of individuals in the name of forming a jury panel is a mockery of the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

In the late Gyude Bryant trial, the Liberian Government lost the case following a series of prohibitions one of which was a writ of prohibition issued by the Supreme Court. Bryant’s lawyers asked the Supreme Court to stop his prosecution on grounds that the late Bryant was a former head of state who brought peace to the country and could not be held for actions he took while he was in office. Well whether or not that was decided on merits or demerits, its left for the lawyers’ to argue.



Office of the Secretary-General

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES)
(Women are strongly encouraged to apply)

**Position open to Nationals of the Mano River Union countries
(Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone)**

**Project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and
Transformation in the Mano River Union (BI-BEST) – Technical
Assistance and Capacity Development**

Sectors:	GENDER EQUALITY
Financing Agreement reference:	59001550168
Project ID No:	P-Z1-IDO-009
REF. NO:	EOI – AfDB/MRU/BI-BEST-0027
DATE OF ISSUE:	Monday, 8 th May 2023

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Fund to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU). The Secretariat is also serving as implementing agency for the regional component for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programmer Phase 3. As such, it intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a Procurement Specialist to provide procurement advice and manage procurement activities for both projects.

The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:

- Set up a procurement management system of the projects based on the guideline and procedures for the conduct of procurement under African Development Bank (AfDB) funded projects according to the arrangements in respective agreements, for the procurement of goods, works, non-consulting services and consultancy services.
- Establish a procurement management tracking system for the projects to monitor the implementation of procurement activities in order to provide regular credible updates.
- Ensure the utilization of the AfDB Standard procurement documents, prepare Bidding Documents and Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Quotations, Letters of Invitations, clarifications/amendments to procurement documentation required for the projects.
- Lead and facilitate various procurement processes including evaluation of bids, preparation of minutes of the Evaluation Committees and negotiation meetings, Evaluation Reports, contract award decisions, etc.
- In consultation with the Project’s beneficiary agencies, prepare and update the Projects Annual Procurement Plans and Budgets in line with AfDB specification and requirements.
- Establish a register of qualified suppliers and consultants and periodically update this register to facilitate advertisements, solicitations and drawing up of shortlists when so required.
- In consultation with the beneficiary institutions, coordinate the preparation of Terms of Reference (ToRs), technical specifications using standard documentation, as recommended in respective agreements.
- Facilitate the procurement processes, including those for International and National Competitive Bidding procedures, ensuring compliance with agreed procurement methods’ threshold, prior review requirements specific to the projects and agreed aggregate threshold amounts for less competitive procurement methods.
- Ensure effective and efficient management of all contracts under the two projects with adequate administrative mechanisms in monitoring the execution of the contracts.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual procurement reports.
- Participates in tender committees’ meetings ensuring that procurement decisions are in line with AfDB requirements and where applicable the relevant national laws. In addition, ensure

that relevant criteria and ability to comply with terms and conditions are taken into consideration during tender evaluations.

- Related to the regional component of the MRU/RDTFP Phase 3, liaise with the procurement specialist of the 3 countries executing agencies (Sierra Leone Road Authority for Sierra Leone, Ministry of Public Work (Liberia) and Ministry of Works (Guinea) to ensure that all required procurement is in compliance with the funding agreements.
- Prepare and maintain asset registers for all assets procured under Bank funded projects.
- Establish and maintain a central procurement filing system (both electronically and manually), and ensure all related documents are included in the respective files, to ensure ease of retrieval of information and the ease of following the trail of procurement by independent external auditors or authorized agents.
- Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of beneficiary agencies and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the project outcomes, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and also support institutional strengthening.
- Carry out any other relevant duties that may from time to time be assigned by the project coordinator.

The Mano River Union Secretariat now invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest in this position and women are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested candidates must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, a cover letter to the Project Coordinator including a list of a least three referees. The minimum education qualification and experience and as follows:

- Minimum Master’s Degree in Procurement or related field experience.
- A minimum of 7 years in public procurement practices and procedures and a of Minimum of 5 years of experience in handling, managing procurement for Donor funded or administered projects.
- Membership in a recognized procurement-related institute such as CIPS or ISM will be an advantage.
- Knowledge of/experience with African Development Bank/other international development organizations’ procurement procedures would be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated computer skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite especially, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Other Qualities or Requirements

- Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must;
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge – previous training or teaching experience a plus;
- High Proficiency in the use Microsoft Excel is a must;
- Very good time management skills and ability to multi-task and work under time pressure
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing;
- Fluency in English including demonstrated report writing skills;
- Ability to work in an effectively in a team-oriented environment.
- Demonstrated capacity to rapidly gain familiarity.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s Procurement Policy dated October 2015 which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested candidates may obtain further information at the address below during office hour (09.00 – 17.00 hours).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **26th May, 2023 at 12:00 hrs** and mention “Expression of Interest for: Procurement Specialist Position.

Mano River Union Secretariat
32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown
Rep. of Sierra Leone
Tel : +232 76-503-112
E-mail : job@mru.int
Copy : fnyuma@mru.int
info@mru.int
Website : www.mru.int

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

PYJ rejects plot allegations

-describes CDC Youth League as silly people

By Lewis S Teh

The chairperson of the governing council for the opposition Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR), Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson, describes plot allegation by the Youth League of the ruling Coalition

the heat of the rebel invasion in 1990, clarifies that he is no longer a soldier to overthrow Ambassador Boakai, stressing that if he were even a soldier and desired to overthrow the former Vice President, it does not concern the CDC Youth League.

Responding to the plot allegation via mobile phone in

silly people that talk rubbish.

Senator Johnson's characterization of the Youth League members comes after they accused him of plotting to overthrow the UP-Standard Bearer (Boakai) and have him replaced with Senator Jeremiah Kounte, recently named as running mate to the former Vice President.

