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Mr. Witherspoon

VOL. 13 NO. 090

FRIDAY, JUNE 02, 2023



Jackson returns Witherspoon's US15

-Days after both men spilled garbage at each other

Protest at Weah's Jamaica Resort

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Continental News

market as talks collapse

ockets hit a market in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, killing 18 people and leaving more than 100 wounded, doctors and residents say.

Neighbourhood organisations which have been helping Khartoum's residents get food and medicine - described it as a catastrophic situation and



The fighting between rival military forces comes as truce talks mediated by the US and Saudi Arabia collapsed.

Wednesday's violence around a market in Mayo in the south of Khartoum included artillery fire and aerial bombardment.

It caused the most civilian casualties in a single incident in the capital since the war began in April.

This brings the civilian death toll over seven weeks to at least 883, according to official counts - though the real number is likely to be far appealed for doctors and blood donations.

With so much of the violence taking place in urban areas civilians are in constant danger.

On Tuesday, the army and its rivals from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had agreed to extend last week's humanitarian ceasefire deal for another five days, in talks brokered by the US and Saudi Arabia.

But the next day the army withdrew from the talks, alleging the RSF was not committed to the

The US says both sides have violated the ceasefire - adding it remained ready to help mediate a truce when they were serious about ending the violence.

The ceasefire had allowed some urgent aid to reach around two million people, but the continued insecurity had "prevented delivery to many more and blocked operations to restore essential services", a US State Department spokesperson said.

According to the UN, 25 million people, more than half the population of Sudan, are now in need of humanitarian aid and protection.

With talks no longer taking place there is a fear of the fighting escalating - heavy fire was reported on Thursday morning across the River Nile from Khartoum in the cities of Bahri and Omdurman.

"We are being terrorised by the sounds of heavy artillery around us. The house has been shaking," a 49-year-old resident of Omdurman told the Reuters news agency.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) says its warehouses in El Obeid in North Kordofan state, with food for 4.4 million people, are coming under attack.

"It is unconscionable to steal from the hungry. This must stop," WFP chief Cindy McCain tweeted.

The fighting, which has also been fierce in Sudan's western Darfur region, is a direct result of a vicious power struggle between the two generals who led the 2021 coup - army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti. BBC

Sudan conflict: Rockets hit Khartoum Nigeria's fuel subsidy: How the new president has shocked the nation

with snaking queues across the said in a statement. country at petrol stations.

on Monday, Bola Tinubu took meet demands. his eyes off the teleprompter fuel subsidy is gone."

He was referring to a decades-long subsidy that has kept down the price of petroleum products.

The 71-year-old politician gave no timeframe or any more details about what is a major policy move. When a president last tried to remove the subsidy 11 years ago, protests erupted.

first address, hundreds of people had poured on to the streets, either in their cars or on foot with yellow jerrycans, to grab what they believed to be the last drops of fuel to be sold at a government-fixed

n off-the-cuff remark inauguration day brought tears and by Nigeria's new sorrow to millions of Nigerians Apresident during his instead of hope," Nigeria Labour inaugural speech caused chaos Congress (NLC) leader Joe Ajaero

Despite its oil riches, Nigeria is After he had been sworn in unable to refine crude locally to

The four state-owned refineries during his address to say: "The are moribund, forcing the country to import refined petroleum products which are then sold at a price fixed by the government.

> So while people in the UK and Ghana, for example, were forking out £1.44 (\$1.80) or 14 cedis (\$1.24) respectively for a litre of petrol in May, Nigerians paid 185 naira (\$0.40) - despite all three countries buying it from the same international market.

This has been the practice in Within hours of Mr Tinubu's Nigeria since the 1970s and most residents have grown up insulated from paying the actual price of petrol.

> But Mr Tinubu says Nigeria can no longer do this because of dwindling revenue: the government has already set aside \$7bn to subsidise fuel for the first six months of this



Senegal's opposition leader convi of 'corrupting youth'

has been sentenced by a court to two years in prison for "corrupting the youth", but has been cleared of rape charges.

The politician's supporters say the trial was aimed at stopping Mr Sonko from standing in presidential elections next year.

He has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and has urged people to "rise up".

When Mr Sonko was arrested in 2021, clashes left at least a dozen people dead.

He has accused President Macky Sall of planning to stay in office for an

unconstitutional third term. There have been clashes between police and protesters in the Senegalese capital Dakar

enegal's opposition after a court handed down a twoleader Ousmane Sonko year prison sentence to an opposition leader.

Ousmane Sonko was cleared of raping a woman in a massage parlour but convicted of a separate criminal offence of immoral behaviour towards

someone under the age of 21.

It is referred to as "corrupting the youth" in Senegalese law.

Mr Sonko denied any wrongdoing and his supporters see the trial as aimed at stopping him from running in next year's presidential race. BBC



But only a few were lucky - year. many filling stations stopped prices by more than 200%, health (5.3%). triggering chaos and an artificial scarcity.

By the time the president's team clarified that the scrapping of the subsidy would not come into effect until the budget - it was too late to stop the panic.

By Wednesday, even the state-owned oil company had said it would be raising the price of petrol.

already shot up, commuters are stranded at bus stops and the powerful labour union is

now readying itself for a confrontation with the new government. "By his insensitive decision,

This amounts to 15% of the selling altogether, while budget, more than the combined others unilaterally increased allocations for education (8.2%) and

> Subsidies are not necessarily bad. Many countries offer them in sectors ranging from agriculture to electricity in order to keep costs down for citizens.

But of major concern to end of June - in line with the Nigerians is corruption. outgoing administration's Government agencies give conflicting figures for the amount of fuel imported, while dubious sellers have been known to divert the fuel to nearby countries to get higher rates.

Ironically, President Tinubu was Transport fares have at the head of the resistance in 2012 when a government last tried to end the subsidv.

He wrote then that the government had "tossed the people into the depths of the midnight sea", in a blistering attack on the policy, which was subsequently President Tinubu on his reversed. BBC

By Oyeronke Oyebanji

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 I 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 | variants or strains. While challenges such as and the identification of key factors, 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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
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Fast-Tracking a Lassa Fever Vaccine

have exposed the vulnerability of the needed to gain the trust of the public. ■world's health systems, but it also led to a truly impressive achievement: the The vast disparity between rich and poor still no vaccine to prevent its spread.

clinical trials. Collaborating with pandemic. authorities in Nigeria, Benin, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, CEPI is also As we saw with COVID-19, public study that will inform future clinical trials.

stakeholders can also play a crucial role in vaccine becomes available. supporting research and development efforts.

Lassa fever cannot be ignored. While once a vaccine becomes available. recognizing the potential advantages of Lassa fever.

disease is endemic and recruit enough fight against all infectious diseases. participants. It is essential that any vaccine By investing in robust clinical trials, we can those of CEPI.

