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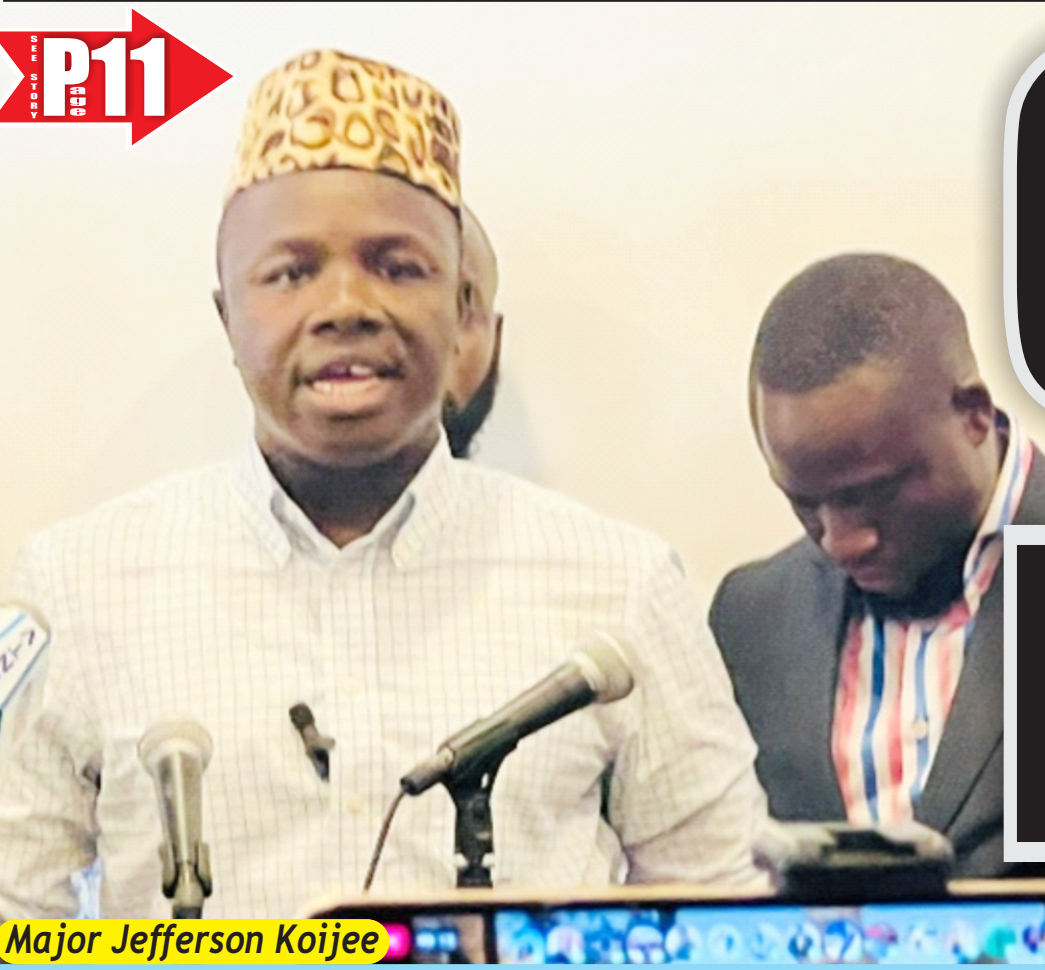
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VOL. 13 NO. 089 THURSDAY, JUNE 01, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Major Jefferson Koijee

# EDC is not afraid

**-says Koijee**

# Charlyne speaks out



Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine

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# Continental News

## Clashes Flare in Sudan's Capital After Cease-Fire Extended

Intense clashes could be heard in Sudan's capital on Tuesday, residents said, after military factions battling for more than six

Hours before the cease-fire extension was signed, residents reported intensive fighting in all three of the adjoining cities that make up Sudan's greater capital

seen little unrest. On Tuesday, the state's security committee said it had caught several "rebellious" sleeper cells that it said had sneaked in from outside and warned that they were planning activities.

"We thank the citizens of Red Sea state for their total cooperation and for immediately reporting the presence of these rebellious elements and their agents within their neighborhoods," it said, without specifying their identity. The committee later extended a state of emergency and declared a curfew from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. in Port Sudan.

The conflict erupted on April 15 over internationally backed plans for a transition to elections under a civilian government.

Leaders of the army and the RSF had held the top positions on Sudan's ruling council since former leader Omar al-Bashir was toppled during a popular uprising in 2019. They staged a coup in 2021 as they were due to hand leadership of the council to civilians, before falling out over the chain of command and restructuring of the RSF under the planned transition. Army leader General Abdel-Fattah Burhan appeared in a video on Tuesday greeting troops. He said that the army had agreed to the cease-fire extension to ease citizens' access to services. "The army hasn't used its full deadly power, but it will be forced to do so if the enemy does not obey or listen to the voice of reason. VOA



People fleeing violence load their luggage onto a bus before departure from Khartoum on May 30, 2023

weeks agreed to extend a cease-fire aimed at allowing aid to reach civilians.

The army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) agreed to extend a week-long cease-fire deal by five days just before it was due to expire late on Monday. The truce was brokered and is being remotely monitored by Saudi Arabia and the United States, which say it has been violated by both sides but has still allowed for the delivery of aid to an estimated 2 million people. "We hope this truce succeeds even if only to stop the war a little and that we can return to our normal lives. We have hope in the truce, and we don't have other options," said Hind Saber, a 53-year-old resident of Khartoum.

around the confluence of the Nile: Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri. Clashes resumed late on Tuesday on the outskirts of the cities. In a statement, the RSF accused the army of violating the cease-fire, saying that it defended itself against an attack and took over an army base. The war has caused nearly 1.4 million people to flee their homes, including more than 350,000 who have crossed into neighboring countries. Areas of the capital have been hit by widespread looting and frequent cuts to power and water supplies. Most hospitals have been put out of service. The United Nations, some aid agencies, embassies and parts of Sudan's central government have moved operations to Port Sudan, in Sudan's Red Sea state, the main shipping hub, which has

## Russia-Burundi nuclear energy deal in final stage - Lavrov

On a trip to Burundi, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said preparation for an inter-governmental deal on nuclear energy is in its final stage.

Mr Lavrov made the remarks on Tuesday after holding talks with Burundi's Foreign Minister Albert Shingiro in Bujumbura, Russia's state news agency Tass reports.

The two countries signed a nuclear energy roadmap deal in November last year, in which Russia agreed to assist Burundi set up atomic plants.

"The roadmap on nuclear energy has already been signed between Rosatom [Russian state energy corporation] and its Burundian partners," Mr Lavrov said.

He said both parties were committed to co-operating in

the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Before his departure for Mozambique, Mr Lavrov met Burundian President Évariste Ndayishimiye for further bilateral talks.

The visit comes as part of Mr

Lavrov's tour of African nations, following his recent trip to Kenya and ahead of his arrival in South Africa. Mr Shingiro reiterated that Burundi would not take sides in Russia's war against Ukraine. BBC



The two countries signed a nuclear energy roadmap deal in November last year

## Celebrated Ghanaian author and feminist dies

One of Africa's most-celebrated authors and playwrights, Ghanaian Ama Ata Aidoo, has died aged 81. A renowned feminist, she depicted and celebrated the condition of African women in works such as *The Dilemma of a Ghost*, *Our Sister Killjoy* and *Changes*.

She opposed what she described as a "Western perception that the African female is a downtrodden wretch".

She also served as education minister in the early 1980s but resigned when she could not make education free. In a statement, her family said "our beloved relative and writer" passed away after a short illness, requesting privacy to allow them to grieve.

A university professor, Ata Aidoo won many literary awards for her novels, plays and poems, including the 1992 Commonwealth Writers Prize for *Changes*, a love story about a statistician who divorces her

wrote:

"When I first discovered Ama Ata Aidoo's work - a slim book on a dusty shelf in our neighbour's study in Nsukka [in south-eastern Nigeria] - I was stunned by the believability of her characters, the sureness of her touch and what I like to call, in a rather clunky phrase, the validating presence of complex femaleness.

"Because I had not often seen this complex femaleness in other African books I had read and loved, mine was a wondrous discovery: of Anowa, tragic and humane and many dimensional, in Aidoo's play set in the 1800s in Fantiland; of Sissie, the self-assured, perceptive main character of the ambitious novel *Our Sister Killjoy*, who wryly recounts her experiences in Germany and England in the 1960s; or of the varied female characters in *No Sweetness Here*, my favourite of Aidoo's books."

Nigerian Afrobeats superstar Burna Boy included her powerful criticism of colonialism and ongoing exploitation of Africa's resources in his song *Monsters You Made* in 2020: "Since we met you people 500 years ago. Look at us, we've given



Ama Ata Aidoo won many literary awards including the 1992 Commonwealth Writers Prize for her book *Changes*

first husband and enters into a polygamous marriage.

Her work, including plays like *Anowa*, have been read in schools across West Africa, along with works of other greats like Wole Soyinka and Chinua Achebe. When asked by BBC HARDTalk's Zeinab Badawi in 2014 if she regarded herself as a writer with a mission, she replied: "In retrospect, I suppose I could describe myself as a writer with a mission. But I never was aware that I had a mission when I started to write."