The CDC Youth League through its chairman, Emmanuel M. Johnson, in a news conference held recently in Congo Town, accused PYJ of holding secret meetings with the people of Nimba on how to replace Ambassador Boakai.

He accused Senator Johnson of planning to overthrow Ambassador Boakai to make Jeremiah Kounte Standard Bearer of the UP, instead. The CDC youth leader described Senator Johnson as a killer, alleging the PYJ has assured Senator Kounte that he (Kounte) will take the standard bearer post of the Unity Party because former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai will not return from the United States alive. According to the CDC, Amb. Boakai has departed Liberia for the United States for critical medical surgery.

It called on the Inter-religious Council of Liberia to be on alert about the alleged plans of Senator Johnson, adding that the Nimba County Senator is on record for killing

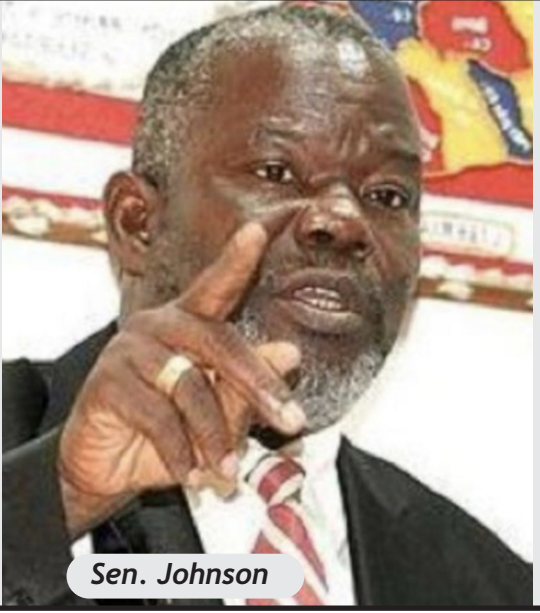
Monrovia, PYJ further terms the claim as political propaganda, adding that he is fully ready to face the battle the CDC Youth League is waging.

According to him, he is not aware whether former VP Boakai is traveling to the United States, as alleged by the Youth League.

The two times kingmaker also describes members of the CDC Youth League as bunch of

for Democratic Change (CDC) linking him (PYJ) to plan to assassinate former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai as a silly talk.

Sen. Johnson says the CDC is afraid of defeat in October because he left the Coalition to instead, make former Vice President Boakai Liberia's next President. The ex-rebel leader-turned politician, who captured and killed President Samuel Kanyon Doe during



Sen. Johnson

PLP official denies theft charge

By Lincoln G. Peters

The People's Liberation Party (PLP) Bong County chairperson Captain Jerry Kollie has denied charges of theft of property and misappropriation of entrusted property, saying he has never diverted his party's belongings for his personal use.

Captain Kollie told this paper in an interview Saturday, 13 May 2023 that the lawsuit filed against him by the PLP justifies that the party is a novice to politics.

Kollie used the interview to respond to a writ of arrest issued against him by the Monrovia City Court.

"My brother, I don't know what they are talking about. I have never taken the party's property because I have cars. This decision by the party executives is personal," Kollie alleged.

"But, what I am excited for is that this decision shows how they are [a] complete novice to politics," Mr. Kollie

noted.

On Thursday, Captain Jerry Kollie and other county chairpersons of the PLP were arrested and detained by the Monrovia City Court after being issued a writ of arrest.

The court's decision followed a complaint filed by the People's Liberation Party by and through its Vice Chairman Benedict P. Ahtee and Kalifala Kromah against captain Jerry Kollie, Oscar Holmes, Evelyn Yarkollie, Morris J. Emmanuel Greene, Abraham Sirleaf, and

Mohammed Bility. The PLP chairpersons were charged with the crime misapplication of entrusted

property, and theft of property. Based on the charges, a writ of arrest was issued for the defendants.

However, the men were released based on a criminal appearance bond filed by their lawyer to secure their release.

According to the court, the alleged crimes violate



LIBERTY PARTY

Reconciliation, Justice, and National Growth, under the Rule of Law

LFA Boss asks for more support

By Naneka Hoffman

The President of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) Mustapha I. Raji has underscored the need for more financial support to the development of the game in the country.

He also stressed a need to prioritize stakeholders across the country, while commending the Ministry of Youth and Sports and national government for support over the years.

Speaking over the weekend at the LFA 27th Ordinary Congress held in the football house newly dedicated headquarters in Swankamore Community, Congo Town, Mr. Raji outlined challenges confronting the game, including lack of support to clubs and leagues.

He said clubs are the

20 boys and girls.

Mr. Raji continued that investment in youth football will strengthen Liberian football, but emphasized that without support of government, the FA will face difficulties.

He rallied the Ministry of Youths and Sports and all authorities of government to join hands with football and sporting federations to bring partners and sponsors at a roundtable to discuss reinvesting in football in the country.

Meanwhile, several decisions have been taken at the 27th Ordinary Congress including the overwhelming passage of a US\$6.4 million budget. The Congress also approved Executive Committee's proposals for the cancellation of registration of all clubs playing in the LFA

National leagues to ease their financial burden. The forum approved the admission of six beach soccer clubs as provisional



LFA President Mustapha I. Raji

foundation and support mechanism towards success of the annual National County Sports Meet, but it is unfair that revenue generated from the County Sports Meet is not distributed among clubs that serve as feeders.

He appealed to government to take consider ideology introduced by FIFA to support players' participation at the level of the various counties. The FA boss also called for more support to the national team's programs, adding that said support is not just with the Under-20, women's senior team and men's senior team, but the Under-15, Under-17 and Under-

members for one year prior to their full membership with all associated rights at the next ordinary congress. The inclusion of the National Players Association and Sports Medics Association as provisional members was approved in order to include more of the football family in the mainstream of footballing activities.