ONDON - The COVID-19 pandemic may ensure that the vaccines meet the standards

development and production of life-saving countries' access to vaccines during the vaccines more quickly than ever before. As pandemic has highlighted the need for our focus shifts to other public-health robust global health infrastructure. While challenges, we must harness these efforts like the COVAX initiative were technologies and apply the lessons learned established to enhance access for poor during the pandemic to address other countries, global vaccine distribution deadly diseases that require urgent remains a complex task. Guaranteeing attention. One of these diseases, Lassa equitable access to a Lassa fever vaccine will fever, has been ravaging West African require developing effective delivery countries for over 50 years, and yet there is mechanisms and putting the most affected and vulnerable communities first.

Work is already underway to protect This is a moral imperative. Governments, communities against the disease, which international organizations, and the private causes hemorrhagic fever and kills about sector must work together to build local 5,000 of the hundreds of thousands of infrastructure, make supply chains more people infected each year in West Africa. sustainable, and invest in health workers and The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness systems. Without these efforts, there is a Innovations (CEPI) has invested in six Lassa risk that those who are most in need will fever vaccine candidates, four of which are continue to be left behind, perpetuating the among the first in the world to have entered inequalities that were exposed by the

conducting a multi-country epidemiology engagement and communication play a crucial role in the success of any immunization campaign, and misinformation But these initiatives require the same cross-can hinder efforts to control infectious sector collaboration and investment that diseases. Clear and accurate messaging underpinned the success of the COVID-19 about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, vaccines. That means sustained financing tailored to the specific context of each and engagement by governments, the country or region, is essential to building private sector, academia, and philanthropic public confidence. By emphasizing public organizations in the affected countries. It is engagement and involving community crucial to build systems within states that leaders, health-care workers, and other can deliver the vaccine once authorized. stakeholders, we can improve the chances of Domestic leadership is essential, but other widespread uptake when a Lassa fever

West African countries must take an active role in driving the agenda for Lassa fever On a more granular level, the revolutionary vaccine development and procurement use of mRNA technology to immunize rather than passively waiting for solutions. against COVID-19 has opened new They can contribute the necessary funding, possibilities that could be explored in data, and resources to develop this critical preventing Lassa fever. Besides the tool for protecting vulnerable communities potential for rapid development, mRNA and strengthening the region's health vaccines offer several other advantages, security. In addition, countries must such as increased stability and scalability, proactively consider their strategies for reduced risk of contamination, and vaccine deployment and the data required to amenability to modification to address new inform such decisions. Thoughtful planning affordability and availability must still be including target populations, distribution addressed, the potential contribution of channels, and logistical considerations, can these new technologies to the fight against help streamline the implementation process

mRNA technology, further investigation and The lessons learned from the COVID-19 research are necessary to evaluate fully its pandemic and the success of collaborative feasibility and effectiveness in combating efforts can serve as both a source of inspiration and a guide for these countries' policymakers. They have an unprecedented Furthermore, the COVID-19 vaccine trials opportunity to protect their populations and demonstrated the importance of demonstrate the power of local engagement collaboration and careful planning. The and leadership in shaping global health same level of rigor must be applied to initiatives. If they succeed, the world will be clinical trials for Lassa fever vaccines, one step closer to a future where vaccines which must be tested in areas where the are widely accepted and readily used in the

candidate be safe, effective, and inclusive. The views expressed here are not necessarily

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Lord, our village da real hustle ground ooh

Dear Father:

I say, if you really want to know whether our village da hustle ground for true, just come around during voting time. Da the time you can see all kina people coming to say they want chop president job-monkey, and all will come and say they want be president.

Can you imagine! Nonsense!

I tell you Father; I wonder what they take our village for? Somer them na even able to pay to put their names in the newspaper them. They come begging like somebody who wife in the hospital needing urgent blood or else the person will die.

But that the people who say they get all the solution them to our village problem. One kitchen sef, somer them na get it here. But they want come be president from motel room-Holy Ghost thunder fire them!.

We na stupid here again oo. Let me tell yor na. Gone are the days where somebody will jump from one room and say they want to be lawmaker or president just to go steal.

I tell you ooh my son.

Yes, Father. Look, just the other day they say the voting house gave paper to 10 more handbag party them-I mean some hungry man them who say they want come to put their hat them in the race-so, so hustlers. Ask if they even get headquarters. You will be surprised somer them operating from people porch.

Come to think of it Father, I wonder what these people take our village for? Imagine Baboon and all will come and say they want be president.

The plenty one them we get here, we still looking at them-somer them na worked for more than forty years nathin to show for it. The lifestyle they living sef will tell you where they will take our village.

The funny thing is as soon as they come then they start playing Kountry-Congo card. So, who Kountry and Congo na? Because right na in this village, me I na see no Kountry and Congo, everybody da the same. The only difference here is some people travelled and go to school some people stayed in the village all their lives and went to all the schools here.

Hmm, maybe the people who go to school in different Kountry that the Congo people and the people who stayed in the village to go to school are the Kountry people-Nonsense! God go punished your mouth.

You better go look for different thing to say. Da all lor yor forcing people na to change their names and go to dialect school. Bor me, I will na go to no dialect school because yor Kountry-Congo card will na hold me.

You think the only way you can chop president job or Paramount chief job in this village na to divide us, den you lying, because we na stupid here again like our papay them who yor fooled to burn down our village and today we just look like ancient people among our neighbor them-wicked people!

Me, anybody come around me and my family with Kountry-Congo story da hot water I will waste on yor face. Yes, because you na mean well for our village.

Right na, our village should even be thinking how to make people with different skin color citizen na to be passing around with Kountry-Congo song. We na passed da orlor level. So go and change da song. It na fine again. Maybe, it wor fine during my grandfather owner time. But for us today, we don't need it. We need to look at yor qualification and yor achievements and also what you can bring to the table and how.

No, hustler is allowed here again-period!



By Jean Pisani-Ferry

NEW DAWN

Europe's Climate Quandary

ASHINGTON, DC - As Europe sets its sights on becoming the world's first carbonneutral continent, it must perform a delicate balancing act. Can the European Union transform its economy while enhancing its competitiveness? And can it achieve these goals while maintaining its status as a shaper of global standards and adhering to its principles of fiscal responsibility?

The answer to these questions is a resounding no. Trade-offs are unavoidable, and identifying the concessions required to strike the right balance could prove more challenging than policymakers may think.

In 2019, when the EU unveiled its Green Deal and pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, its primary goal was to bolster the 2015 Paris climate agreement and help limit greenhouse-gas emissions. But policymakers had a second, clearly defined objective: to turn the EU into a green industrial leader. This is why European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the policy framework as Europe's "man on the moon moment."

