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

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ANC leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings



Cllr. Charlyne W. Brumskine

# CPP clinches hopes on silence voters

**-As Cllr. Brumskine express confident against the odds in October Poll**



Sen. Pro-Tempore Mr. Chie

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# Continental News

## Sudan army accused of bombing university campus

Ten people from the Democratic Republic of Congo have been killed in an army attack on a university campus in Sudan, the Congolese government says. They died in bombardments on Sunday

the air. It is not clear if those caught up in Sunday's bombing were university students. It may have been an area within or by the university where various foreign nationals sought refuge.

UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi tweeted of his shock that

University of Africa is located. People in the video, including a distressed woman who says her husband died in the attack, speak a mixture of Arabic and Lingala, the language spoken mainly in the west of DR Congo.

One man says: "We are Congolese... many people here are Congolese. Where is the international community?"

From visual clues in the video, including the minaret of a mosque in the background and what looks like a shipping container, the BBC has pinpointed the site to an area of central Khartoum near the university campus and a sports stadium. Similar shipping containers are visible in a satellite image of this area from April this year. Foreign Minister Christophe Lutundula said DR Congo had demanded an explanation from the Sudanese government and expected the bodies of those killed to be repatriated free of charge.

This would ensure "our compatriots are buried with dignity in accordance with our traditions", he told journalists on Monday.

The Congolese government has also asked the Sudanese authorities to open up a humanitarian corridor so that those wounded in the attack and others still stranded in Sudan can be evacuated. The Sudanese army has not so far responded to a BBC request for comment. BBC



*In a video said to be from the scene, this woman says she lost her husband*

afternoon at Khartoum's International University of Africa, it said. "What hurts us very much is that it was the regular army that dropped the bombs knowing there were foreigners there," the Congolese foreign minister said. Rival military forces have been battling in Sudan's capital for weeks. Paramilitary fighters of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have bases in many residential areas across the city, which tend to be attacked by the military from

10 refugees had died in an attack in Khartoum, without giving further details. The RSF, which is in a vicious power struggle with the army, said - in what appears to be a reference to the same attack - that the bombing on Sunday had happened in an area where African refugees were staying. It put the death toll of Congolese nationals at 25.

It tweeted a video that purported to be from the scene. It showed smoke rising in the background from the direction where the International

## Rwandan president reshuffles top military officers

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has appointed new military and intelligence chiefs in a major reshuffle.

The president appointed Juvénal Marizamunda as the new defence minister, replacing Maj Gen Albert Murasira, who was in the post since 2018.

A new army chief, Lt Gen Mubarakh Muganga, is taking over from Gen Jean Bosco Kazura who ran the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) since November 2019.

A reshuffle in which a defence minister and army chief are fired at the same time is not common in Rwanda.

No reasons have been given for the reshuffle. In previous changes to the upper echelons of the military, Mr Kagame would at times publicly hint at the reason.

In the Monday night reshuffle, Mr Kagame also appointed a new army chief of staff (land forces) as well as head of military intelligence. In another move, he

changed the top commanders of Rwandan troops deployed in Mozambique to help fight militant Islamists. BBC



*President Paul Kagame has given no reason for appointing new military and intelligence chiefs*

## Ghana patients in danger as nurses head for UK - medics

The recruitment of nurses by high-income countries from poorer nations is "out of control", according to the head of one of the world's biggest nursing groups. The comments come as the BBC finds evidence of how Ghana's health system is struggling due to the "brain-drain".

Many specialist nurses have left the West African country for better paid jobs overseas. In 2022 more than 1,200 Ghanaian nurses joined the UK's nursing register. This comes as the National Health Service (NHS) increasingly relies on staff from non-EU countries to fill vacancies.

Although the UK says active recruitment in Ghana is not allowed, social media means nurses can easily see the vacancies available in NHS trusts. They can then apply for those jobs directly. Ghana's dire economic situation acts as a big push factor.