The 27th Congress was graced by Nine (9) club members, including Samira FC, Paynesville FC, Sinoe NPA, Shaita Angels FC, Ravia Angels FC, JUST FC, LEAD, MFA, Senior Female Professionals, and Bassa Girls FC, all officially admitted as Congress members.

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Parties re-affirm 30% quota

-for female candidates

By Naneka Hoffman

The National Elections Commission and registered political parties in the country have reaffirmed their commitments to

through the Full Implementation of Section 4.5 B and C of the New Elections Law.”

Speaking at the Monrovia City Hall over the weekend in Monrovia, NEC Chairperson, Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, said the MOU between political

political dispensation.

She thanked UN Women, the United Nations Development Program, Irish Aid, Swedish Aid, ECOWAS and the European Union for their support in developing the MOU. Speaking on behalf of political parties, ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chairman, Mulbah Morlu, assured the audience that political parties will ensure implementation of the MOU in the coming elections.

Chairman Morlu further assured that all political parties will endeavor to apply provisions of the MOU to give females their rights and support needed to attain the 30 percent listing.

Representing the Resident Representative of the UNDP at the program, Mrs. Christina Solomon said that history is made by the signing of the MOU between NEC and political parties.

She said the occasion will also be remembered as an important day in modern Liberian political history for women’s political participation. Also speaking, the head of delegation for the

parties and the electoral body marks a significant milestone in the nation’s forward march towards an inclusive political environment. Madam Browne-Lansanah described the signing of the MOU as a very holistic display of firm commitment of political parties to the inclusion of women in the new

implement a memorandum of understanding that requires a minimum 30 percent quota for females in the 2023 elections.

The reaffirmation was made at a ceremony held under the theme: “Increasing Women’s Political Participation in Elections

Nyonblee endorses Boakai-Koung tick

Starts from back page

beginning of a significant turn in the political history of our beloved country,” she said. “Our action and direction today [are] in [the] execution of identifying, declaring and defending the right path, a path meant to put country first and foremost,” Senator Karnga-Lawrence explained.

She expressed appreciation for the public trust and support and all the concerns. However, the Grand Bassa Senator urged her supporters to look deeper beyond not naming her, adding that it must all be a part of God’s plan, that this time is Koung’s and not Nyonblee’s. Following the pronouncement of Senator Koung as Boakai’s running mate, Senator Karnga-Lawrence said she received in audience at her residence in Buchanan, some of the country’s national political actors.

She said they sought her and her team’s approval to feature on their tickets.

“Mr. Alexander B. Cummings followed by Ambassador Boakai who had come a few days following the nomination, to see me for the consolidation of our efforts,” said Senator Karnga-Lawrence.

“Then, came one of

Liberia’s best legal minds and astute statesman, Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe of the Liberian People’s Party (LPP).”

She narrated that her team met with teams designated by these individuals and had frank discussions.

Those discussions and the different layers of consultations, she said, gave her an insight into why and how she must act.

“In arriving at the decision, we announce here today following those engagements, we were guided by the following considerations.”

She taken into consideration were the safeguarding of the political image of her and her team, and the general direction of her partisans and supporters.

She also cited the prospects of forming a winning ticket at this time of the electoral calendar and the long-term best interest of the nation. She said when her team initially decided to team up with Amb. Boakai, it was against the background of his public service records, qualification, experience, and his love for the country.

She pointed out that to simply disengage from this process on account of not being named as running mate, would speak less of their honesty and commitment to contributing to

the change that Liberia so deserves and finds in the person of Amb. Boakai.

“As we set the train in motion for the rescue mission, I call on all Liberians including our partisans and supporters across the length and breadth of Liberia and in the diaspora to join us to support this ticket,” she pleaded.

“It is about the country and its future. Liberia stands to regain its lost image if we all work for the success of this ticket,” she noted.

Responding to his endorsement, presidential hopeful Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai extolled Senator Karnga-Lawrence for the decision.

He vowed that the rescue team will deliver for the Liberian people.

“We want to extoll you and your supporters for the decision taken here today. Indeed, history has been made,” said Boakai.

He stated that a better Liberia that will work for all Liberians is at hand. “We will make sure that the life of our people is better with good health, quality education, better economy, and job opportunities for all Liberians,” he concluded.

Liberia: EPA Boss Named UN Envoy

-For Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility

The Board of Directors of the United Nations Capital Development Fund-Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (UNCDF-LoCAL) has appointed Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, executive director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia as its ambassador.

He was appointed at the 10th annual Board Meeting of UNCDF-LoCAL on 12 May 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.

Prof. Tarpeh is now tasked with the responsibility to lobby and advocate for LoCAL as a means to channel climate finance to the local level in developing and least-developed countries. He will as well encourage other countries to join and adopt the LoCAL mechanism.