Whether the Paris accord would have collapsed without Europe's commitment to carbon neutrality is anyone's guess. Nevertheless, the EU deserves high praise for devising a comprehensive legislative package within a few years, which many had considered impossible. The European Green Deal relies on a vast array of tools, ranging from regulation (like the prohibition of sales of new internal-combustion cars after 2035) to carbon pricing (through the expansion of emissions quota trading).

But things have changed since 2019. First, China has emerged as a global leader in various green technologies, including solar panels and electric-vehicle (EV) batteries. The scale and speed at which it has pursued green industrial policy may have solidified its comparative advantage.

Second, former US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports, which remain in place under his successor, Joe Biden, have resulted in lasting damage to the multilateral system. For all intents and purposes, the World Trade Organization is now a shell of its former self.

Third, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has deprived Europe of unrestricted access to Russian natural gas, which had previously given it an edge in the global scramble for energy resources.

Lastly, the United States has joined the global fight against climate change, albeit in its own way. The Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's landmark climate legislation, excludes carbon pricing, does not cap subsidies, and conditions access to them on distortionary local-content requirements. These characteristics make the IRA a game changer, leaving the EU's consistent and carefully planned strategy increasingly vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, the EU has remained steadfast in its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. While seeking to position itself as a global player in emerging green industries, it is also determined to uphold multilateral principles and rules. Moreover, the bloc plans to do all this while maintaining its existing fiscal framework. In fact, it is currently exploring reforms that barely provide flexibility in accommodating the expected budgetary consequences of the net-zero transition.

The new reality, however, may soon force the EU to reassess its stance. Given the substantial political capital that has been invested in pursuing carbon neutrality, it is hard to envision the bloc explicitly renouncing it. But it could maintain the pretense of working toward it, fail to meet its 2030 targets, and then gradually accept its new position as a follower rather than a leader. This scenario seems increasingly likely, as the EU has not established the internal governance mechanisms needed to ensure member states' compliance.

While the EU retains direct control over some measures, such as the ban on sales of new carbon-emitting vehicles and the allocation of emissions quotas, supporting policies still largely fall within the jurisdiction of member states. Unless European governments implement policies to discourage the continued use of aging combustion-engine cars or subsidize investment in new EVs, for example, such cars could remain on the road for many more years.

In order to reduce the costs of achieving carbon neutrality, Europe may be tempted to sacrifice its competitiveness. If Chinese EVs prove to be more affordable than those manufactured in Europe, ardent climate advocates may argue in favor of buying Chinese cars. But Europe cannot afford to squander the opportunity to revitalize its auto industry.

Since 2019, the EU seems to have become more willing to sacrifice its global role as a shaper of rules and standards in the interest of enhancing its competitiveness. But the EU's commitment to a rules-based global order is part of its DNA, and it has no substitute of comparable weight. By relinquishing its role as a rule-maker, the EU could hasten the demise of multilateralism. Given that a weakened EU would lack the resources needed to save the existing global system, this outcome seems increasingly likely.

The most prudent course would be for the bloc to ease fiscal constraints through a green carve-out or a common-debt scheme, backed by an agreement to increase its own resources. Admittedly, such a move would risk triggering macroeconomic instability. But it would be less harmful than sacrificing competitiveness or letting the multilateral system crumble.

Unfortunately, these policies do not have sufficient support within the EU. Germany's finance minister, Christian Lindner, recently reaffirmed his country's commitment to the existing fiscal rules. But insisting on fiscal rectitude may confront the EU with significant losses on other fronts. Contrary to what some European policymakers may believe, the transition to clean energy will not be costless. The choice facing European policymakers is straightforward: act now to address these costs, or pay a much higher price later.

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

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. Isiah 64:6 speaks to the uncleanliness 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.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Court pursues Go

2023

-to return acquitted cocaine suspects' \$113k

By Lincoln G. Peters

in Monrovia has defendants. reordered the

money that the Government he Criminal Court "C" allegedly seized from the

The U.S. through its Ministry of Justice to pay back Embassy near Monrovia has said



US\$113,000.00 to the four men it is saddened by the acquittal acquitted in a US\$100m of suspects recently tried for cocaine trial.

money Thursday, 1 June 2023, overwhelming. roughly two weeks after he had trafficking suspects.

battle in the US\$100m drug prayed for. burst case against defendants Oliver A. Zayzay.

fight against illicit drugs.

May, Judge Dixon immediately their legal counsel," the court ordered prosecutors to return said.

the \$100 million cocaine Judge A. Blamo Dixon trafficking case, even when the reordered the return of the evidence seemed so

Judge Blamo's decision to mandated the prosecutors to reorder the return of the return cash they allegedly money came after Justice in seized from the acquitted drug Chambers Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay declined to grant a Prosecutors lost the court writ the prosecution had

"In view of the report of the Malam Conte, Adulai Djibri Clerk of the court, Cllr. Frank Djalo, Makki Admeh Issam, and Musa Dean, Jr., Minister of Justice, is hereby ordered to A jury panel at the Criminal bring to the First Judicial Court "C" in Monrovia acquitted Circuit Criminal Court "C" the the four accused men of the total amount of US\$113,000.00 charges, a blow to Liberia's on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 3 p.m. for onward transmission At the end of the trial on 18 to the defendants by and thru

Judge Dixon stated that all other monies associated with the case are waived.

On Wednesday, 24 May 2023, the Justice in Chambers declined to grant prosecution's request filed against Judge Dixon's order to return a controversial US\$200,0000 to the four defendants tried in the US\$100m cocaine case.

During a conference with both parties in the Justice's Chambers, Associate Justice Gbeisay said he found no merits in the case.

"After listening to both parties, I like to decline in granting the Writ of Peremptory as prayed for by the prosecution."

"This decision is based on the lack of merits in the case. Therefore, I urge that this matter be trashed due to the lack of merits," Associates Justice Gbeisay ordered.

After listening to the decision of the Justice in Chamber, the Government of Liberia immediately took appeal to the full bench of the Supreme Court.

The Government raised the contention through a Writ of Prohibition on Tuesday, 23 May 2023, asking the Supreme Court to place a stay order on the release of the money to the four individuals.

The government rejected Judge Dixon's decision to return the controversial US\$200,0000 the to four defendants who were acquitted in the US\$100m cocaine case.

Cummings to issue presidential performance contract

- As Grebo Women Group Pledges Support

he Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, says he will shortly unveil details of his first 100 day deliverables, attached with a special performance contract for Liberians to evaluate and hold him accountable for campaign promises made leading to his ascendency as President come October 10.