Howard Catton from the International Council of

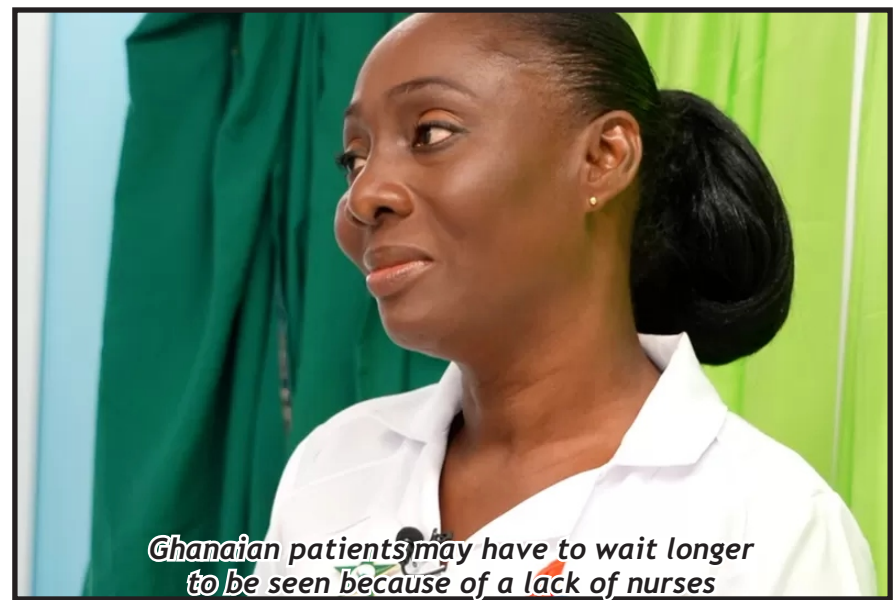
ill patients often had to be held for longer in the emergency department due to the nursing shortages.

One nurse in the hospital estimated that half of those she had graduated with had left the country - and she wanted to join them. The BBC found a similar situation at Cape Coast Municipal Hospital.

The hospital's deputy head of nursing services, Caroline Agbodza, said she had seen 22 nurses leave for the UK in the last year.

"All our critical care nurses, our experienced nurses, have gone. So we end up having nothing - no experienced staff to work with. Even if the government recruits, we have to go through the pain of training nurses again."

Smaller clinics are also affected by staff migration because even one nurse leaving a small health centre can have a large knock-on effect. At Ewim Health Clinic in Cape Coast, one nurse has left their small emergency department and another has left the outpatients unit. Both nurses were experienced and had found jobs in the UK. The chief doctor there, Dr Justice



*Ghanaian patients may have to wait longer to be seen because of a lack of nurses*

Nurses (ICN) is concerned about the scale of the numbers leaving countries like Ghana. "My sense is that the situation currently is out of control," he told the BBC.

"We have intense recruitment taking place mainly driven by six or seven high-income countries but with recruitment from countries which are some of the weakest and most vulnerable which can ill-afford to lose their nurses." The head of nursing at Greater Accra Regional Hospital, Gifty Aryee, told the BBC her Intensive Care Unit alone had lost 20 nurses to the UK and US in the last six months - with grave implications. "Care is affected as we are not able to take any more patients. There are delays and it costs more in mortality - patients die," she said. She added that seriously

Arthur, said the effects were enormous. "Let's take services like immunisation of children. If we lose public health nurses, then the babies that have to be immunised will not get their immunisation and we are going to have babies die," he told the BBC. He said adult patients would also die if there were not enough nurses to look after them after surgery.

Most of the nurses that the BBC team spoke to wanted to leave Ghana due to the fact they could earn more elsewhere.

At Kwaso healthcare centre near the city of Kumasi, Mercy Asare Afriyie explained that she was hoping to find a job in the UK soon.

"The exodus of nurses is not going to stop because of our poor conditions of service. Our salary is nothing to write home about and in two weeks you spend it. It's from hand to mouth." Ghanaian nurses told the BBC that in the UK they could earn more than seven times what they are receiving in Ghana.

# EDITORIAL

## Government must speak on the diamond saga

The Government of Liberia is yet to come clear on a 53.3 carats diamond reportedly valued US\$5 million that led group of aggrieved citizens from Gbarpolu County protesting before President George Weah's Jamaica Resort in Paynesville last Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Hundreds of protesting citizens, including brokers, miners, and family members of a Liberian identified as Mohammed Kamara, who reportedly found a 53.3-carat diamond recently at a private mine in Gbarpolu County, protested before the President's private resort, calling for the dismissal of the Assistant Minister of Mines, Emmanuel T.T. Swen, who they accused of hijacking [withholding] the precious stone.