The LoCAL mechanism is an

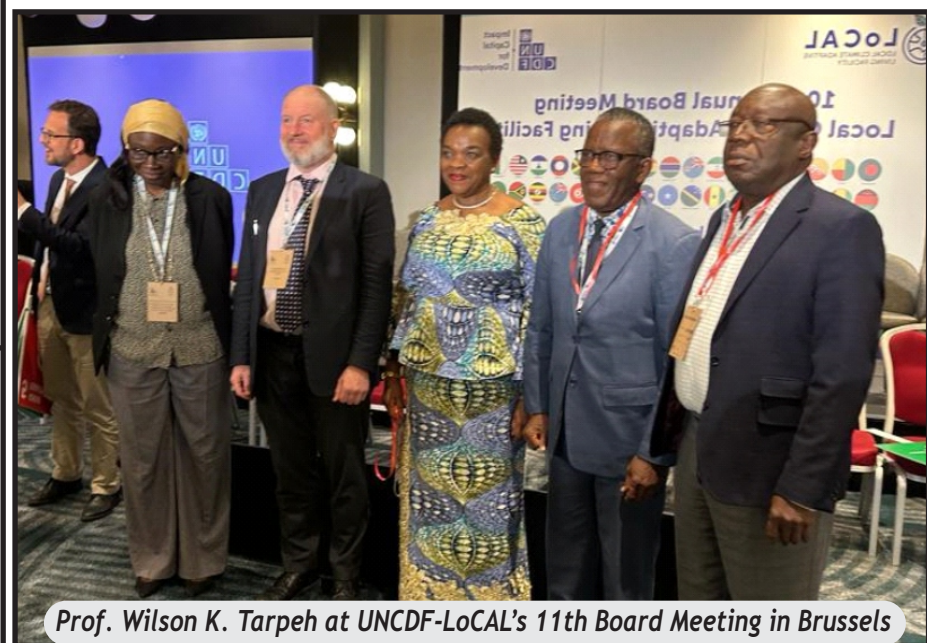
ambassador speaks to the huge leap he has made at the EPA.

It will bring enormous benefits to Liberia as LoCAL helps local government authorities in least-developed countries and other developing countries access the climate finance, capacity-building and technical support they need to respond and adapt to climate change. A standard, internationally recognized mechanism designed and hosted by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), LoCAL promotes climate-change-resilient communities and local economies.

LoCAL is owned by participating countries, most of which are LDCs, with priorities defined at the annual LoCAL Board.

At COP26, the LDC Group recognized LoCAL as a long-term initiative in support of LDCs’ climate action objectives.

LoCAL supports LDCs in



Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh at UNCDF-LoCAL's 11th Board Meeting in Brussels

opportunity to present vertical integration of adaptation at the local level.

It offers an opportunity to implement systems for adaptation financing that ensure funds reach the people that need it the most- local communities. “And this is in line with the vision of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity under the leadership of President George M. Weah,” a release from the EPA said. In response, Prof. Tarpeh said, “This accomplishment is dedicated to the men and women of the EPA, upon whose commitment, dedication, and professional output over the years, have made this possible.”

“Secondly, we bestow this designation to the Board of Directors for its sterling and strategic guidance and oversight,” The EPA Boss added. Speaking further, Prof. Tarpeh said “Lastly, and most importantly, we dedicate this to the President of the Republic whose recognition and support of the EPA, has put Liberia on the top edge of the Global Climate Change Architecture. Prof. Tarpeh’s appointment as

reviewing and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans as well as securing direct access to international finance from the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund for further deployment of the mechanism. The LoCAL guidelines were endorsed by the LDC Expert Group to the UNFCCC in 2019

LoCAL has engaged some 304 local governments, representing over 11.5 million people in 16 countries: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, The Gambia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Tanzania, and Tuvalu. Another 13 countries have expressed interest in deploying LoCAL and design activities are underway,

these include Côte d’Ivoire, Fiji, Guinea, Jamaica, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Zambia bringing the total number of LoCAL countries to 29, with the potential to reach some 600 million people. A key benefit of LoCAL is its versatility.

Français

Koung accusé de tromper le peuple concernant la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre

Un groupe de militants du candidat Taiwan Saye Gongloe accuse le sénateur Jeremiah Koung du comté de Nimba de tenter de tromper les électeurs en annonçant son soutien à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et

parti fondé par l'ancien chef de guerre libérien Prince Y. Johnson, qui est aujourd'hui sénateur du comté de Nimba.

La campagne en faveur de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques irrite souvent le sénateur Johnson, connu pour avoir supervisé le meurtre brutal

candidature de Gongloe à la présidentiel, s'est dit convaincu que M. Koung annonce son soutien au tribunal des crimes de guerre parce qu'il veut le pouvoir de l'État.

« Cette déclaration est plus qu'une tromperie, c'est une manière de tenter de bander les yeux de l'électorat pour qu'il accepte leur tromperie et leur mensonge et en retour, ils vont traiter ce même électorat comme l'a fait le président Weah », a dit le GYM.

Les militants de Gongloe ont dit douter que M. Koung soutiendra la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria, d'autant plus qu'il ne s'est jamais prononcé en faveur de cette question par le passé, avant qu'il ne fût choisi par M. Boakai comme colistier. « Nous ne pouvons pas lui faire confiance étant donné que son parrain politique continue de s'opposer à tous ceux qui militent en faveur de la création du tribunal », ont-ils ajouté.

Récemment, le sénateur Koung a promis son engagement en faveur de la création du tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques. Le sénateur Koung a dit être en faveur de la création du tribunal, parce qu'il veut que tous les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



économiques. Le groupe soutient que M. Koung, colistier du leader politique du Parti de l'Unité Joseph Nyumah Boakai, n'a jamais milité en faveur de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria. M. Koung est le leader politique du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR), le

du président en exercice Samuel Kanyon Doe pendant la guerre civile. Rien ne montre cependant que le sénateur Johnson et M. Koung partagent les mêmes points de vue concernant l'appel à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria. Nonobstant, le 'Gongloe Youth Movement' (GYM), un groupe de jeunes bénévoles issus de partout au pays et qui soutiennent la

Une Libérienne soulève de gros doutes sur la mère de Franck Kessié

Le joueur ivoirien, Franck Kessié, a actuellement le sommeil trouble. Une libérienne a fait une sortie médiatique pour soutenir mordicus être sa maman biologique. L'affaire fait grand bruit sur la toile et un journaliste a décidé de faire une mise au point des choses. Depuis quelques jours, l'international ivoirien du FC Barcelone, Franck Yannick Kessié est au centre d'une polémique. Une ressortissante libérienne du nom de Nancy Payne, a fait une sortie médiatique pour affirmer être la mère biologique du footballeur ivoirien. Une photo d'elle et ses deux enfants avec le portrait du joueur, circule actuellement sur les réseaux sociaux. Le joueur en difficulté dans son club, n'a pas encore réagi à cette affaire. Encore moins un membre de la famille de

l'enfant de Zébizékou dans le département de Gagnoa. Avant de connaître la vraie version, un journaliste et ancien chroniqueur à l'émission C'Midi sur RTI1, Boris Odilon Blé, a fait un post pour donner son avis sur cette affaire et faire des précisions pour éclairer la lanterne des uns et des autres.