Cummings reassured Liberians of his commitment to restoring good governance and instituting real change that will improve the socio-economic conditions of all Liberians irrespective of political affiliations or ethnicity. He said unlike the administration of President George Weah, the CPP will guarantee every Liberian equal opportunity, right to free

micro-loans for Liberians including market women to grow and expand their businesses, establish a National Youth Service and Entrepreneurship program, a rapid development of the Eco-Tourism and forestry sectors, as well as development of Liberia's 350 mile beach way. He said a CPP Government will also invest heavily in agriculture, all aimed at creating massive job opportunities for Liberians.

On his choice of a female running mate, Cummings said he is excited and very confident in the ability, qualifications, smartness and resilience of Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine. He noted that they shared the same value system and work ethic. Cummings underscored the critical significance of women in decision making, and the need to involve women in all spheres of our national life, referring to women as the foundation of Liberia.



expressions and association with any reprisals be it public officials or civil servants working in government.

Cummings reiterated his commitment to a government of inclusion based solely on the merit system, with minimum of 30 percent female representation. The CPP Truth FM Breakfast Show on Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Asked about the CPP plans to restore good governance and revive the ailing economy, Cummings emphasized the need for a strong and independent Judiciary, respect for rule of law, combating corruption, and ensuring the streets are safe, all aimed at creating a friendly business environment to assure investors.

He said with his wealth of international experience in corporate governance and management of over US\$200

billion budget, Liberia will become a success story under a CPP Administration.

On the question of his stronghold political party of choice, without and where he derives his confidence to win the Presidency, Cummings said women and youth constitute the bulk of his supporters and admirers, scattered nationwide and with Charlyne as running mate, Grand Bassa County has become a CPP stronghold. He expressed confidence of taking over from Mr. Weah, whose nearly Standard Bearer made the six years leadership has proven to assertion when he spoke on the be disastrous, with rising cost of living, hardship, growing insecurity, lawlessness, extrajudicial killings and mysterious murders and deaths.

> Cummings said the arbitrary reduction of civil servants salaries, high unemployment rate, devaluation of the country's currency, backlogs of salary arrears owed civil servants, massive corruption, and wasteful spending have largely contributed to the deteriorating economic conditions nationwide.

The CPP Standard Bearer assured Liberians that he has the capacity, competence and connections to successfully lead the process of economic renewal, restore basic social services and get Cummings said he will ensure Liberians back to work as well as regular payment of civil get Liberians to play active role in servants' salaries, provide their own economy.

Opposition rules out violence

-As means to presidency

By Lincoln G. Peters

unconstitutional and violent the government. means of acquiring state power here.

war and violence and unconstitutional means is the way, I say no to that," Mr. Kouyateh told this paper in an exclusive interview Thursday, 1 June 2023 in Monrovia.

He noted that he does not consider violence as the means of unseating the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime.

A former CDC supporter, Mr. Kouyateh is seeking the presidency against incumbent President George Manneh Weah in the upcoming 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The leader of the newly accredited Liberia First Movement (LFM) explained that violence is not good, iberian opposition stating that he and all wellpresidential hopeful meaning Liberians reject any ■Mr. Sheikh Moustapha form of violence and Kouyateh has ruled out war, unconstitutional removal of

"We don't support violence and war in this country. "If getting power through Violence has no good in our country and any country. We say no to violence, war, and any

undemocratic and unconstitutional action," Mr. Kouyateh emphasized.

Commenting on the vision of his party and his quest for the presidency, Mr. Kouyateh said he will be on the ballot this October.

He vowed to ensure that under his administration when elected, there will be

CONT'D ON PAGE 07



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Border with Ivory Coast is dangerous

By Kruah Thompson

neighboring Ivory Coast is the Nimba, Maryland, and other

Ministry of Information's need for robust surveillance he Commissioner weekly press briefing, he and strategic measures to General of the Liberia revealed that over time, ensure the integrity and Immigration Services fugitives committing fortification of this vital (LIS), Robert Buddy says dangerous crimes in Ivory Coast Liberia's border with had fled to Liberia through

border.

He further discloses that with the assistance of local residents along these borders, they are able to track illegal entries into the country, particularly people who crossed over to register during the biometric voter registration exercise.

Commissioner Buddy says immigration officers along the border arrested several individuals, including an officer from Ivory Coast, who came to test the system in Liberia.

He notes that there are bad apples within the immigration service, who are tarnishing the reputation of the institution, but he and his team are working tirelessly to apprehend them, a task they have been carrying out consistently.

At the same time, the Commissioner General discloses that the Liberia Immigration Services has deployed mobile and foot patrols equipped with arms to protect the various borders especially, with Ivory Coast. Editing by Jonathan Browne



the country.

As geopolitical tensions rise maintain stability and protect without being arrested." national interests.

Leone is relatively calm, and partners, Liberia Immigration the border with Guinea poses a Services was able to apprehend medium threat level, but the some of those dangerous border with Ivory Coast is of individuals and hand them over utmost concern," he notes.

Making the disclosure here prosecution. on Thursday, June 1, at the

that country.

"People commit major and regional security concerns crimes in Ivory Coast, killing escalate, Commissioner Buddy their own citizens and even underscores the significance of murdering their wives, and safeguarding this border to they cross freely into Liberia

However, the LIS boss says "The border with Sierra with the help of international to Ivorian authorities for

He emphasizes the urgent

Starts from back page

diamond", he says.

"We will not sleep and will not rest until our diamond is given back. Minister Swen has been in a clandestine deal. He has tried to use his influence to intimidate us, and taken away our diamond and given it to those he prefers to sell it to and enjoy our sweat, but this will not work", Lama

He further accuses Minister Swen of giving the diamond to one "Kpaku" to keep, whom, according to him, was instructed to give them US\$100,000 to forget about the matter, but eventually, he allegedly gave them US\$88,000 which they rejected and instead, requested their diamond back.

Mr. Kamara expresses dissatisfaction about the amount given to him and his team, as Minister Swen allegedly tries to withhold the diamond, saying "They gave me US\$88,000 as bonus for my 53.3-carat diamond; this is unfair."

"I need my diamond so we

can have the real way of selling the diamond. We can't sell diamonds without miners and the government", he laments.

Similarly, Ma Fatu Borbor, owner of the mine where the diamond was reportedly found, cries out to Minister Swen to return the diamond to Mohammed Kamara, who she describes as her brother-

"I am appealing to our President, George Weah, to come to my rescue by returning to me my diamond discovered in my creek", she demands.

Madam Borbor: "We need our diamond. I am crying on President George Manneh Weah to intervene so that [it] will benefit the district and county at large. This is a lifechanging opportunity for me and my children."