People sometimes question me, for instance, why are your women so strong? And I say, that is the only woman I know. "She was a major influence on the younger generation of writers, including Nigeria's award-winning Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. In a piece about the Ghanaian in *The Africa Report* publication in 2011, Adichie

everything. You are still taking. In exchange for that, we have got nothing. Nothing. And you know it. But don't you think that this is over now? Over where? Is it over?" Ama Ata Aidoo was born in a small village in Ghana's central Fanti-speaking region in 1942. Her father had opened the first school in the village and was a strong influence on her.

At the age of 15 she decided that she wanted to be a writer and within just four years, had achieved that ambition after she was encouraged to enter a competition. "I won a short story competition but learned about it only when I opened the newspaper that had organised it, and saw the story had been published on its centre pages and realised the name of the author of that story in print was mine," Ata Aidoo once said as she looked back at her career.

"I believe these moments were crucial for me because ... I had articulated a dream. BBC



EDITORIAL

Address the plight of university lecturers

BOTH FULL-TIME and part-time lecturers of the state-owned University of Liberia have alarmed over repeated delays and irregularities by government in disbursement of their monthly salary, which is making life unbearable for them.

THE UNIVERSITY OF Liberia Faculty Association or ULFA, parent body of lecturers at the UL reveals via a press release that since the start of 2023, salaries have delayed.

ULFA says employees of the University of Liberia are being paid between the 20th and end of the month for the previous month.

“THE LEADERSHIP OF ULFA wishes to remind the UL authorities that issues of salaries are human rights matters and their delay without any remorse is a violation of the fundamental right of employees of the UL to live”, the group stresses thru its release.

IT IS HIGHLY paradoxical that government would champion free tuition at all public universities across the country but yet, it struggles in payment of staff’s salaries, especially lecturers, who are sacrificing to prepare youth of Liberia for the future.

THE PERSISTENT DELAYS in disbursement of lecturers’ salaries are not only inhumane but a recipe for corruption and compromise in the classroom. It should be discouraged to maintain professionalism and academic excellence at the University of Liberia and all public universities.

SALARY SITUATION IS becoming a serious problem at all public universities. Early this year, faculties of Tubman University in Maryland County boycotted classes for a protracted period because of lack of delays in salaries, at the disadvantage of students.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD be bold enough to say it cannot sustain the tuition-freed public university program to allow students to shoulder their own tuition payment which would university administrators to generate money for smooth operation rather than toot political scores at the expense of starving lecturers.

WE WONDER WHAT impact it makes for students to attend tuition-free public universities when lecturers come to class hungry and demoralized because they cannot take care of their families due to delays in salaries. How can they lecture effectively in the absence of salaries?

IT MAY BE RECALLED that the judiciary had to call in the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah to explain why judges’ salaries were being delayed for several months before they could get paid. This is a similar situation being faced by university lecturers. We urge the government to move quickly in addressing the plight of lecturers at the University of Liberia to restore their human dignity.

COMMENTARY

The US Debt Ceiling Debacle Is Not Over

By Kenneth Rogoff

CAMBRIDGE - The tentative deal that was just struck to raise the United States’ debt ceiling won’t make the problem go away. Partisan standoffs over the federal debt limit have become a predictable feature of American political life. And while some blame an ill-conceived rule, that argument misses the point.

The debate has never been about debt; it is about power. If the Republicans sweep into power in 2024 and end up controlling the House, Senate, and presidency, there is little question they will want to pass a large tax cut, steepening the trajectory of debt. If Democrats take back the House, and keep the presidency and Senate, there is little question they will want to use debt finance to expand the footprint of government.

Conservatives think deficits caused by tax cuts don’t matter because they incentivize work and entrepreneurship, thereby generating sufficient growth to repay debt later. Left-leaning economists argue that even without such incentive effects, growth is likely to outstrip interest payments most of the time, so the debt burden never becomes anything meaningful to worry about.

Both sides’ idea that debt is always free as long as it is used the “right” way is stupefyingly naive. Real (inflation-adjusted) interest rates had fallen sharply after the 2008-09 financial crisis, stayed low throughout the ensuing decade, and fell sharply again during the pandemic. But now, forward-looking measures of real interest rates, such as ten-year inflation-indexed government bonds, are far higher today across the advanced economies than they were during the pandemic years. Moreover, the world has become more unstable, and it is extremely likely that many Western countries will need to raise spending on defense, placing further strains on budgets.

To hear unabashedly Democratic commentators tell it, the Republicans are 100% to blame for the recent stalemate. That is true. It is also true that President Joe Biden campaigned as a centrist, then used two years with razor-thin legislative majorities to pass generational changes in policy that promise to affect the country for years. The Republicans want to revisit some of these changes.

Democrats object that the Republicans are trying to prevent the government from borrowing to cover spending that Congress has already approved. That is nonsense; the government can always revise its long-term spending plans. But an effective government should be able to find ways to reach long-term spending agreements that are not subject to constant re-evaluation.

The latest last-minute deal to raise the US debt ceiling does not do that. On the contrary, with the country on track for a Biden-Trump rematch next year - a contest that Trump just might win - any truce is likely to be short-lived.

Kenneth Rogoff, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University.

The real source of the problem is that politicians today have little incentive to compromise. In an environment of gerrymandered electoral districts and ideologically-siloed traditional and social media (amplified by bots, algorithms, and economic incentives), the instability will only worsen in the foreseeable future. That could mean more frequent government shutdowns or more restrictions on central bank independence. With former US President Donald Trump very much in the mix to return to the White House after the 2024 election, who knows what else.

The idea that hitting the debt limit will force the US to immediately default on its bond obligations is a canard. The government takes in more than enough tax dollars to pay the interest on debt, and the debt ceiling creates no obstacles to rolling over maturing debt as it comes due.

Of course, the government would be constrained from spending above its income, because there would be no way to do that without issuing new debt. So, the Treasury would be pushed into hard choices. Since no one wants to touch Social Security or Medicare, it would become necessary to delay or scale back payments on other items, possibly leading to a partial government shutdown (which would not be the first time).

Nothing would force the US Treasury to stop honoring existing US debt and thrust the global financial system into chaos. This could happen only if the stalemate went on for so long (months?) that political pressures simply exploded.

That is what typically happens in debt-distressed emerging markets, where outright default typically happens long before ability to pay is actually the constraint. Unlike emerging markets, of course, where debts are often denominated in foreign currency and the state’s capacity to tax is sharply circumscribed, the US can issue more debt by waving a magic wand, though spending too much too fast would stoke inflation.

Some of the ideas that have been bandied about to circumvent the debt ceiling are very risky power grabs that could backfire. For example, invoking the Fourteenth Amendment risks being overturned by the Supreme Court. And, much sooner than that would happen, congressional Republicans could refuse to pass basic spending bills needed to keep the government operating. Minting a trillion dollar coin and depositing it at the Federal Reserve in order to circumvent Congress



OP-ED

By Rakesh Mohan,Irene Monasterolo,  
Rishikesh Ram Bhandary

The IMF’s Turn to Lead on Climate

NEW DELHI - Emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) are feeling the financial squeeze. Two-thirds of low-income countries are already in or at high risk of debt distress, Russia’s war in Ukraine is compounding financial shocks with high food and energy prices, and the rising cost of capital is leaving governments with little, if any, fiscal space.

At the same time, several EMDEs are bearing the brunt of a looming climate crisis to which they contributed little. Pakistan’s catastrophic flooding last year caused damages and economic losses totaling more than \$30 billion, with reconstruction estimated to cost an additional \$16 billion. In the Caribbean, tropical cyclones regularly cause damage and loss equivalent to around 100% of GDP, and global warming implies that the intensity and frequency of extreme weather is set to increase. And yet, with limited fiscal space and poor access to international markets, EMDEs are unable to invest in climate resilience as needed.

As a key multilateral body charged with promoting global macroeconomic and financial stability, the International Monetary Fund is facing a now-or-never moment to help facilitate a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. Since recognizing the profound macroeconomic implications of rising global temperatures, the IMF has released a climate-change strategy, which outlines its plans for integrating the issue into its work, especially its macroeconomic surveillance and lending programs. Most notably, following its historic allocation of \$650 in billion special drawing rights (SDRs, the IMF’s reserve asset) in 2021, the Fund established the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) in part to support climate action in EMDEs.

The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report sounds the alarm about the rapidly mounting dangers of global warming and the limited time left to adapt. Against this backdrop, a new report from the Task Force on Climate, Development, and the IMF, of which we are members, assesses how the Fund’s climate actions stack up against current needs.

We found that while the IMF has made welcome strides toward integrating climate considerations into its operations, important gaps remain in four key areas: modeling climate risks into its debt-sustainability analysis (DSA); tailoring policy advice to national contexts; upgrading its lending toolkit to address macro-critical imbalances and natural catastrophes arising from climate change; and, along with other institutions, facilitating the large-scale investments needed to help countries shift to a low-carbon pathway.

The IMF’s preferred policy prescription has been to set a price on carbon emissions that is high enough to encourage polluters to emit less. Its working papers have suggested a globally coordinated and differentiated price floor to increase policy ambition and foster an orderly transition. Yet while establishing a carbon price is generally considered optimal in theory, implementation and impact raise many challenges.

The introduction of carbon pricing around the world is still uneven and poorly coordinated with national energy policies such as increasing fossil-fuel subsidies. Moreover, several governments are introducing a broad range of instruments to implement climate policies that are better aligned with their unique circumstances. To be sensitive to national needs, the IMF needs to move away from a one-size-fits-all policy and develop an effective method to assess the effects of explicit and implicit carbon prices, which can vary considerably within and across countries.