Selon lui, les explications de Nancy Payne ne tiennent pas la route. "Le père de Kessié n'a jamais été au Liberia et Franck est né en Côte d'Ivoire à Ouaragahio. Franck Yannick est le fils de Alexis Kessié et

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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

Koung accusé de tromper le peuple concernant

Libériens qui ont commis des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité rendent compte de leurs crimes.

Mais, pour le président national du GYM M. Ephraim T. Nyumah, la promesse du sénateur Koung n'est rien d'autre qu'une rhétorique politique dont le but est de tromper l'électorat. Lors d'un entretien téléphonique exclusif avec le journal NewDawn le jeudi 11 mai 2023, Nyumah a déclaré une instrumentalisation politique de la question de création du tribunal de la part des politiciens libériens.

« La première chose que je veux dire, c'est de demander aux politiciens de ne pas instrumentaliser l'appel à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques à des fins politiques, », a déclaré Nyumah. « Ce que dit le

sénateur Koung est une rhétorique, une tromperie et un mensonge diabolique dont l'objectif est de prendre le pouvoir de l'État », a poursuivi Nyumah.

Selon lui, la mission de Koung dans le mariage politique avec le principal parti de l'opposition, à savoir le Parti de l'Unité, est de protéger son chef politique Johnson, de sorte qu'il ne soit pas poursuivi. « C'est ce qui s'est passé le président sortant George Manneh Weah et l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Ils l'ont tous protégé ».

« En 2011, le sénateur Johnson a soutenu Mme Sirleaf. Il a également soutenu le président Weah. Avec toutes ces collaborations, les Libériens ont vu comment ces dirigeants se sont opposés à la création du tribunal et ont trahi le peuple libérien », a déclaré le président Nyumah.

Une Libérienne soulève de gros

Djédjé Onouwo Nathalie. Papa Késsié est policier. Il débute sa carrière à la Compagnie républicaine de sécurité (CRS) à Abidjan avant d'être muté à Daloa puis à Bouaké en 1989 où la famille va vivre une dizaine d'années. C'est pendant qu'ils sont installés à Bouaké que Nathalie Djédjé qui a déjà 4 enfants avec son époux, va donner naissance à Franck Yannick lors d'1 séjour à Ouaraquahio en 1996. En 1999, Alexis Késsié est affecté à Abidjan, en poste au commissariat du 2ème arrondissement Treichville.

Il sera ensuite muté à la brigade des stuprs, détaché à l'aéroport Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Contrairement à ce qui se dit, Alexis Késsié n'est pas mort pendant des combats en Côte d'Ivoire. Le policier a perdu la vie en 2007 au CHU de Yopougon, des suites d'une maladie métabolique. Au moment de son décès, avec son épouse Nathalie, ils ont 5 enfants : Késsié Nadia Israël, Késsié Prince Armel (dit Jaguer), Késsié Tchétché Franck Fréjus, Késsié Innocent Patrick et Késsié Franck Yannick.

Avant sa rencontre avec son défunt mari, Dame Nathalie Djédjé avait déjà 2 filles : Clarisse et Yolande Astrid. Feu Alexis Késsié n'a jamais été affecté dans le grand ouest ivoirien. Même quand il évoluait avec l'AS Police, il n'a pas été au Liberia pour une compétition. Comment un officier de police ivoirien qui n'a jamais été en poste à la

frontière entre Côte d'Ivoire - Liberia, peut être le père du fils de Dame Nancy Payne ? Lequel des autres frères Késsié (Prince, Franck, Innocent) est son supposé deuxième fils avec Alexis Késsié ? Que dire de ceux qui, dans leurs publications, affirment que Késsié n'a jamais parlé de sa mère ? Sont-ils vraiment abonnés aux réseaux sociaux de l'international ivoirien ? Le footballeur s'est toujours affiché en compagnie de sa mère. Vous avez sûrement, forcément vu Dame Nathalie Djédjé aux côtés de son fils au moment de sa signature à Barcelone. Donc dire que nulle part il n'est fait mention de sa mère pour justifier sa filiation au Libéria, c'est ne pas faire preuve d'honnêteté intellectuelle. Franck Késsié est le dernier-né de Dame Nathalie Djédjé. Il est de plus en plus récurrent de voir des personnes affirmer avoir des liens de parentés avec des célébrités, personnalités etc. »

Le journaliste a ensuite fait allusion à une affaire similaire où une dame avait soutenu être la mère du chanteur Coupé-décalé ivoirien, Mix Premier. Et ce dernier a vite fait de briser le silence pour clarifier les choses. Il a profité pour passer un message à tous. « Si nous travaillons dur, atteignons les sommets, peut-être notre tour viendra. Quelque part, sur une planète pas très proche de la terre, quelqu'un dira qu'il est notre père, notre mère, notre frère, notre sœur », avance-t-il.