Meanwhile, at least four protesters were arrested by the Liberia National Police (LNP) on Thursday. The NEW DAWN was unable to establish immediately their offense. Editing by Jonathan Browne

RP laments deteriorating economy

By Kruah Thompson

he Standard Bearer of Luther N. Yorfee is deeply backward trend.

Speaking to this paper, the leader of the newly registered political party further laments step-by-step approach to that the Liberian economy is effectively engage in currently facing a disconcerting setback.

His comments come amidst mounting worries here Liberia's staple, revealing that regarding the country's financial stability, prompting urgent calls for government action to reverse this troubling trend.

With investors and citizens facing the pinch, Liberia's economic future hangs in the balance as the Weah administration grapples with the challenges that lie ahead.

Cllr. Yorfee acknowledges frustration by some members of his party due to the slow progress in the certification process.

Nevertheless, he expresses gratitude that the longawaited certification has finally come to an end, and the

LRP is now officially registered, fully prepared to spring into action in ensuring that its Liberia's Rebuilding primary objective of advancing Party (LRP) Cllr. the country is achieved.

He says a LRP administration concerned about the nation's will focus on revitalizing the deteriorating economic economy while dismissing the trajectory, saying Liberia is notion that investing solely in undergoing a distressing agriculture will solve the country's problems.

He emphasizes the need for a comprehensive strategy and a agriculture, which he considers lacking presently. Cllr. Yorfee notes that rice is

statistics indicate the country spends over US\$300 million annually on rice imports

He believes that if the country continues on this trajectory, progress will be stagnant.

According to him, LRP aims to develop a solution to retain the 300 million in the country, stating that achieving this goal will accelerate development like never before without clearly explaining what remedy could make this possible. Editing by Jonathan Browne



NewDawn Layout Editor bags university degree with distinction



Editor at the NewDawn newspaper, has bagged a bachelor's degree with distinction from the state-run University of Liberia (UL).

UL's 1 0 3 r d Commencement Convocation which ran from 29 May to June 2023.

Ajayi earned his degree

in Economics with Honor

r. David Seyi and Distinction (Cum Ajayi, a Layout Laude) from the University of Liberia, on Wednesday, 31 May 2023.

On the occasion marking this great academic achievement, the entire NewDawn family headed by Mr. Ajayi formed part of the Publisher, Mr. Othello B. Garblah expresses warm congratulations to our Layout Editor Mr. Ajayi for being studious while also making your contribution to the forward match of this institution.

ranc

Le gouvernement américain se dit attristé par l'acquittement dont une énorme quantité des suspects dans l'affaire de drogue

'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria

Le ministère public libérien a perdu la bataille judiciaire dans ■Michael A. McCarthy l'affaire de drogue d'une valeur



s'est dit attristé par l'acquittement des suspects récemment jugés dans le cadre de l'affaire de trafic de cocaïne d'une valeur marchande 100 millions de dollars américains.

« Bien que j'hésite à deviner un jury et admette pleinement que je ne suis pas au courant de tous les détails des poursuites ou de leurs défenses, j'espère que cela n'enverra pas un signal de faiblesse dans l'application des lois aux cartels criminels internationaux », a dit l'ambassadeur McCarthy lors d'une conférence de presse le mercredi 31 mai 2023.

100 millions de dollars américain. Les accusés Malam Conte, Adulai Djibri Djalo, Makki Admeh Issam et Oliver A. Zayzay ont été jugés non coupables le 18 mai 2023.

Le jury du tribunal pénal "C" de Monrovia a rendu le verdict unanime acquittant les quatre hommes. Ce fut un coup dur pour la lutte du Libéria contre les drogues illicites. Le juge président, Blamo Dixon, a immédiatement ordonné aux procureurs de restituer aux accusés l'argent que le gouvernement aurait saisi.

Les accusés ont fait face à un procès pénal après leur arrestation l'année dernière pour leur rôle présumé dans le trafic de drogue d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains a été saisie par les autorités libériennes.

Le 1er octobre, la Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) et la National Security Agency (NSA) ont pris d'assaut les locaux de SONIT Liberia Inc. à Topoe Village, le long du boulevard du Japon. L'opération faisait suite à une information relayée par le gouvernement des États-Unis. L'énorme quantité de cocaïne brute avait été dissimulée parmi des produits congelés.

Insatisfait de l'issue du procès, le diplomate américain a dit aux journalistes que, comme de nombreux Libériens, dont le ministre de la Justice, il est attristé de voir l'acquittement des suspects à la fois dans la traite des êtres humains et dans les affaires d'explosion de drogue de 100 millions de dollars.

Il est alarmant, selon lui, qu'une condamnation n'ait pas pu être obtenue au Libéria, en dépit de la nature accablante des preuves.

M McCarthy s'est aussi dit inquiet de ce que ces développements présagent pour le secteur de la justice libérienne que le gouvernement américain a soutenu avec plusieurs millions de dollars au fil des ans pour le développement de ces capacités.

Dans un autre

➤ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Sénégal : l'opposant Ousmane Sonko condamné à 2 ans de prison ferme pour corruption de la jeunesse

l'affaire Ousmane ■Sonko / Adji Sarr ce 1er juin 2023 à la chambre criminelle de Dakar : l'opposant est condamné à deux ans de prison ferme pour corruption de la jeunesse. Son procès s'était requis 10 ans de réclusion criminelle pour viols ou 5 ans de prison pour le délit de « corruption de la jeunesse ». Depuis le début de cette longue procédure en février 2021, Ousmane Sonko a toujours dénoncé un « complot » pour l'écarter de la présidentielle prévue en février 2024.Un imposant

sénégalaise. L'opposant politique est condamné à deux ans ferme, pour corruption de la jeunesse. Les faits de viol et de menaces de mort n'ont

dispositif de sécurité a été

déployé dans la capitale

e jugement dans donc pas été retenus par la débauche ou la corruption de chambre criminelle du Tribunal de Dakar, ce 1er juin 2023.

> La propriétaire du salon de massage, Ndeye Khady Ndiaye, écope également de deux ans de prison ferme pour incitation à Avela débauche.

« La corruption de la jeunesse Charlotte Idrac. tenu en son absence le 23 » est une infraction prévue dans mai. Il ne s'était pas le code pénal, à l'article 324, et présenté au palais de qui concerne « quiconque aura justice. Le parquet avait attenté aux mœurs en excitant, en favorisant ou facilitant la

la jeunesse de l'un ou l'autre sexe, au-dessous de l'âge de 21 ans ». Or, d'après la date de naissance d'Adji Sarr, elle avait 20 ans au moment des faits, rappelle notre correspondante à Dakar,

« C'est une peine d'inéligibilité »

Pour maitre Bamba Cissé,

CONT'D ON PAGE 09



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 viceprésidente 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 aille 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 politicaillerie 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.

rançais

Le gouvernement américain

McCarthy a qualifié de non-sens dans la déclaration ", a-t-il dit. la récente interruption du culte Il a ajouté que le véritable (CDC) au pouvoir.