Carbon pricing is also being embraced as a tool to fund climate investments. But the revenue is unlikely to replace that produced from fossil fuels. This is equally true for hydrocarbon producers, such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, that rely heavily on fossil-fuel exports for public finance, and hydrocarbon importers that levy significant taxes on fossil-fuel usage.

In addition to expanding its surveillance activities and economic modeling to reflect the reality of diverse national circumstances, the IMF should encourage future-oriented measures such as a big investment push (albeit in a fiscally prudent manner). This would require the Fund to retool its DSA framework to take a broader view of a country’s financing needs.

To meet the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their commitments under the Paris agreement, EMDEs will need to mobilize substantial resources, estimated by some to be as much as \$2.4 trillion per year - over 2% of current global GDP. Beyond that, IMF research has shown that investment in climate-friendly sectors can be a more powerful growth multiplier than investment in carbon-intensive sectors. And, in addition to avoiding costly future damages, investing in climate resilience helps reduce current sovereign risk.

But the IMF’s DSA framework does not properly incorporate countries’ physical climate risks and their fiscal needs for financing a green transition. While the Fund has taken modest steps toward integrating climate shocks into its DSA framework, it is still falling far short in linking program negotiations with climate policy. Until that changes, countries will lack the fiscal space needed to fund the green transition. After all, climate investments cannot be postponed until a country is in better financial health.

As for its lending toolkit, the IMF has modestly increased countries’ borrowing limits. But, overall, the Fund still emphasizes short-term fiscal stability at the cost of the longer-term resource mobilization required to safeguard countries against future climate shocks.

Likewise, the rules for accessing the RSF are too restrictive. As matters stand, a country must have an IMF program in place to access RSF funds. This excludes climate-vulnerable economies that still need to build resilience even if they are not actively in distress. Turkey’s recent earthquake disaster, though not climate-related, is a case in point. Even with broader membership, however, the RSF remains too small to meet current needs and must be vastly scaled up (together with other lending facilities).

The IMF has taken great steps on climate change in a short time. But as the IPCC report concludes, “There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all.” To maximize its impact, the Fund should bear in mind national contexts, tailor its macro-financial models, pay greater heed to the substantial investment push required for low-carbon transitions, and increase the size and scope of its lending tools. None of this will be easy, but ensuring a financially stable and climate-resilient future requires nothing less.

OPINION

By Amadou Hott,  
Mark Malloch-Brown

Leveling the Financial Playing Field for Africa

NEW YORK - Africa bears virtually no responsibility for the greenhouse-gas emissions driving the climate crisis. It is not responsible for the conflicts or supply-chain disruptions that have driven global inflation. Nor did it trigger the spread of COVID-19, let alone cause the pandemic’s economic fallout. And yet the long-term effects of this trio of crises are being felt perhaps more acutely in Africa than anywhere else.

The International Monetary Fund has estimated that Africa’s additional financing needs resulting from the pandemic will amount to \$285 billion over the four years ending in 2025. But with inflation, exchange-rate pressure, and unmanageable debt levels eroding the already-limited room governments have to make the needed short- and longer-term investments, Africa’s real needs are likely much greater.

Despite the remarkable resilience that the continent has shown, anemic economic growth is compounding the challenge. Sub-Saharan Africa endured recession in 2020 for the first time in 25 years. And, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the region’s annual growth rate fell from 4.5% in 2021 to 3.5% in 2022. It is expected to amount to just 3.8% this year.

Behind these figures are countless ruined lives. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa reports that 18 million more Africans slipped into poverty last year. Hard-won progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals has been reversed. Conflicts and climate-related disasters - such as protracted droughts, extreme rains, and flooding - are contributing to East Africa’s worst hunger crisis in decades. The human cost is horrifying, with one person predicted to die of hunger every 28 seconds from this crisis alone.

This ought to concern the international community - and not only for humanitarian reasons. The world needs Africa. There is no path to a green, just, and prosperous shared future that does not have Africa at its core. So, it is in the self-interest of the rest of the world to support the continent, not through charity or handouts, but by backing African-led solutions, especially those focused on leveling a playing field that is currently tilted to the continent’s disadvantage.

The allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs, the IMF’s reserve asset) exemplifies the problem. The IMF created SDRs to supplement governments’ currency reserves. But, because SDRs are issued in proportion to countries’ IMF quotas, poorer countries receive the smallest allocations, despite having the greatest need. Wealthier countries - which have far less (or no) need - get the largest shares.

In 2021, the G20 countries promised to channel at least 20% of their SDRs toward Africa. But their promises have yet to be fully realized. Faster progress on this front would go a long way toward helping African governments in the near term, especially if the recycled SDRs are channeled through multilateral development banks such as the AfDB. These institutions could then leverage their own AAA ratings to scale up the capital mobilized by a factor of three to four, transforming, say, \$20 billion in SDR-funded projects into \$60-80 billion, with significantly better terms than those offered in commercial markets.

Of course, a more dynamic and expansive private sector would provide a longer-term solution. But, as it stands, African governments are at a grievous disadvantage in private markets, where they face higher capital costs, not least because of subjective, discriminatory considerations. Comparing the risk premia of African and non-African states with similar credit ratings, one finds differences ranging from 150 basis points to more than 650 bps, sometimes reflecting a lack of on-the-ground knowledge and subjective judgment.

A conference of credit-rating agencies, investors, and African governments is urgently needed to address this intolerable discrimination - which amounts to a powerful brake on progress - once and for all. Again, this would not amount to charity or special treatment; rather, it would be a step toward leveling the playing field, so that African-led solutions can succeed. Removing the “Africa risk premium” would unlock much-needed capital to invest in green development, including the clean-energy transition.

The Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa is one African-led initiative that would advance this goal. Unveiled by the AfDB, the African Union, Africa50, and other partners at last November’s UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27), the AGIA seeks to raise \$500 million in grants, concessional resources, and blended and commercial finance to provide early-stage project preparation and development capital for green initiatives. By mitigating high interest rates and the lack of risk appetite for Africa, this would result in the rapid creation of a strong pipeline of bankable green projects. The AGIA aims to unlock at least \$10 billion in green infrastructure investments.

Similar efforts are underway elsewhere. One notable example is the ambitious Bridgetown Initiative launched by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley to create additional fiscal space for development, as well as climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Another is the V20 group of climate-vulnerable developing countries, currently chaired by Ghanaian Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta.

The coming months offer several opportunities for breakthroughs. The just-completed AfDB meetings in Sharm El-Sheikh last week were an important starting point. Next month comes the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, a major international conference on funding for development and green investment. And September will bring the G20 Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi, an event to which Africa still relies on an invitation, though its economic and demographic weight entitles it to permanent membership (represented by the chairs of the African Union and the African Union Commission, as with the European Union today).

These gatherings have the potential to put Africa on a new course. International support is crucial, but that course must be charted and led by the continent itself.



## 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 Yormie 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



Sen. Jeremiah Koung

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



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# New political party promises 30,000 jobs monthly

By Lincoln G. Peters

The political leader of the newly accredited Greater Action Party of Liberia (GAPL) Dr. Talford

are employed. Despite this, we will seek to make sure that we hire thirty thousand people per month (30,000) which is approximately about three



Ammons promises to create thirty thousand (30,000) jobs monthly for Liberians if elected as President in October. The GAPL leader also vows to employ 3.6 million citizens with better pay within ten years under his administration. Speaking in an interview with the NEW DAWN following the party accreditation Tuesday, along with nine others by the National Elections Commission (NEC) Dr. Ammons says a GAPL-led government will lift Liberians out of poverty and depression thru job creation. He did not explain or detail by what means these jobs will be created in what appears to point to running a bloated government.

“We are going to make sure that people are given their right paycheck. And we will ensure also that lots of people

hundred and sixty thousand people per year and 3.6 million people after ten years. We will commit ourselves to make sure that the Liberian people are employed and have a better situation in life than what they now have.” According to him, he is not interested in stealing from the Liberian people and that is manifested in his many properties that he has given to Liberians in Red Light, Paynesville for as low as hundred United States Dollars per lot, one of which, he discloses is occupied by Victory Chapel church. Currently, a resident of the United States, Dr. Ammons reveals that every two years he comes to Liberia to advocate for his people both home and abroad to ensure that their lives are better and they are lifted out of poverty.

“I advocated for a hundred million dollars (US\$100 million)

to come to Liberia to make sure that we have electricity in this country. This has not happened due to some political reasons. We will stand in the full front to make sure that the Liberian people will benefit from what we have to offer. Nothing is really worrying me except I am tired of being poor”, he adds.

He says Liberians are experiencing their worst economic and poverty downtrend under President George Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democracy Change government due to “poor managers”, noting that If the Liberian people decide that they will instead, elect a snake as President, it is their business. Dr. Ammons: “Liberians are suffering because the country has poor managers. And poor managers contribute to ineptness and reckless decision making. Therefore, we need to change this around and bring this country back to where it belongs. Under this administration of President George M. Weah and his CDC government, the Liberian people have not got their due benefits. Liberians have suffered too long and continue to suffer under this government and so, it’s time for change. All of us know fully well that Liberia is not at the place it needs to be right now.”

The GAPL was among ten new political parties the NEC certificated here on Tuesday, May 30th, bringing to 30, the number of registered parties ahead of Presidential and Legislative Elections in October. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Five guilty for murder in River Gee

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Fishtown, River Gee County: -Trial jurors at the 15th Judicial Circuit Court in River Gee County have brought down a guilty verdict against five defendants for murder in River Gee County. The defendants are James Weah, Albert Weah, Charles Nyanti, Suku Sherman and Pedesco Sayon.