Achat des voix : Le Président de la Chambre des représentants s'inscrit en faux



Le président de la Chambre des Représentants Dr Bhofal Chambers a réfuté les informations selon lesquelles il serait en train d'acheter des voix à Pleebo Sodoken, dans le comté du Maryland.

Le président Chambers, qui se trouve actuellement dans son district, a dit que les photos des billets de banque qui circulent dans certains médias libériens et qui le lient à l'achat de votes n'ont aucun rapport avec l'achat des voix et ne visent qu'à provoquer un coup médiatique contre lui de la part de détracteurs politiques qui tentent d'attaquer son intégrité, pendant que les Libériens se préparent pour se rendre aux urnes dans le cadre des élections générales et présidentielles, en octobre de cette année.

Selon le Dr Chambers, l'argent dont les photos continuent circuler sur la toile, s'élève à trois cent mille dollars libériens (300 000 LD), soit 1 900 dollars américains. Il avait été présenté aux bénéficiaires de son programme de prêt pour autonomiser certaines petites commerçantes dans une

communauté appelée Hospital Camp à Pleebo Sodoken, pour développer leurs activités. Il a promis de continuer à poser des actes positifs pour son peuple. Il s'est dit prêt à répondre à certains des besoins de son peuple à tout moment.

Le comté de Maryland fait partie des autres comtés où se déroulent l'opération d'inscription biométrique des électeurs. Les Libériens se rendront aux urnes en octobre pour voter.

Les partisans disent que la cascade des médias sociaux est une grave contradiction avec les directives de la NEC en ce qui concerne les activités de précampagne.

Pendant ce temps, M. Chambers a également inauguré deux mairies modernes dans les villes de Kwidoken et Selekén respectivement dans le comté de Maryland dont le coût des travaux de construction s'élève à 20 000 dollars américains chacune. Jusqu'à présent, c'est la première fois que les deux villes bénéficient d'une structure moderne en béton contenant des latrines à chasse d'eau et des bureaux séparés afin de tenir des réunions.

Il a été rapporté que Speaker Chambers a également tendu la main à plusieurs villes et villages de son Pleebo Sodoken natal pour sensibiliser le public au processus de BVR.

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.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Corruption allegations against Jeremiah Koung as the senator becomes UP Vice-Presidential aspirant

By. S.Karweaye

Despite allegations of massive budget fraud hanging on his neck, the political leader of the Movement for Democratic Reconstruction (MDR), Senator Jeremiah Koung was on April 28, 2023, selected by Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) as his running mate in the pending 2023 presidential election. MDR is one of Liberia's many political parties and was founded by former warlord and current Senator Prince Y. Johnson of Nimba County. Johnson is named in Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Report as having committed atrocities during the country's first civil war.

According to Transparency International's local chapter, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) 2021 State of Corruption Report, several members of the National Legislature were involved in high-level corruption. The two years of an investigation by the CENTAL linked then Nimba County Representative Jeremiah Koung, Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph and District #6 Representative Samuel Enders, and others to massive corruption.

The CENTAL report said between 2012 to 2021 Nimba County Representative Jeremiah Koung received nearly one million United States Dollars to run his privately owned hospital, the Esther and Geraldine Hospital in Nimba County. According to the report, the African Dream Academy; a private school owned by Representative Samuel Enders was entirely funded from the national budget. The report also said Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph, in 2020, as Chairman of the Senate health committee annually allocates US\$ 141,000.00, to his company for ambulance services.

It is no longer a secret that Senator Jeremiah Koung has emerged as a powerful symbol of the rotten sweetness of democratized corruption in Liberia. The Legislature of which Koung is part is among the most dangerously corrupt institution in Liberian history. How did Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a man that wants to replace President Weah, select such a character? How can Liberia's former Vice President, Joseph Nyumah Boakai who is on record during the 2017 presidential debate admitting the Johnson-Sirleaf/Boakai administration failed by saying, "we squandered opportunities" select someone the CENTAL report said was involved in the high level of corruption at the National Legislature? Did the former Vice President squander another opportunity?

On the surface, you will be tempted to believe that our democracy is finally working - checks and balances. Illusions! The reality is that we are witnessing the smooth operation of the smartest and pathologically corrupt political operatives in post-conflict Liberia (I have not forgotten the gibberish of "innocent" until proven guilty). To say Senator Koung along with his political godfather, Senator Prince Yomie Johnson are the most potent political operatives is not an overstatement. Even before Koung rose to power, he was highly connected by

virtue of his political godfather, ex-warlord, and current senator Prince Yomie Johnson- the strong man of Nimba politics. Senator Johnson has been sanctioned by the U.S. government for alleged corruption. The sanctions against Johnson come under the Global Magnitsky Act.

To demonstrate that he is untouchable, Jeremiah Koung ignored the CENTAL two years investigation report which linked him and his colleagues to corruption and ran for the senate seat in Nimba, and with his political godfather, Senator Prince Yomie Johnson, and the ruling CDC backing, he won the senatorial seat at the same time, Joseph Nyuman Boakai's backed CPP senatorial candidate, Edith Gongloe lose her senatorial bid.

The newest scandal is the appropriation of US\$3.6 in the 2020/2021 budget that Jeremiah Koung and his colleagues at the Legislature awarded themselves in the name of legislative engagement and public accessibility fund with each legislator taking US\$30,000. In the 2022 budget, Senator Koung and his colleagues at the Legislature awarded themselves an additional US\$3.6 with each legislator taking US\$30,000 in the name of legislative engagement and public accessibility funds



while public institutions including hospitals, and schools are hugely underfunded. Sadly Senator Koung and his colleagues are diverting funds through budget paddling and redirecting those funds among themselves.