Le diplomate américain a M. McCarthy a réitéré son dernier.

Les signataires, selon lui, mesure permise par la loi. s'étaient clairement engagés à Son appel concerne un cas prévenir la violence, à coopérer d'épouvantable système de avec les forces de l'ordre, à pots-de-vin enregistré et élargir la sensibilisation des courageusement révélé par le électeurs et à éviter le langage quatrième pouvoir florissant du incendiaire et la désinformation. Libéria.

« Les signatures engagent tous les partis politiques évitent importants. une répétition de cette politiques », a-t-il dit.

de votre honneur pour respecter octobre", a-t-il déclaré.

développement, le diplomate ces normes élevées invoquées

de l'église du sénateur Nimba test de cet engagement des Prince Y. Johnson par les dirigeants politiques sera partisans de la Coalition pour le l'organisation des élections changement démocratique libres, équitables, transparentes et pacifiques.

rappelé aux dirigeants des partis soutien à la recommandation de politiques, aux organisateurs de la ministre de la Santé. la société civile et aux Wilhelmina Jallah, de poursuivre dignitaires internationaux la les responsables de la santé du signature de la Déclaration de comté de Margibi à travers la Farmington River le mois Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) dans toute la

McCarthy a exhorté les également les dirigeants et les institutions médiatiques et les acteurs politiques à accepter les organisations d'intégrité à tenir résultats officiels des élections, les politiciens des partis parmi de nombreux autres responsables de leurs éléments. On s'attend à ce que déclarations et engagements

"Au lieu de tout simplement absurdité dont on a été témoin il rendre compte, posez des y a deux semaines avec la questions difficiles aux perturbation d'un service politiciens sur leurs platesreligieux pour des raisons formes, faites la lumière sur les incohérences politiques et "Si vos signatures signifient rappelez au public ce qu'il a à quelque chose, nous dépendons gagner ou à perdre d'ici

Sénégal : l'opposant Ousmane Sonko

avocat d'Ousmane Sonko, à la de coutumace, il n'est pas sortie du tribunal, le fait que le possible de faire appel. Mais sur viol ait été écarté montre bien le plan technique, on avisera. » selon lui qu'il s'agissait d'un Adji Sarr n'a pas été violée et en revanche faire appel. que Ousmane Sonko ne l'a pas menacé de mort. Or, ce sont là Hadj Diouf, avocat d'Adji Sarr, les deux infractions pour ce jugement n'est pas une lesquelles Ousmane Sonko avait satisfaction totale, selon lui: « été renvoyé par le doyen des Condamner Monsieur Ousmane juges. Pendant deux ans ou un Sonko à 2 ans de prison ferme, peu plus, on nous a vendu un c'est une satisfaction des dossier de viols. Il y a eu avocats de Adji Sarr mais pas beaucoup de pertes en vies une satisfaction totale. Nous humaines. La justice a fini par aurions voulu la condamnation dire que tout ça devra de Monsieur Sonko à un accoucher d'une souris. Et ce minimum de 10 ans ferme. Le que l'opinion doit retenir viol n'a pas été retenu. La aujourd'hui, c'est que corruption de la jeunesse a été Ousmane Sonko n'a pas violé retenue. C'est tout comme. Adji Sarr. Si on considère que Parce que quand on abuse de la Ousmane Sonko n'a pas violé jeunesse d'une fille pour Adji Sarr. C'est qu'il y a eu une coucher avec elle, c'est conspiration derrière cette presque un viol. Si on fait affaire. Et je rappelle à étalage de sa puissance devant l'opinion que la peine est une une jeune fille pour pouvoir peine d'inéligibilité, pour nous accéder à ses parties intimes, de la défense. L'objectif était c'est comme un viol. La de salir un homme. Cet objectif victoire, c'est qu'on n'a pas nié n'a pas été réussi. L'autre l'existence du contact sexuel. objectif était de le rendre Nous avons au moins une inéligible. Cet objectif a eu victoire sur une personne qui a l'effet escompté parce que, toujours menacé les juges, qui a aujourd'hui, avec cette peine- menacé la société, qui a là et en l'état actuel des choses, menacé l'État et qui n'a même Ousmane Sonko ne peut pas pas respecté la chambre

Adji Sarr, Ndeye Khady complot: « Le juge a dit que Ndiaye et le procureur peuvent

Par ailleurs, pour maitre El être candidat à la compétition criminelle en refusant de se électorale de 2024. En matière présenter. »

Par Kenneth Rogoff

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

◆entre la Maison Blanche et les banque centrale dans une position intenable. républicains - et qui doit encore être soumis au L'affrontement partisan sur ce plafond est conçue, mais cet argument est contestable.

rien n'incite les responsables politiques champ d'action de l'Etat. 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), futur prévisible. Autrement dit, l'Etat fédéral pourrait se trouver plus fréquemment en rupture de payement et l'indépendance de la banque centrale pourrait être soumise à des 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.

refinancement.

supérieures à ses recettes, car il ne pourrait le sous tension. faire sans émettre de nouvelles dettes. Le (ce ne serait pas la première fois).

libellées en devises étrangères et les recettes ce sens. fiscales très limitées, les USA peuvent émettre davantage de dette d'un coup de baguette. Au contraire, les USA étant sur la voie d'un nouvel l'inflation.

Certaines des idées évoquées pour contourner Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz le plafond de la dette pourraient être contresuprême. Auparavant, les républicains du été économiste en chef du FMI. Congrès pourraient refuser de voter les dépenses permettant au gouvernement de continuer à fonctionner. Frapper une pièce de

AMBRIDGE - L'accord sur le relèvement du mille milliards de dollars et la déposer à la Réserve plafond de la dette qui vient d'être trouvé fédérale pour contourner le Congrès mettrait la

Congrès, ne règle pas le problème. Le débat n'a jamais porté sur la dette, mais sur le pouvoir. Si les républicains prennent le pouvoir en devenu un élément prévisible de la vie 2024 et finissent par contrôler la Chambre, le Sénat politique américaine. On peut avancer que et la présidence, ils réduiraient probablement cette situation tient à une réglementation mal 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 La cause profonde du problème tient à ce que Sénat, ils voudront utiliser la dette pour étendre le

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 l'instabilité ne pourra que s'intensifier dans le 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.