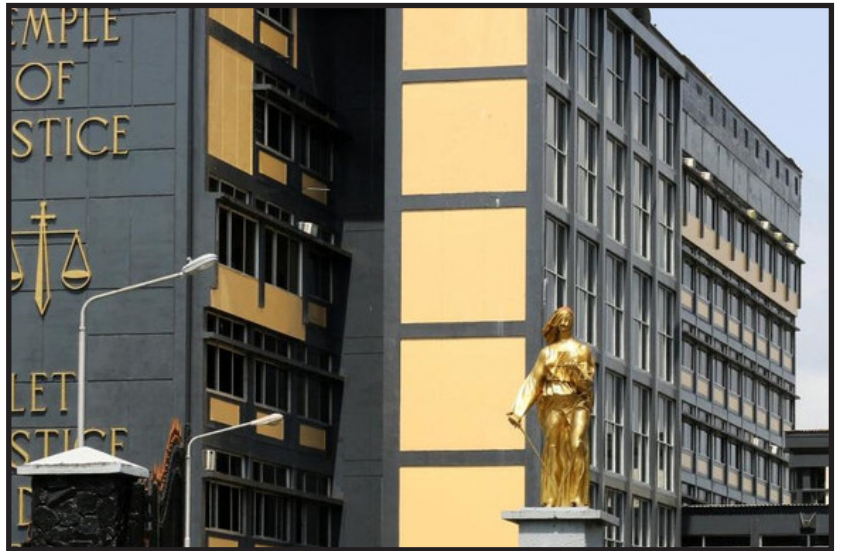
The jurors brought down the unanimous guilty verdict following two weeks of trial linking them to the alleged murder of the late Rachel Weah who went missing in Boah Dwehken, Grand Kru County in 2022. According to Judge Cllr Wesseh Alphonso Wesseh, sentencing will be announced after the Fish

Town Central prison has submitted a pre-sentence report.

The defense lawyers led by Cllr. Jerome C. Pour has excepted the jury verdict and planned to announce an appeal at the Supreme Court.

The public defense alleged

that the trial jurors were tempered with by the immediate family members of Rachel Weah including some judicial actors at the court premises. Cllr. Pour added that evidence provided by the trial jurors before the court was



# LNRCs honors remarkable former leaders

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCs) has paid homage to its remarkable former presidents and secretary generals who dedicated their lives to serving humanity and have laid the foundations for the progress of today. Speaking at the honoring program, the current Secretary General Gregory T. Blamoh said the unwavering commitment and exemplary leadership of the past have propelled the Red Cross forward. Blamoh noted that they navigated it through tumultuous times and left an indelible mark in the LNRCs’ history.

“As we reflect on their services, we are deeply inspired by their experiences and insights, which they shared with us today,” Mr. Blamoh added. The former LNRCs presidents honored are Madam Ophelia Hoff Saytumah, who served from 1991-1999, and Dr. Eric Johnson who served from 2000-2001. Others are Madam Haja Y. Fatumata Taylor, who served

and champion humanitarian values across the country. Looking toward the future, Mr. Blamoh affirmed, “As we move forward, we are consolidating the gains achieved by these exceptional leaders and engaging potential donors and partners to explore new opportunities for a sustainable future.”

He also emphasized that together, the current leadership will continue the noble work of the LNRCs, striving to create a more prosperous and compassionate society. Presenting the plagues of honor, the current Secretary General emphasized: “Today, we express our deepest gratitude to these visionary leaders who have shaped Liberia’s trajectory.”

“We invite you to join us in honoring their services and celebrating the enduring spirit of humanitarianism that continues to guide us on this extraordinary journey.” In response, Madam Theresa Leigh-Sherman said she was deeply humbled and grateful to receive such a prestigious honor



from 2001-2003, and Mrs. Theresa Leigh-Sherman from 2004-2012. The program was also in honor of six of the LNRCs’ former secretary generals including G. Ambullai Perry, Saybah Tamba, Daniel S. Clarke, Jr., Roosevelt Z. Willie, Mr. Momo Larmena, and Mr. Morris Gbesegee. Mr. Blamoh told the gathering that the extraordinary leadership of the former officials during Liberia’s tumultuous civil war, the devastating Ebola outbreak, the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, and the heart-wrenching impact of flooding and mass population movements demonstrated their unwavering strength and resilience. In partnership with the brave men and women of the LNRCs, these exceptional leaders paved the way for compassionate and effective responses to these enormous disasters. He emphasized that the former officials spearheaded efforts to build community resilience, promote recovery,

from the Liberian Red Cross. She served the Liberian Red Cross as President for eight years. She said, “It is truly a privilege to be recognized for dedicating my life to serving humanity and contributing to the progress of such a noble organization.” “Throughout my life journey, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that the Red Cross has on the lives of countless individuals, providing relief and support in times of crisis and promoting the well-being of communities,” she noted.

She expressed sincere appreciation to the Liberian Red Cross for acknowledging her efforts as part of the success today.

Also speaking, former Secretary General Mr. Ambullai Perry said his recognition only further fuels his commitment to continue working tirelessly towards the betterment of society and to inspire others to join in this noble cause.

“Together, we can make a significant difference and bring hope to those who need it the most,” Mr. Perry said.

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UL rubbishes academic fraud allegation

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Vice President for University Relations at the University of Liberia, Cllr. Noris Tweah

was verified by her professor, former Chief Justice Cllr. Francis Johnson-Allison, who took her paper for verification and admitted that she

He says at the University of Liberia, they don't comment on students' names therefore, if anybody has evidence, they can provide it but, they have cleared every graduate of the law school and they will be graduating on Friday because they have collected their package.

"Last year, it was City Mayor Jefferson Koijee; this year is another person from the law school. Understand this, the University can still graduate you and if there is fraud and other academic problems, we can revoke your degree. We have to have the evidence and so, somebody can just bring accusation against you and we hold it. That has to be proven especially, the law school", he explains.

Responding to Activist Martin Kollie, The Vice President for University Relations argues that Kollie's information is not always correct because he was the same person that brought similar allegations against City Mayor Koijee and he was investigated and found not guilty."Any allegation that comes to us, we can investigate it with independent people. I can't not tell all but if anybody has evidence, let them bring it. We just can't stop the graduation. What I do know is that we are graduating students from the Law School on Friday and all of them have been satisfied as graduates after going through the same process that I went through" Cllr. Tweah concludes.

The University of Liberia is conducting its 103rd Graduation started here on Monday, May 29 with more than 1,700 candidates. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

attended all of her classes and passed the course.

In a telephone interview with the NEW DAWN on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, Cllr. Tweah termed the allegation against the Law School as false and misleading. He maintains that the UL will graduate students who completed all of their processes and are satisfied by the school.

"All that information is rubbish; don't believe any information you hear. I just don't know which particular student you are talking about but we are commencing graduation on Friday and all those that are listed will be graduating. Unless something else comes up. If anybody has evidence against that person's name that you are calling, they can provide us the information but, for now, we know that all of our students have met the benchmark and they will be graduating", Cllr. Tweah defends.

rubbishes allegation of academic fraud at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law.

The law school had been accused of planning to graduate Student Alimatu Nuri Hutchinson, who faced problems with her grades.

Exiled Liberian activist Martin K. N. Kollie, posted on his social media page, warning that "If caution is not taken, the prestige or morale of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law could fast sink. Student Alimatu Nuiri should not be graduating. She failed and bought grades from "D" TO "C". I will prove this in a letter to Dean Jallah Barbu. Sad."

There have been allegations that the Dean of the Law School, Cllr. Barbu changed her grade, but the allegation was defeated after the Dean was invited by the Faculty Senate and investigated.

The Faculty Senate established that Student Hutchinson scored 66% and it

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thousands of Liberians trapped in extreme suffering and poverty," Charlyne Brumskine said.

She asserted that Mr. Cummings vision and aspirations for a prosperous nation is unmatched and are similar to those of her late father and founder of the Liberty Party.

She made specific references to Cummings vision for the formation of an inclusive government of all Liberians, irrespective of tribal, political, or religious affiliations, and how the Buchanan port in Grand Bassa County can become a major economic hub in Liberia.

She said the CPP Standard Bearer has integrity, enviable

## Charlyne speaks out

experiences in corporate governance and vast understanding of the global economy than any of the contenders in the race for the Presidency.

On claims by critics that she is disconnected from the poor masses, Charlyne wants Liberians to disabuse their minds that one must have to experience hardship and poverty in order to help the poor and to be uneducated in order to help the uneducated.

"A doctor doesn't need to have malaria to treat malaria, a Lawyer doesn't have to be a criminal to fight for someone and an Advocate doesn't have to be a victim of rape to understand how to fight for a rape victim," Charlyne

Brumskine said.

She stressed the need for Liberians to change the country's narrative of neglect, poverty, suffering and war-torn Liberia and speak about the emergence of a new nation of hope and brighter future for all Liberians.

Charlyne said no one should take pride in poverty and telling stories of poverty and suffering, noting that Liberians are tired of recycled and the same old stories by politicians, who have done nothing good for Liberia.

She said these bogus narratives of poverty and suffering have done nothing, except to keep certain people in power at the detriment of the nation.

# 'Liberia under serious curse'

## -LRP political leader alleges

By Lincoln G. Peters

The head of one of Liberia's newly certificated political parties, Cllr. Luther N. Yorfee says the country is under a serious spiritual curse.Yorfee links the alleged spiritual curse to the unnecessary murder of former Liberian presidents Samuel Kanyon Doe, and William R. Tolbert, and the elimination of thirteen ex-government officials.