One of the primary reasons corruption has thrived in Liberia is the legislators are also involved in malice at all levels and have been clever enough to fool our people. Koung is a career legislator, having served two terms as a representative before being elected as a senator. But he has never been very vocal on national issues and hardly chided the Unity Party administration as a representative on any shortcomings or as Senator in the current CDC administration on any weaknesses.

Is Joseph Nyumah Boakai complicit in encouraging the democratization of corruption in Liberia by choosing Jeremiah Koung as his running mate? Is it a major, general mistake for Mr. Boakai to be romancing corrupt individuals while pretending to be a rescuer? I see the ongoing caricature as simply a case of democratization of corruption; a case of birds of the same feathers flock together, literally.

Senator Jeremiah Koung and his political godfather, Senator Prince Yomie Johnson are smooth political operators that belong to the MDR. The MDR as previously stated was founded by Senator Prince Yomie Johnson who supported Mr. George Weah of the Coalition of Democratic Change in the 2017 presidential election. In 2010, Johnson founded the National Union for Democratic Progress Party (NUDP) and ran as a presidential candidate in the 2011 presidential election. He placed third, with 11.6% of the vote, and supported the Unity Party's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who won the election as the incumbent president.

On December 9, 2021, Prince Yomie Johnson was placed under sanctions by the US Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Act. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), "as a Senator, Johnson has been involved in pay-for-play funding with government ministries and organizations for personal enrichment. As part of the scheme, upon receiving funding from the Government of Liberia (GOL), the involved government ministries and organizations launder a portion of the funding for the return to the involved participants. The pay-for-play funding scheme involves millions of U.S. dollars. Johnson has also offered the sale of votes in multiple Liberian elections in exchange for money."

Recently, Prince Yomie Johnson recently broke ties with the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change government headed by President George Weah, alleging that the Weah-led government refused to incorporate its members of his MDR into key government positions, thereby, reconfirming the U.S. Department of the Treasury sanctions on him (pay-for-play). After publicly falling out with President Weah and his CDC, Senator Johnson, the founder of MDR, gave his blessing to Senator Jeremiah Koung to assume the position of Standard Bearer of the MDR and lead the Party's operations in preparation for the 2023 General and Presidential Elections as Prince Johnson battle for his senatorial seat in the 2023 elections. The MDR leader, Jeremiah Koung became the vice standard bearer of the Unity Party overnight after he and his political godfather outsmarted

Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence of the split Liberty Party (LP), Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party (ALP) and others that stood with Joseph Boakai during the heyday of the Collaboration Political Parties (CPP). The cabals behind Boakai are now courting Koung's political godfather, Prince Johnson for fear of giving Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe an edge in repositioning the electoral map in vote-rich Nimba County in the 2023 pend presidential election.

Joseph Boakai has limited the anti-corruption fight with his collaborations with the likes of Jeremiah Koung, Prince Johnson, etc. Until the cabals around him can summon the courage to point a real surgical anti-corruption knife at the crocodiles at the National Legislature including Jeremiah Koung, Prince Johnson, and others, and stay far away from these unscrupulous individuals that are involved in multi-million dollar corruption schemes involving fraud, misappropriation, and abuse of authority, Joseph Nyumah Boakai will Never be seen as a Rescuer for Liberia. We are watching

New future of hope

According to him, the presidency is not just powerful, but has a humble responsibility to set good examples, coming to create high-paying jobs for Liberians and If we re-elect a play-play president or we choose to pause Liberia's future, it will surely worsen



demand higher standards for stewardship, and deliver on promises to the people. He said, "The presidency is responsible to fix the broken, corrupt and discredited system that continues to keep Liberians poor."

He explained that the presidency also has a responsibility to unite and lead the people to a better, secure, peaceful, and more prosperous future, as well as restore the country's lost respect and dignity amongst the comity of nations.

The former Coca-Cola Executive turned politician said the play-play presidency of Mr. Weah has to stop if the lives of Liberians will improve. He emphasized that while "it's ok to have a President that sings and dances when you spend too much time singing and dancing, then we need to move you from the mansion to a studio where you actually belong."

Cummings said the presidency is not an office for retirement, warning that to elect a president who will not work, amounts to putting Liberia on pause, which will deny the already suffering masses the needed help to improve their living conditions. "Putting the country on pause will stop serious investors from

the hardship," Cummings warned.

He expressed optimism that upon his election in October, starting next January, he will work assiduously to institute real change through hard work, honesty, integrity and principled leadership.

"We will change store boys into store owners, raise waiter markets to shops, transform shops to stores, graduate yana boys and yana girls to business leaders, and will give Liberian businesses, especially women businesses, the chance and resources needed to succeed," Cummings said. He also promised to change the hopelessness and lawlessness of today into hopefulness and lawfulness, and significantly reduce the unprecedented high unemployment rate in Liberia. Cummings wonders why the CDC government will cut and reduce civil servants' salaries in the face of the worsening economic conditions and rising cost of living.

The CPP Standard Bearer promised to lead Liberia differently, accountably and honestly to a new future of equality and prosperity for all. He said grieving over the difficult economic challenges will not change the hopelessness of the suffering masses, but rather, the grief must move Liberians to not

just change mindsets, or political parties, but to also change the country's governing principles.

"Anyone culpable of stealing public resources, irrespective of status or position, must face the full force of the law and consequences, without hesitation," Cummings said.

He stated that unless there is a robust enforcement of the law, corruption and stealing of public resources will deprive and prevent public institutions, including hospitals, from effectively performing their statutory functions to the detriment of ordinary families who can't afford to travel abroad for treatment.

While, thanking the CPP leadership and members for the confidence and trust reposed in him to lead the CPP, Cummings vowed not to disappoint Liberians or lower the standard and values of the CPP, assuring that together, "we will march to victory in October, and we will change Liberia for the better," he said.