restrictions plus fréquentes. Et comme on ne 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 Atteindre le plafond de la dette ne contraint faibles durant la décennie suivante et ont encore pas l'Etat fédéral à faire immédiatement défaut dégringolé durant la pandémie. Mais dans les pays sur ses obligations. Ses ressources lui suffisent avancés, les taux d'intérêt à long terme (par exemple largement pour verser les intérêts, et le ceux des obligations d'Etat à 10 ans) sont beaucoup plafond de la dette ne fait pas obstacle à son 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 Quand le plafond de la dette est atteint, le occidentaux devront augmenter leurs dépenses de gouvernement ne peut engager des dépenses défense, ce qui mettra leur budget encore davantage

Trésor pourrait donc contraint de faire des A écouter les commentateurs démocrates, l'impasse choix difficiles. Comme personne ne veut récente est entièrement due aux républicains. C'est toucher aux retraites ou à Medicare, il faudrait vrai, mais il est tout aussi vrai que Biden a fait sa retarder ou diminuer les paiements destinés à campagne au centre, pour ensuite faire passer sur le d'autres postes, ce qui pourrait conduire à un fil du rasoir des réformes de fond qui vont affecter le défaut de paiement partiel du gouvernement pays pendant des années. Les républicains veulent revenir sur certaines de ces réformes.

Rien n'oblige le Trésor américain à cesser Les démocrates soulèvent une objection : les d'honorer la dette américaine, ce qui républicains essayeraient d'empêcher le plongerait le système financier mondial dans le gouvernement d'emprunter pour financer des chaos. Cela ne pourrait se produire que si dépenses déjà approuvées par le Congrès. C'est un l'impasse durait si longtemps (des mois ?) que argument stupide, car le gouvernement peut les pressions politiques exploseraient. C'est ce toujours revenir sur des projets de dépense à long qui arrive généralement dans les pays terme. Mais un gouvernement efficace doit être émergents endettés qui se mettent en défaut capable de parvenir à un accord sur les dépenses à bien avant d'y être contraints par un manque de long terme qui ne fasse pas l'objet de réévaluations capacité de paiement. Contrairement aux pays permanentes. Or l'accord de dernière minute sur émergents dont les dettes sont souvent l'augmentation du plafond de la dette ne va pas dans

magique, même si des dépenses trop affrontement entre Biden et Trump l'année prochaine importantes et trop rapides alimentent - un affrontement dont Trump pourrait sortir vainqueur - une trêve pourrait être de courte durée.

productives. Ainsi, le recours au 14° Kenneth Rogoff est professeur d'économie et de amendement risque d'être annulé par la Cour sciences politiques à l'université de Harvard. Il a

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Corruption allegations against Jeremiah Koung as the Senator Becomes UP Vice Presidential aspirant

By. S.Karweaye

espite 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 highlevel 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 annuc

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 Nyymah 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



ance services.

Jeremiah Koung of legislative engagement and public accessibility fund with each legislator taking US\$30,000. In the 2022 budget, Senator Koung and his colleagues at the Legislature awarded themselves an additional US\$3.6 with each legislator taking US\$30,000 in the name of legislative engagement and public accessibility funds while public institutions including hospitals, and schools are hugely underfunded. Sadly Senator Koung and his colleagues are diverting funds through budget paddling and redirecting those funds among themselves.

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

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

Senator Jeremiah Koung and his political godfather,

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

On December 9, 2021, Prince Yomie Johnson was placed under sanctions by the US Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Act. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), "as a Senator, Johnson has been involved in pay-for-play

funding with government ministries and organizations for personal enrichment. As part of the scheme, upon receiving funding from the Government of Liberia (GOL), the involved government ministries and organizations launder a portion of the funding for the return to the involved participants. The payfor-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-

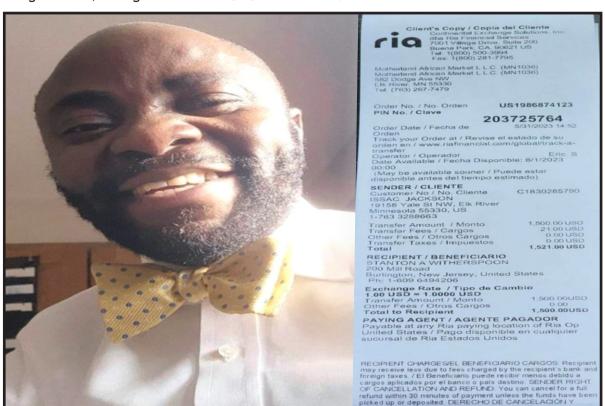
for-play). After publicly falling out with President Weah and his CDC, Senator Johnson, the founder of MDR, gave his blessing to Senator Jeremiah Koung to assume the position of Standard Bearer of the MDR and lead the Party's operations in preparation for the 2023 General and Presidential Elections as 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!

Jackson returns Witherspoon's US1500 Protest at Weah's Jamaica Resort

International Maritime "Regrettably, there are those terms for defrauding the Organization (IMO) Atty. Isaac who are blowing smoke up at United States Government!

iberia's former claim that he financed my sharing with me his loot. In Permanent most recent trip to Liberia.," fact, I condemn Witherspoon ■Representative to the Jackson continued, adding in the strongest possible W. Jackson, Jr has returned Witherspoon's backside and Pending trial, he should not the gift of US\$1500 given him hanging on his every word in have been bailed, but held in



in August 2021 by Stanton the name of politics. It's detention for putting Witherspoon upon his arrival pathetic!" in the United States.

each other.

Atty Jackson told this paper that his action was to concluding this short piece, Federal crimes, one would predicated upon facts that Mr. I must address the twisted and Witherspoon is an indictee of wacky suggestion by some of the US government and given our friends on Facebook that I the rigidity of American needed to be grateful to jurisprudence he does not Witherspoon for sharing with want to be seen as a me some of his fraudulently beneficiary of his loot.

Mr. Witherspoon provide all Witherspoon and me, which is care is not taken to deprive documentary evidence that now public knowledge, I he (Witherspoon) was the expressed gratitude to him for proud sponsor of his recent sending me US\$1500 in August publicity, our country risks trip to Monrovia.

that with Witherspoon's earned. slogan "God can bless anyone" he was of the knowledge now that Mr. perpetuating and glorifying conviction that the Spoon Witherspoon obtained the crimes and criminals. Network CEO was living in money through fraudulent accordance with the means, I cannot continue to be fellow moral bankruptcy has American divine laws, grateful to him. Consequently, no limits. Imagine being something he said that I seriously feel letdown: accused by the most informed his judgement to retention of the amount would powerful country in the have interacted with him and blemish my hard-earned world for putting thousands received the said gift of reputation as a man of of its citizens lives at risk by US\$1500.