Yorfee is the Vision Bearer of the Liberia Rebuilding Party (LRP). The National Elections Commission (NEC) certificated LRP along with nine other political parties Tuesday, 30 May 2023 ahead of the October elections.

In an interview with journalists at the NEC following his party's accreditation, Cllr. Yorfee indicated that since the

"You will agree with me that we have slain two of our leaders [by] violent means in this country. Even the Bible says woe to that nation that gets rid of her own king," Cllr. Yorfee argued.

"This means that we (Liberians) have a curse on us already because we have slain two of our presidents, namely former presidents Samuel K. Doe and William R. Tolbert," he noted.

According to him, President Tolbert was killed along with thirteen other government officials in the name of rampant corruption.

"However, when we look at our country today, can we say we are free of rampant corruption? No. This means that the killing of those people was useless."

For reconciliation, he said he will ensure that it remains paramount in this country.

Yorfee also believes that giving the slain presidents a befitting state burial will help the country



Liberian civil unrest, the country has made no significant progress in the areas of infrastructure development and reconciliation.

The presidential hopeful suggested that to make progress, LRP has to be built on four major pillars.

They include rebuilding relationships with God and the citizens, rebuilding lives, rebuilding the country's economy, and rebuilding the country's infrastructure.

reconcile.

"We are going to build a national park to be named the Liberian National Reconciliation Park."

Cllr. Yorfee said unless Liberia and Liberians are brought back to God, they will never prosper.

He said his priority is to rebuild Liberia's relationship with God.

"However, after that, we have to rebuild our relationship with our fellow citizens. That has to do with reconciliation," Cllr. Yorfee noted.

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## Five guilty for murder

insufficient & lacked legal basis to have the defendants guilty of the crime.The late Rachel Weah went missing in May 2022.

The five defendants who reside in Boah Dwehken, Grand Kru County were enroute to River Gee County when they were arrested by joint security at the Gbeapo Joequiken checkpoint with human skull

including bones believed to be that of a human.However, family members of the late Rachel Weah have lauded the jurors' verdict and expressed excitement and trust in the legal system of Liberia.

Mr. Nathaniel Weah used the occasion to call on all citizens to use the legal sector when there's a similar situation in the country.



# Français

## La NEC a certifié 10 nouveaux partis politiques

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) du Libéria a accredité et certifié dix nouveaux partis politiques avant les élections du 10 octobre 2023.

Les dix partis politiques

NEC Madame Davidetta Brown-Lansanah a dit que la certification est conforme à l'article 79 de la Constitution du Libéria. Les partis politiques ont satisfait à toutes les exigences légales pour être légalisés et agréés comme partis politiques à part entière au sein de

qui s'y rapportent », a-t-elle conclu.

Les différents partis étaient représentés par leurs présidents qui ont reçu les certificats. Ils ont également fait de brèves déclarations au nom de leurs institutions. S'exprimant ainsi au nom des différents partis politiques accrédités et certifiés, le porte-drapeau du Liberia First Movement (LFM), M. Sheikh Mustapha Kuyateh, a félicité la NEC pour les avoir certifiés. Ils y voient une opportunité de servir leur pays par un processus démocratique et non par des moyens violents.

Il a en outre indiqué qu'en tant que partis politiques nouvellement accrédités, ils veilleront à instituer un système de gouvernance qui apportera justice et transparence à tous les Libériens, quelle que soit leur affiliation politique.

« Nous vous remercions de nous avoir certifiés aujourd'hui en tant que parti politique à part entière. Nous sommes venus aujourd'hui en nous engageant pour des élections non violentes et pacifiques », a-t-il ajouté.

« Nous veillerons à ce que ce gouvernement soit remplacé par un système bien meilleur par des moyens démocratiques. Notre certification aujourd'hui, ce n'est pas de combattre ce gouvernement par la violence, mais avec des idées et des suggestions », a-t-il conclu.

la République du Libéria.

« Cela dit, j'aimerais appeler tous les présidents des partis ci-dessus à sortir et pour recevoir officiellement leurs certificats », a déclaré Mme Brown-Lansanah.

Selon elle, les partis ont rempli toutes les conditions d'enregistrement prévues à l'article 79 de la Constitution du Libéria et les directives et règlements de la NEC relatifs à la formation et à l'établissement d'un parti politique devant opérer au Libéria. « Pour ce faire, la NEC déclare et accredité par la présente tous ces partis ici présents en tant que partis politiques dûment enregistrés avec tous les droits et privilèges



NEC Chairperson certificates political leader

sont le United Independent Democrat (UID), le National Development Party (NDP), le All Liberians Solidarity Party (ALSOP), le Reformers National Congress (RNC), le Greater Action Party of Liberia (GAPL), la Ligue de libération de l'Afrique (ALL), le Mouvement pour le développement à la base (GSM), le Liberia First Movement (LFM), le Mouvement démocratique africain du Liberia (ADML) et le Liberia Rebuilding Party (Rebuilding).

Présentant des certificats aux nouveaux partis politiques, la présidente de la

## La CBL relève son taux directeur à 17,5%

Le Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), par procuration pour son Comité de politique monétaire (MPC), a relevé le taux de politique monétaire (MPR) de 250 points de base à 17,5 %, pour anticiper de nouvelles pressions inflationnistes au troisième trimestre de 2023. Le Conseil, lors de la deuxième réunion trimestrielle de 2023, a confirmé sa décision de maintenir le taux des réserves obligatoires existants à 25 % pour le dollar libérien et à 10 % pour le dollar américain.

Le Conseil a exhorté la CBL à maintenir la politique existante d'Open Market Operations (OMO), offrant des factures CBL bimensuelles exclusivement aux banques commerciales, tout en permettant aux investisseurs de détail et aux banques commerciales de

souscrire aux factures mensuelles et trimestrielles. L'émission des bons appuie les efforts de la Banque pour maintenir la stabilité macroéconomique. Au-delà de l'activité de la CBL sur le marché primaire, le Conseil a encouragé la CBL à faciliter les transactions sur le marché secondaire pour améliorer la gestion de la liquidité, car l'activité limitée sur le marché secondaire obligeait la CBL à réescompter ses titres, ce qui

pourrait nuire à l'efficacité de ces instruments de politique monétaire.

En mettant en œuvre ces mesures, le Conseil d'administration est convaincu que la CBL maintiendra la stabilité macroéconomique face aux incertitudes économiques mondiales persistantes et à la volatilité des prix des matières premières sur le marché intérieur.

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## Éditorial

### La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor essuie des critiques

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor se remet peut-être encore du déluge de critiques dont elle a été la cible toute la semaine pour avoir incité les jeunes de son parti et de la coalition au pouvoir à prendre d'assaut l'église du sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson à Paynesville.

Des jeunes du NPP vêtus de t-shirts du parti et rejoints par la suite par des jeunes du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), ont interrompu le culte de l'église. Il y a quelques jours, la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor qualifiait le sénateur Johnson de "tueur", l'accusant d'avoir tué des milliers de Libériens pendant la guerre civile brutale du pays. Elle a même menacé d'encourager l'établissement d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria.

La vice-présidente craint que la liste Joseph Boakai - Jeremiah Koung permette au sénateur Johnson de saisir la présidence libérienne. Le sénateur Johnson était le leader du Front national patriotique indépendant du Libéria, un ancien groupe rebelle, qui a capturé et torturé à mort le président Samuel Kanyon Doe en septembre 1990.

Le sénateur Johnson a ainsi promis de répondre à la vice-présidente depuis son pupitre dans son sermon du dimanche.

Mais immédiatement après l'acte ignoble, l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a rapidement condamné la vice-présidente Jewel Taylor, pour avoir déchaîné des voyous sur PYJ, indiquant qu'un tel acte effronté de voyou est sans aucun doute répréhensible, inconcevable, inacceptable et constitue pure provocation. Il a ajouté qu'il est honteux qu'une telle anarchie soit commise au nom de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, qui, selon lui, a prêté serment de faire respecter l'État de droit et de respecter les droits constitutionnels d'autrui.

L'ancien législateur du comté de Montserrado, David Kotie, a quant à lui exhorté la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor à cesser de faire des déclarations incendiaires susceptibles de mettre le Libéria en difficulté. Il s'est dit indigné par le fait qu'une personne comme la vice-présidente Taylor, qui occupe un poste élevé au sommet de l'Etat, fasse des déclarations qui menacent la paix du pays.

Pour sa part, le leader politique de la Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT), le Dr Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, réagissant au comportement désagréable des jeunes des partis politiques, a déclaré que la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor n'a aucune rectitude morale pour tenir et remettre en question la capacité de tout Libérien bien intentionné à mieux vivre ou à mieux se comporter. « Cette vice-présidente a supporté et bénéficié de la guerre qui a fait beaucoup de morts dans ce pays. Elle a aidé et encouragé la guerre en donnant à son ex-mari, l'ancien président Charles Taylor, des conseils pour tuer des Libériens. Madame Howard-Taylor et l'ancien président Charles Taylor sont responsables de la mort des deux cent cinquante mille Libériens lors de la guerre civile », a ajouté le Dr Whapoe.