The weekend convention was the first of the CPP and was presided over by Liberty Party Chairman Musa Bility.

It brought together over 500 delegates from the 15 counties of Liberia, as well as the United States of America, Canada and other parts of the world.

Several CPP stalwarts including Nimba County Representative Larry Yonquoi, and Grand Bassa County Representative Aspirant Charlene Brumskine made special remarks of affirmations of support for the objectives and goals including the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander Cummings. The convention was preceded by street parade in Gompa City, Nimba County, by thousands of partisans, supporters and sympathizers of the Collaborating Political Parties compromising the Alternative National Congress, the Liberty Party and other political affiliates and interest groups.

Starts from page 6 PYJ rejects plot

sitting President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

The CDC Youth League recounted that this is the same former rebel leader, who murdered many innocent citizens during the Liberian Civil War and victimized thousands of others.

According to the youth group, PYJ is also allegedly planning to strongly take

issues against Nimbaians who opposed his political interest. The Youth League termed the alleged plans of the senator as sad and a national security threat, noting that it will not take the matter lightly. The group said it remains very supportive and unwavering to defend ordinary people Liberians, especially, citizens of Nimba County, who were reportedly threatened by

Senator PYJ.

Last year, Senator Johnson severed ties with the ruling CDC and withdrew support from President George Weah, taking along his MDR party to former Vice President Joseph Boakai, who picked MDR standard Bearer Senator Jeremiah Koung as his running mate. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Weah on transforming Liberia's Landscapes

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Weah has promised to continue developing and transforming the Landscape of Liberia, whilst ensuring that the youthful population of the country has a viable future and access to areas they can congregate to recreate and sharpen their inborn skills. President Weah made the commitment on Friday, May 12, while inspecting recreation projects in PHP and Doe Communities, respectively. He also expressed confidence that he will retain the office of the Presidency during the October 10 presidential and legislative elections. Mr. Weah noted that he is committed to the development of Liberia, adding that it is his utmost obsession to

his promises to the people of Liberia and improve their standards of living, that is while he is seeking second term.

"We have done a lot in the last five years of our first term, and I want to continue on this trajectory of changing the development paradigm in our second term if the Liberian people give us the chance," he added.

Mr. Weah said development initiatives that he is undertaking, including the PHP Sports Development Project and the Clara Town football pitch, are things citizens, mainly young people, of other countries enjoy, and he feels obligated to do same in Liberia.

"As a former footballer," President Weah argued, "it would be a disservice to the young people of this country if I had done nothing to improve sports and recreational



than be bothered and distracted by mischiefs and falsehoods pivoted by detractors.

"I am a focused and determined person, and I want to remain focused on developing the country," President Weah stated.

He also opined that his preoccupation has been to fulfill

facilities, including those that I played on during my days in Liberia," he said.

The President was taken on the tour by the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, G. Wesseh Blamoh, and Minister of State without Portfolio, Trokon Kpui, who also heads presidential projects.

Starts from page 6 PLP official denies

Sections 15.56 and 15.51 of the New Penal Law of Liberia.

In its complaint, the PLP said the defendants were entrusted with motorbikes, vehicles, ID Card Machines, and Generators totaling US\$37,000.00. It said the accused allegedly received the items in November 2022 for and on behalf of the political party.

But to the surprise and dismay of the party, the complaint alleged that the accused converted the items into their personal use and benefit, thus depriving the party of its hard-earned property.

But Captain Kollie said he thought the decision of the party to take them to court is not the right thing.

Starts from page 7 Parties re-affirm

European Union to Liberia, Laurent Delahousse, challenged political parties to ensure full implementation of the 30 percent female candidates on their respective lists of qualified candidates.

Ambassador Delahousse noted that as a member of the comity of nations, Liberia is obligated to ensure that women

are given the space to develop politically.

In remarks, the Ambassador of ECOWAS to Liberia, Josephine Nkrumah, stressed the need for violence-free elections in the country.

She said any trouble in any member state of the regional organization has an effect on another because when Liberia

Nyonblee endorses Boakai-Koung tick

By Lincoln G. Peters

Embattled Liberty Party (LP) political leader Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has endorsed Liberia's opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Senator Jeremiah Koung's presidential ticket, a boost for the Unity Party campaign.

April.

"Therefore, in consideration of the selfless agenda that we brought to the table when we embarked on the journey with this astute statesman ... I am pleased to announce that we wholeheartedly endorse the Boakai-Koung Ticket," said Nyonblee.

A Grand Bassa Senator,

U-turn. The two officials felt let down by Boakai's decision to pick Mr. Koung instead of Senator Karnga-Lawrence as running mate. She added that her decision followed two weeks of consultations with a broad spectrum of the membership of her party, stakeholders, and sympathizers at home and abroad. Delivering her endorsement speech at the Fairground in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Senator Karnga-Lawrence said her decision to endorse the Boakai-Koung ticket is to secure a better and prosperous Liberia.

She wants a country where the plight and concerns of all and every Liberian can be protected and guaranteed.

Madam Karnga-Lawrence noted that the naming of Senator Koung as Boakai's running mate was greeted with mixed public reactions.

She said it was due to the overwhelming support she had gotten for the past two years from a cross-section of Liberians as their preferred choice to be Boakai's running mate.

"We assemble here today in fulfillment of a patriotic duty to take a course of action that will mark the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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Nyonblee's endorsement of the Boakai-Koung ticket Sunday, 14 May 2023 came as a breakthrough for the former ruling Unity Party (UP) which nearly lost major political allies since the former Liberian vice president picked his running mate on 28

Nyonblee and her kinsman, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, were rumored to have nearly concluded an arrangement to switch their loyalties to Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) leader Alexander B. Cummings before they made a

The New Dawn

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