"Now, as per the widely publicized criminal lesson we learned from our indictment against parents is not to steal or lie. Witherspoon, it's crystal clear Therefore, when a child steals that ... I cannot in clean to support his parents, he is generosity will buy my conscience benefit from his condemned as a disgrace to his critical stance on national tainted "generosity". Hence, parents. No good parents issues. It is important to me I have decided to return his would proudly accept stolen US\$1,500. The Ria transfer money from their child. slip is attached as evidence," Likewise, no good and decent Jackson wrote.

prevail upon Witherspoon to fearing man, I cannot be produce credible evidence to grateful to Witherspoon for authenticate his outlandish

The former Deputy announcement that he had disgrace!" Information returned the returned Witherspoon's gesture days after the pairs money; Jackson went on to continued, "Witherspoon fell apart on live radio address concerns raised on epitomizes the aphorism broadcast raining garbage at Facebook by individuals who that a rogue got dry faced. followed the debate:

obtained money. In the with lies via his questionable He has also demanded that exchanges between Spoon TV Network. If great 2021, believing that the producing more worshipers Atty Jackson explained money was fairly and honestly of rogues and liars thereby

integrity.

You see, the first moral unqualified individuals! wife will applaud her husband "At this point, I request who steals to support her. that lovers of truth insist and Hence, as a decent God-

thousands of American lives Following his at risk. Witherspoon is a big

"To be honest," Jackson Imagine, having been "Anyway, before I rush on accused of committing think that this fellow would demonstrate some remorse; regrettably, he's not doing so, rather he is routinely and shamelessly polluting the public discourse in Liberia some of these lying charlatans the oxygen of not only debasing the quality However, with the full of public discourse, but

> The point is that the selling fake credentials to

> Finally, I wish to emphasize with crystal clarity that no level of filthy to protect my integrity because the likes of Witherspoon would be happy to pull others down with him. Misery loves company, and lawless and irresponsible people like to blame others for their misadventures,"

Jackson concluded.

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

undreds of citizens, including brokers, miners, and family members of a Liberian, who found a 53.3-carat diamond recently in Gbarpolu County, protest here before President George Weah's Jamaica Resort entertainment center along the Roberts International Airport highway outside Monrovia, demanding the dismissal of the Assistant Minister of Mines Emmanuel T.T. Swen, for allegedly withholding the precious stone approximately valued US\$5 Million.

The diamond in question was reportedly found by Mohammed Kamara at a diamond creek in Gbarpolu, Western Liberia and allegedly turned over to authorities at the Ministry of Mines in Monrovia.

But protesters, led by Bill Lama and Mohammed Kamara, alias "Jack" and creek owner, Ma Fatu Nyumah Borbor, Thursday, June 1, stormed the President's Jamaica Resort residence, calling for the immediate dismissal of Assistant Minister Swen, who they accused of robbing them of their found wealth.

They accused the Assistant Minister of stealing the diamond while

Diamond Creek in Gbarpolu. The creek is owned by Ma Fatu Nyumah Borbor, said to be an experience mineral dealer.

Protester Lama narrates that it was during a regular routine that Mr. Kamara allegedly found the diamond, and while informing authorities of the township, the news spread like wildfire.

He says Assistant Minister of Mines, Emmanuel T.T. Swen, got involved and the stone was presented to him, as a representative of government, but the minister has deliberately refused to return the diamond.

Speaking in grieve, Mohammed Kamara details that he found the diamond, while working at Ma Fatu Borbor Creek, and informed neighbors, but was told to report it to the Ministry of Mines which has jurisdiction over mineral matters to ensure the right things are done so that all parties will benefit.

Kamara continues that it was then that Assistant Minister Emmanuel Swen got involved, and has since allegedly held the diamond hostage.



propagating misleading information to the public.

53.3-carate diamond was found by criminal and has stolen our fisherman Mohammed Kamara, a.k.a "Iron Jacket" at Claim Number #9

"All we want is President George Weah to dismiss Minister According to the protesters, the Swen because he is a rogue, a

CONT'D ON PAGE 07

He hopes to build a new Liberia

"We are here to remind

where people will not be judged

[on] tribal background, but the

Liberians that their party's vision is

to build a one Liberia, indivisible,

Starts from page 6

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basis of their character.

the establishment of a war and economic crimes court to lay the foundation for justice and defeat

'We will ensure that the war and economic crimes court is established. We will set the foundation for justice in this country," Mr. Kouyateh promised.

According to him, his government will make sure that all those indicted by the international community are prosecuted and they will not take

part in elections to come. Regarding his political party, Mr. Kouyateh explained that LFM is interested in giving rights, liberty,

and justice to all Liberians,

regardless of their tribal background

and political affiliation.

liberty and justice for all. This is a Liberian people party," Mr. Kouyateh disclosed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kouyateh said LFM's accreditation is not meant for elections alone, but to give power to the ordinary people to execute their democratic rights.

"The certification of our party shows that we are more ready to deliver an inclusive Liberia where independence and justice will be for all," he continued.



GIS sets June 25 for final report

By Ethel A Tweh

he Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) has set June 25, 2023, for the release of its final report of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census.

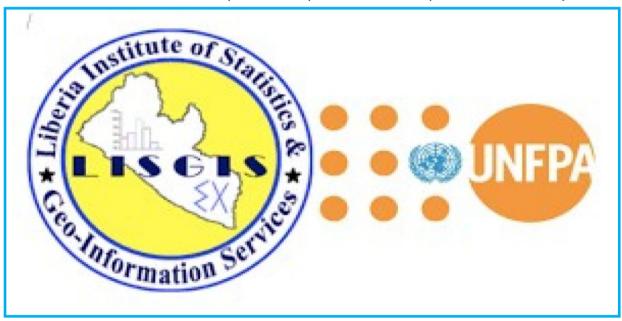
production of the final results in the development of a are ongoing and will end 15 sustainable census June 2023.

According to him, the Population and Housing Census was implemented in line with international regulation.

"The post data evaluation is conducted by external report was given to the experts. The partners of the public on 22 February 2023.

infrastructure for the future.

He therefore, requested the approval of the Senate to give them the time to facilitate the exercise for June 25. The preliminary



In a letter addressed to the Liberian Senate, LISGIS Acting Director General Lawrence A. George said the Census House is working along with local and international partners on the data analysis.

In his communication, Mr. George said the data analysis and development of tables indicated to show the Government of Liberia consisting of the UNFPA, the County Senator Stephen A. World Bank contracted international consultants for the emulation of the data," Mr. George explained.

He noted that LISGIS is aware of public demand for the release of the results, to grant LISGIS the time adding that what's more critical is to allow the international partners to assist

Making a motion, Lofa Zargo said given the nature of the communication, the Senate should receive and accept the letter from LISGIS.

He also urged the Senate asked for so that the report can be out to the public.

Pay with MoMo!

Dial ***156*3**#