Outre les réactions de ces dirigeants, Mme Taylor a également subi des critiques massives de la part du public, car, bien qu'elle soit elle-même chrétienne, elle a fermé les yeux quand les jeunes de la majorité au pouvoir sont allés perturber un culte religieux pour sa défense. Même une aile du NPP de la vice-présidente dirigée par le sénateur James P. Biney du comté de Maryland s'est dite attristée par ce dernier développement qui, selon lui, a détruit tout ce pour quoi ils avaient travaillé au fil des ans pour essayer de rebaptiser le NPP.

Nous sommes surpris que la vice-présidente Taylor, une mère et une dirigeante très respectée, ait pu se tenir trop bas au nom de la politiaillerie pour promouvoir le mal. Madame Taylor devrait rassembler le courage de s'élever au-dessus de la politique sale et savoir qu'en tant que vice-présidente en exercice du Libéria, il lui incombe de faire preuve de leadership à tout moment, quel que soit l'intérêt politique. Le Libéria est plus grand que n'importe quel parti politique et le maintien de la paix devrait être primordial.



# Français

## La CBL relève son taux

Les décisions politiques du MPC découlent de la tendance à la baisse continue de la croissance mondiale à 2,8 % pour 2023, contre 3,4 % estimés en 2022 et 6,2 % en 2021. L'inflation globale n'en est pas moins un facteur, à un niveau élevé de 7,0 %, tirée par l'écart offre-demande. Toutefois, les projections régionales d'inflation devraient se modérer. L'inflation dans les pays avancés devrait tomber à 4,7 %, tandis que l'inflation en Afrique subsaharienne devrait tomber à 14 % contre 14,5 % en 2022.

Les facteurs déclenchant le ralentissement de la croissance et l'inflation accrue comprennent les turbulences du secteur financier liées au resserrement des conditions financières et à la hausse des prix, qui ont aggravé les effets d'entraînement de la guerre russo-ukrainienne et de la pandémie de COVID-19. En Afrique subsaharienne, la chute des prix des produits de base n'a pas eu de conséquences négligeables. Les taux directeurs ont continué d'augmenter dans le monde entier, en réponse à ces tendances. Alors que les pays de la CEDEAO ont emboîté le pas, les taux directeurs du Libéria et de l'UEMOA sont restés inchangés au cours du trimestre sous revue.

Le Conseil, en rappelant la chute des prix des principaux produits d'exportation du Libéria au cours du dernier trimestre de 2022, a été encouragé par la performance plus forte que prévu des prix mondiaux de ces produits, notamment le minerai de fer, le caoutchouc et l'or, ainsi que les grumes rondes. En conséquence, le produit intérieur brut réel (RGDP) a atteint environ 5,1 % au cours du premier trimestre de 2023, par rapport à la même période en 2022. La projection de croissance annuelle pour 2023

est cependant de 4,3 %, en baisse par rapport à l'estimation de 4,8 % pour 2022, en raison de modérations dans les sous-secteurs des mines et de l'orpaillage et de la foresterie. La projection de l'inflation intérieure reste préoccupante, à 8,7 % +/- 2,0 points de pourcentage, en raison du resserrement actuel des conditions financières mondiales et des contraintes structurelles intérieures. Cependant, le Conseil a noté une modération du déficit commercial à 4,5 % du PIB au cours du trimestre, contre 6,9 % du PIB au quatrième trimestre en 2022 et 5,5 % du PIB au trimestre précédent. Cela a été attribué à une augmentation de 16,0 % des recettes d'exportation couplée à une baisse de 11,0% des paiements à l'importation.

Le Conseil a noté que les envois de fonds nets via le système bancaire au premier trimestre de 2023 ont augmenté de 33,1 % pour atteindre 91,1 millions de dollars, contre 68,5 millions de dollars au quatrième trimestre de 2022, tandis que les envois de fonds entrants se terminant dans des portefeuilles mobiles ont augmenté de 3,1 % pour atteindre 94,6 millions de dollars US au premier trimestre en 2023 contre 91,6 millions de dollars US au quatrième trimestre en 2022.

Le Conseil a noté des signaux mitigés dans l'activité interbancaire. Les opérations de pension ont été inexistantes au cours du trimestre. Cependant, il y a eu un bond démesuré dans les transactions de swap interbancaires, passant de 2,9 millions de dollars au quatrième trimestre en 2022 à 58,0 millions de dollars au cours de la période considérée, les banques cherchant à atténuer la disparité de liquidité pour leurs transactions internationales et nationales.

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## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

# USA : le problème de la dette n'est pas réglé

CAMBRIDGE - L'accord sur le relèvement du plafond de la dette qui vient d'être trouvé entre la Maison Blanche et les républicains - et qui doit encore être soumis au Congrès, ne règle pas le problème. L'affrontement partisan sur ce plafond est devenu un élément prévisible de la vie politique américaine. On peut avancer que cette situation tient à une réglementation mal conçue, mais cet argument est contestable.

La cause profonde du problème tient à ce que rien n'incite les responsables politiques d'aujourd'hui à rechercher des compromis. Dans un contexte de charcutage des circonscriptions électorales, de fracture idéologique tant des médias sociaux que des médias traditionnels (un phénomène encore amplifié par les bots, les algorithmes et les incitations économiques), l'instabilité ne pourra que s'intensifier dans le futur prévisible. Autrement dit, l'Etat fédéral pourrait se trouver plus fréquemment en rupture de paiement et l'indépendance de la banque centrale pourrait être soumise à des restrictions plus fréquentes. Et comme on ne peut exclure un retour de Trump à la Maison Blanche après l'élection présidentielle de 2024, il est difficile de prévoir ce qui va se passer.

Atteindre le plafond de la dette ne contraint pas l'Etat fédéral à faire immédiatement défaut sur ses obligations. Ses ressources lui suffisent largement pour verser les intérêts, et le plafond de la dette ne fait pas obstacle à son refinancement.

Quand le plafond de la dette est atteint, le gouvernement ne peut engager des dépenses supérieures à ses recettes, car il ne pourrait le faire sans émettre de nouvelles dettes. Le Trésor pourrait donc contraint de faire des choix difficiles. Comme personne ne veut toucher aux retraites ou à Medicare, il faudrait retarder ou diminuer les paiements destinés à d'autres postes, ce qui pourrait conduire à un défaut de paiement partiel du gouvernement (ce ne serait pas la première fois).

Rien n'oblige le Trésor américain à cesser d'honorer la dette américaine, ce qui plongerait le système financier mondial dans le chaos. Cela ne pourrait se produire que si l'impasse durait si longtemps (des mois ?) que les pressions politiques exploseraient. C'est ce qui arrive généralement dans les pays émergents endettés qui se mettent en défaut bien avant d'y être contraints par un manque de capacité de paiement. Contrairement aux pays émergents dont les dettes sont souvent libellées en devises étrangères et les recettes fiscales très limitées, les USA peuvent émettre davantage de dette d'un coup de baguette magique, même si des dépenses trop importantes et trop rapides alimentent l'inflation.

Certaines des idées évoquées pour contourner le plafond de la dette pourraient être contre-productives. Ainsi, le recours au 14<sup>e</sup> amendement risque d'être annulé par la Cour suprême. Auparavant, les républicains du Congrès pourraient refuser de voter les dépenses permettant au gouvernement de continuer à fonctionner. Frapper une pièce de

mille milliards de dollars et la déposer à la Réserve fédérale pour contourner le Congrès mettrait la banque centrale dans une position intenable.

Le débat n'a jamais porté sur la dette, mais sur le pouvoir. Si les républicains prennent le pouvoir en 2024 et finissent par contrôler la Chambre, le Sénat et la présidence, ils réduiraient probablement massivement les impôts, ce qui creusera de la dette. Par contre, si les démocrates reprennent la Chambre des représentants et conservent la présidence et le Sénat, ils voudront utiliser la dette pour étendre le champ d'action de l'Etat.

Les conservateurs pensent que le déficit provoqué par les réductions d'impôts est sans importance, car il encourage le travail et l'esprit d'entreprise, générant ainsi une croissance suffisante pour rembourser la dette. Les économistes de gauche affirment que même en l'absence de tels effets incitatifs, les recettes dues à la croissance pourraient dépasser le service de la dette - l'endettement ne serait alors pas une préoccupation.

L'idée des deux partis selon laquelle une dette ne pose pas problème tant qu'elle est utilisée à bon escient est incroyablement naïve. Les taux d'intérêt réels (ajustés en fonction de l'inflation) ont chuté après la crise financière de 2008-2009, ils sont restés faibles durant la décennie suivante et ont encore dégringolé durant la pandémie. Mais dans les pays avancés, les taux d'intérêt à long terme (par exemple ceux des obligations d'Etat à 10 ans) sont beaucoup plus élevés qu'ils ne l'étaient lors de la pandémie. Par ailleurs le monde est devenu beaucoup plus instable, et il est quasi certain que beaucoup de pays occidentaux devront augmenter leurs dépenses de défense, ce qui mettra leur budget encore davantage sous tension.

A écouter les commentateurs démocrates, l'impasse récente est entièrement due aux républicains. C'est vrai, mais il est tout aussi vrai que Biden a fait sa campagne au centre, pour ensuite faire passer sur le fil du rasoir des réformes de fond qui vont affecter le pays pendant des années. Les républicains veulent revenir sur certaines de ces réformes.

Les démocrates soulèvent une objection : les républicains essaieraient d'empêcher le gouvernement d'emprunter pour financer des dépenses déjà approuvées par le Congrès. C'est un argument stupide, car le gouvernement peut toujours revenir sur des projets de dépense à long terme. Mais un gouvernement efficace doit être capable de parvenir à un accord sur les dépenses à long terme qui ne fasse pas l'objet de réévaluations permanentes. Or l'accord de dernière minute sur l'augmentation du plafond de la dette ne va pas dans ce sens.

Au contraire, les USA étant sur la voie d'un nouvel affrontement entre Biden et Trump l'année prochaine - un affrontement dont Trump pourrait sortir vainqueur - une trêve pourrait être de courte durée.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

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# Exploring the Contemporary Relevance of Virtues: How the Beatitudes Can Develop Moral Character

Introduction

This article is a narrative analysis of Matthew 5:3-9, also known as the Beatitudes, in which Christ teaches the advantages of living a moral and virtuous life. The concept of virtue has existed for a very long time, long before the time of Jesus Christ. Socrates and Plato believed virtues were necessary for a happy and fruitful life because they fostered excellence in all home, school, and work activities. The development of Christlike character underpins the fundamental teachings of the Bible and the ultimate relationship between man and God. The Beatitudes are one of many virtues articulated in the Bible to an audience more than 2,000 years ago. Are these guidelines still applicable to character development in modern times? This article examines the contemporary relevance of the first seven Beatitudes concerning character.

What are Virtues?

Webster's dictionary defines virtues as "a moral standard; a particular moral excellence." The standard expresses the character traits expected of members by society, religion, and other groups. Not surprisingly, Christian and secular literature have developed concepts of virtues that reflect their respective values. Some virtue ideologies are secular, others are Christian, and others are hybrids of secularism and Christianity. This article emphasizes biblically defined Christian values that find their basis in the scriptures as ordained by God.

The Bible contains virtues, vices, and dos and don'ts to guide Christian behavior. These precepts instruct Christians to conduct themselves morally and ethically, following God's laws. The teachings of the Bible emphasize the development of Christian moral virtues and the necessity of adhering to the rules articulated by Jesus Christ. Virtues are closely related to ethics, establishing the baseline behavior Christians are expected to exhibit. Christian means resembling Christ. Therefore, the integrity and ethical principles the Bible advocates are intended to transform Christians into Christ's model.

The Bible is an authoritative source of information about what a Christian should be in thought and behavior. The character standards articulated by the prophets and Jesus Christ and recounted in the Bible embody those reflected in God's disposition. Psalm 119:69, Deut. 32:4 and Rev. 15:3-4 all define God as having a good character. The Bible teaches Christians to live a virtuous life that conforms to God's holy and merciful character.

The Bible is an essential source of God-honoring character traits, role models, and stories. 2 Peter 1:5-8 urges Christians to complement their faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge, ultimately leading to the greatest of all virtues: love. Christians should practice other biblical virtues such as self-control, moderation, reverence, prudence, and fortitude to fulfill God's plan for humanity. In contrast, the Bible identifies vices that Christians seeking to inherit God's kingdom should avoid. In God's eyes, evils represent sinful actions and occurrences, and Christians who engage in them are condemned. Galatians 5:19-21 gives examples of vices: idolatry, jealousy, anger, envy, and drunkenness. According to Romans 6:23, Christians who sin will face death, a spiritual death that will separate them from the gift of eternal life.

The Beatitudes—the preamble to the Sermon on the Mount—exemplify the causes and effects of practicing Christianity better than any other virtues. The discourse--Christ's first public event--proclaimed the kingdom of heaven to his disciples and followers, which became a defining tradition of his ministry. Christ used the Sermon to teach fundamental Christian values and

emphasized the challenges and rewards of being a disciple.

What Moral Lessons Do the Beatitudes Teach?

The seven Beatitudes teach the character traits necessary for entrance into God's care (the eighth Beatitude is not a character trait but rather a blessing for those who comply with the first seven). They answer the fundamental question about the human conditions that indicate Godly character's presence where adherents ultimately inherit heaven's kingdom. It describes the ethical behaviors of individuals welcomed into God's domain while emphasizing the determiners pointing to the Holy Spirit's inner workings that can lead to character transformation. All seven blessings are interconnected and relate to Christ as the giver of the gift. The ladder-like interdependence of the Beatitude means the first, Blessed are the poor in spirit, lays the foundation for the remaining six virtues.

The Beatitudes are a composite unit given their interlocking identities—the first lays the basis for the second, the second lays the foundation for the third, and so on. In other words, to mourn, one must be poor in spirit; to be meek, one must mourn or repent; hence the seventh is the product of the preceding six and indicates a logical progression in spiritual transformation. Poor in spirit referenced in the first blessing reflects the need to exhibit humility and develop the mindset that the human is nothing in the eyes of the Almighty. It emphasizes what can occur when a man engages with God by obeying his commands and being transformed into people of love and goodwill. Isaiah 64:6 speaks to the uncleanness and filth



that characterizes humankind and how our existence fades away like a decaying leaf. This consciousness is an antecedent condition for acquiring other wisdom and knowledge about God. The repetition of "theirs is the kingdom" in the first and eighth blessings emphasizes the significance of the foundational gift.

The first word of each Beatitude, "blessed," connotes spiritual and internal happiness. The present tense denotes the promise made immediately, not at some future point. Blessedness is the reward for all who live with Godly character. Christ's teachings aim to direct our path in ways that will bring happiness to our lives so that we receive the gift.

Christ came to introduce a new covenant between God and man, and the Beatitudes represent his manifesto of the virtues, character traits, and ethical behaviors of those following God's laws. The transition from the Torah to the New Testament laws represents a significant revolution in humanity's belief and relationship with God since the two doctrines have many divergencies, especially regarding salvation.

How Can the Beatitudes Aid in Moral Character Development Today?

The Beatitudes summarize the value system and standard of morals Christians must adhere to inherit God's kingdom. Christ's words describe what a Christian should aspire to become. And even though they were spoken more than 2,000 years ago, these virtues have enduring relevance and

apply to current realities. Each Beatitude describes a behavior, a virtue that, from a spiritual perspective, aims to bring eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes can assist in cultivating qualities such as humility, mercy, and compassion and influence interaction with others. They can inspire acts of kindness and service, ultimately fostering personal fulfillment and well-being. The blessings bestowed are accessible to all who believe in God and follow his commandments.

In "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth," meek implies agreeableness or gentleness, which is often present in people who exhibit controlled discipline. In a study, workers reported a willingness to take risks under leaders who maintained discipline and would not overreact when unexpected situations arose. Meekness reflects the qualities and grace of individuals exposed to discipline and training, willing to take counsel and instructions and find solace in God's sovereignty.

In "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," mercy appears twice, as a responsibility and a prize. Christ employs antithesis (in a literary sense) in the Sermon on the Mount and other dialogues to emphasize a concept's importance. Mercy comes about when someone is in need due to trials, affliction, or misery and requires a lending hand. Christ underscores the reciprocal nature of blessing in that one must also accept the duty of being merciful to receive mercy. Christians should show mercy to the souls of others through charity and other means such that they model God, who is also merciful.

In "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," Christ promises that those with sinless hearts will go on and see God. The central message is to avoid thoughts and behaviors that provoke sin and transgress against God's laws. 1 Peter 1:16 encourages holiness as a Godly attribute, as man's propensity for sin requires a deliberate effort to be sinless by extinguishing the desire for sin through grace.

Trusting God, requesting forgiveness, learning controlled discipline, being righteous, being merciful, becoming Godlike, and making peace are all characteristics that can aid in the development of a Christian's character. These practices demonstrate kindness, compassion, and humility, resulting in a blessed and happy life. The transformation required to ascend the Beatitudes ladder necessitates the Holy Spirit's intervention for humanity to live by a higher law characterized by love.

Conclusion

The Beatitudes, one of Christ's earliest teachings to his disciples, summarizes the ethical behavior a Christian should exhibit to experience spiritual growth and happiness. The teachings exemplify their behavior and thought patterns as Christians grow in faith and advance toward inheriting God's kingdom. The foundational blessing of "poor in spirit" recognizes the sinful nature of man and the need for spiritual healing through Jesus Christ. God desires human happiness characterized by "kindness, compassion, humility, generosity, justice, truthfulness, courage, forgiveness, mercy, consideration, benevolence, and honesty." These virtues, which are relevant to modern times, result from the character traits emphasized in the Beatitudes, even though they were spoken two thousand years ago.

Author's Biography:

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# CDC is not afraid

**By Lewis S. Teh**

Monrovia City Mayor  
and secretary  
general of the  
ruling Coalition for  
Democratic Change (CDC)

He stresses that the CDC is poised and determined to overwhelmingly defeat its opponents, adding "We are not bothered about who is coming from Nimba; listen, the man

milestone achievement, something, he says is a great success that officials in the CDC can boast of.

Officials of the ruling Coalition say the honoring program is a normal tradition within the party, that whenever partisans of graduate from any university across the country, it's incumbent upon the CDC to recognize them for their tireless efforts.

"This is meant to honor and certificate our partisans, who completed the course at the state-run university."

Responding, the valedictorian and dux of the 103rd Graduation Class of the University of Liberia, Clinton P. Quee, who hails from Nimba County, extols the leadership of the CDC for the support given him over the years.

"Studying Mathematics and Physics and getting to the top among others wasn't something easy. Normally, the opposition and people in government have looked down on CDCians, calling us names and people who are unserious. It's against this background that we thought to learn with focus on our studies", the proud graduate says.

Quee brags that the record is now set, and with this achievement, they are of the strongest conviction that the CDC will dux the opposition comes October.

However, he cautions youth within the ruling party to take advantage of the tuition-freed policy at the University of Liberia.

*Editing by Jonathan*

## Charlyne speaks out

**T**he Vice Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine has rejected criticism of being a political neophyte, saying she has vast wealth of experience and understanding of politics and governance in Liberia.

Charlyne said she has drafted more policies and regulations relative to the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary branches of government giving her an appreciable understanding of the workings of Liberia's governance system.

"I understand the realities and how the system works, more than most of the so-called recycled and used politicians, having drafted more Legislative policies and work as an educator. I understand the challenges from the administrative standpoint, and also operate my own law firm," she said.

Charlyne 47 is an Associate Professor at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, a Counsellor-at-Law at the Supreme

on May 27, officially endorsed by the CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, as his running mate in the October 10, general and presidential elections.

In an interview with OK FM, on May 31, Charlyne describe the CPP ticket as the best and a litmus test for good leadership, which Liberians must embrace and change the centuries-old ways of doing things that have only retarded progress and trapped millions in abject poverty.

The CPP Vice Standard Bearer said in these difficult economic conditions, Liberia is in dire need of good and innovative leaders with integrity, not politicians who lack understanding of how the global economy works and how to attract badly needed foreign investments to the country.

"Liberia needs innovative leaders with vision, who will attract both regional and international investments,



Jefferson Koijee says the CDC is not worried about the October elections because former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has no history of winning elected posts since the foundation of Liberia.

"Look, I tell you; we are not afraid of whoever might have come from Nimba, all we know is that Boakai has never won any elected post since this country was founded", he says.

Mayor Koijee threw the job at the Unity Party standard bearer late Tuesday, May 30, at the CDC headquarters in Congo Town during honoring program for 49 partisans who graduated from the University of Liberia.

He expresses optimism that the CDC will win in Nimba County despite Boakai selecting Senator Jeremiah Kougou, a son of Nimba as his vice running mate ahead of the October polls.

they called Boakai; that man has never won any elected post. He contested in Lofa County in 1997 and got defeated; we will stop here and wait for the debate to expose more.”

Speaking briefly to the graduates, the CDC chief scribe cautions CDCians graduating from the University of Liberia and other universities to remain steadfast in the journey that lies ahead of them, and not be deterred by what others may think about them.

"We want to encourage you to be courageous and continue to thread on that path.

For far too long we were classified as the unqualified group of people by those in leadership at the time, but today, we're the same people that are graduating with honors today", he notes.

Koijee describes the  
partisans' progress as a

*Starts from back page* **\$100m drug verdict**

Young people from the CDC's constituent party National Patriotic Party (NPP) of Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor disrupted the Church service. Amb. McCarthy reminded political party leaders, civil society organizers, and international dignitaries of the signing of the Farmington River Declaration last month.

While he commended the move, the U.S. Envoy said those signatories made a clear commitment to prevent violence, cooperate with law enforcement agencies, expand voters' education, and avoid inflammatory language and disinformation.

He said the signatures also committed political leaders and actors to accept the official election results, among many other elements. Going forward, he

said he expects all political parties to avoid a repeat of that 'nonsense that was witnessed two weeks ago with political disruption of a church service.'

"If your signatures mean anything, we depend on your honor to uphold those high standards invoked in the declaration," Abm. McCarthy said. He added that the true test of this commitment by political leaders will be the execution of a free, fair, transparent, and peaceful election process over the next 19 weeks.

Additionally, Amb. McCarthy reiterated his support for Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah's recommendation for the prosecution of Margibi County Health Officials by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to the fullest extent of the law. His call concerns a case of the appalling alleged kickback scheme of health funding for the people of Margibi County caught on tape and courageously revealed by Liberia's thriving fourth estate. McCarthy urged media institutions and integrity organizations to keep politicians of parties accountable for their important declarations and commitments. "Rather than simply reporting on the horse race, ask politicians the tough questions about their platforms and records, shed light on policy inconsistencies, and remind the public what they stand to gain or lose in the lead up to October," he said.



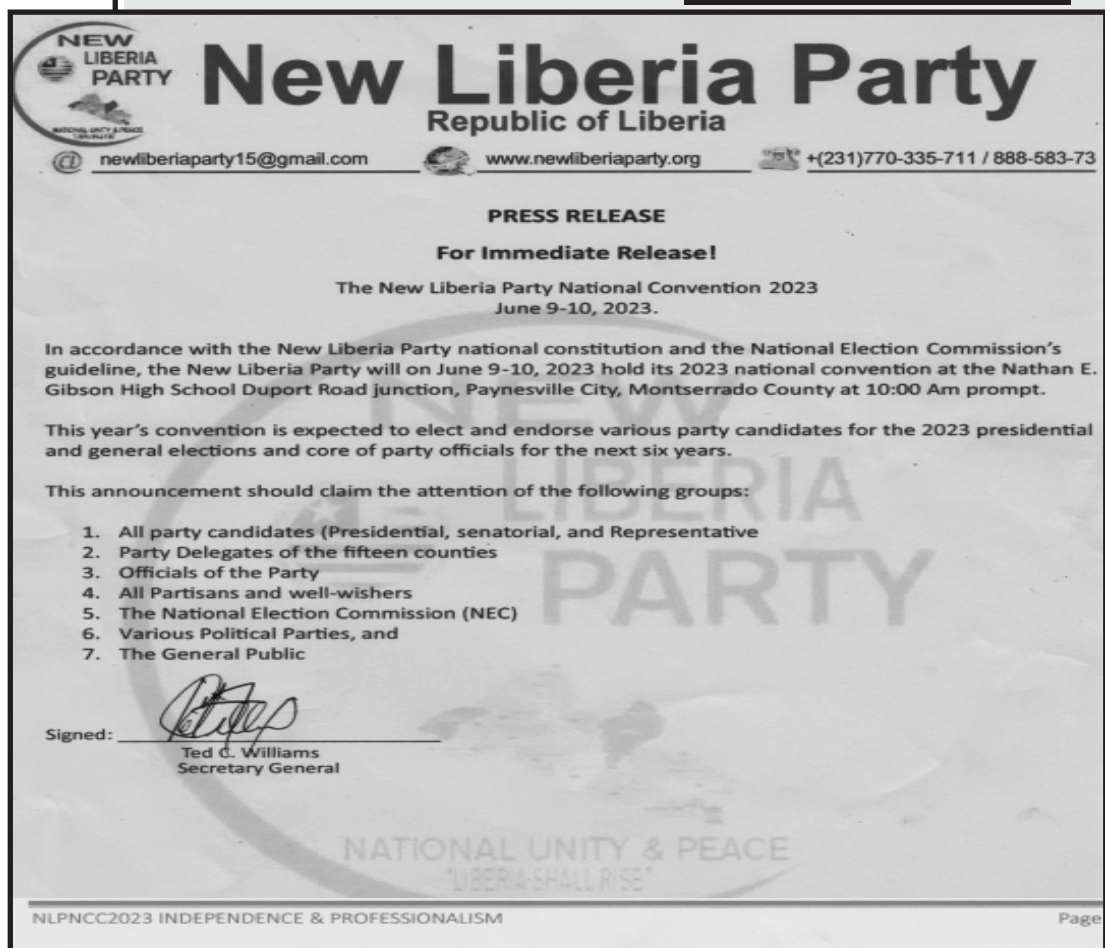
**Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine with CPP Leader Mr. Cummings**

Court of Liberia, and Senior Managing Partner of the CMB Law firm in Monrovia. She is the daughter of the late Counsellor Charles W. Brumskine, founder of the Liberty Party.

Charlyne, former Representative Aspirant in Grand Bassa County, was

improve the country's technological sector to internationally acceptable standards, and create massive jobs and opportunities for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07





## \$100m drug verdict saddens U.S.

By Bridgett Milton

United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy says he is saddened by the acquittal of suspects recently tried for the \$100 million cocaine trafficking and human trafficking cases here. "While I hesitate to

Malam Conte, Adulai Djibri Djalo, Makki Admeh Issam, and Oliver A. Zayzay on 18 May 2023. A jury panel at the Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia handed the unanimous verdict acquitting the four accused men, a blow to Liberia's fight against illicit drugs. The presiding Judge Blamo Dixon,

Liberia Inc. in Topoe village along the Japan Freeway. The operation followed a tip-off from the United States Government and a huge quantity of raw Cocaine concealed among frozen goods was seized. Unhappy with the outcome of the trial, the U.S. Envoy told journalists at his Embassy near Monrovia that like many Liberians, including the Minister of Justice, he was saddened to see the acquittal of suspects in both human trafficking and the US\$100m drug burst cases. From an outsider's perspective, he said it is alarming that conviction could not be obtained in Liberia, even when the evidence seemed so overwhelming. Amb. McCarthy continued that he is worried about what these developments portend for Liberia's justice sector, which the United States Government has supported with many millions of dollars over the years in capacity development. In another development, Amb. McCarthy has classified the recent disruption of Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson's Church service by ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) supporters as nonsense.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Amb. Michael A. McCarthy

second guess any jury and fully admit that I am not privy to all the details of the prosecutions or their defenses, I hope this does not send a signal of weakness in enforcement to international criminal cartels," Amb. McCarthy said at a press conference Wednesday, 31 May 2023. Liberian prosecutors lost the court battle in the US\$100m drug burst case against defendants

immediately ordered prosecutors to return money that the Government allegedly seized from the defendants. The accused faced a criminal trial after their arrest last year for their alleged roles in the US\$100m drugs seized by Liberian authorities. On 1 October, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), and the National Security Agency (NSA) stormed the grounds of SONIT

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