Police arrested several of the protesters and dispersed the rest. But since the incident, neither authorities of the Ministry of Mines nor the Office of President Weah has officially commented, leaving the public immersed in speculations.

The protesters claimed to have reported the diamond to authorities at the Ministry of Mines, allegedly received by Assistant Minister Emmanuel T.T. Swen, who instructed someone only identified as "Kpaku" to give them US\$100,000, but instead, they were offered US\$80,000, which according to them, they rejected and demanded a return of the diamond.

The diamond was never returned. They are enraged and frustrated. Left with no other option, they are craving for the attention of President Weah hence, the basis for last Thursday's protest near the President's private resort, which was put down by riot police, characterized by arrests.

When law-abiding citizens peacefully converge to seek the attention of the highest office of the land, they should be responded to rather than violently turned away, as was experienced last week.

We believe rather than applying heavy-handedness, a roundtable discussion would produce a win-win resolution. That should be the role of government as custodian of peace, security and the happiness of its citizens.

Mohammed Kamara and his family members could have concealed the diamond in question and smuggled it out of the country without knowledge of government. But they chose to be nationalistic and law-abiding by reporting the stone to the appropriate authority.

It is sad that they are being treated as undesirable common criminals for doing the right thing. This is highly disappointing and frustrating. Government should hail these citizens for their display of honesty and patriotism rather than shunning them.

It is important that government come out and speak clearly on this matter to lay the situation to rest peacefully not only to maintain citizens' trust but to encourage honest business practice that boosts revenue and drives an healthy economy.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

# COMMENTARY

By Simon Zadek

## The Geopolitics of Nature

**G**ENEVA - From Russia's war against Ukraine to America's rivalry with China, tectonic geopolitical shifts have shaken multilateralism in recent years. While many of the consequences - from surging food and energy prices to the rising risks of major conflict - have been discussed at length, more attention must be devoted to the implications of these shifts for efforts to address the multifaceted climate and nature crisis.

The geopolitical change we are now experiencing threatens to split the world order in two. A key sign of this is the decision by much of the Global South to support - or at least refuse to condemn - Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year, despite the West's efforts to isolate and punish the Kremlin.

Moreover, the BRICS group of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) - which has always sought to create alternatives to Western-led international institutions - may be set to grow, as 19 countries have expressed interest in joining. There is also discussion of creating a new BRICS currency to challenge the US dollar's global dominance.

In the meantime, China is working hard to expand the international use of its own currency, the renminbi, and is achieving some success. Most recently, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has taken steps to facilitate renminbi-denominated trade settlement between China and Brazil.

Forging the shared sense of purpose and marshaling the coordinated action needed to tackle the climate and nature crisis would be difficult in the best of times. In a world characterized by distrust, competition, fiscal constraints, and divergent political priorities, it appears almost impossible. And yet, far from building bridges, many - particularly in the Global North - are exacerbating divisions.

The European Union's recent legislation banning imports of products linked to deforestation is a case in point. The law - which requires companies selling goods like coffee, beef, and soy in the EU to provide verifiable proof that they were not grown on recently deforested land - has been welcomed by green activists and European politicians. But the measure has also met with considerable criticism - and not only from agri-business interests seeking to avoid incurring costs for environmental destruction.

Shortly before it was passed, the Brazilian and Indonesian governments submitted a letter, signed by 14 World Trade Organization member states, lamenting that the EU was pursuing "unilateral legislation," rather than "international engagement." By failing to consult with the relevant countries, the EU devised "costly and impractical traceability and geo-localization requirements" for an "uncertain and discriminatory" list of products.

Voluntary carbon-credit markets and emerging biodiversity-credit markets are similarly flawed. Rich-country critics complain that these markets have failed to deliver credible "additional" reductions of atmospheric carbon. Scandals arising from widespread flaws in certified nature-based carbon credits are a case in point. Leaders from the Global South, for their part, highlight the inequalities they perpetuate, with carbon credits being bought for as little as \$5-10 in the Global South and then sold for \$100 or more in Europe.

Moreover, developing-economy leaders

highlight wealthier countries' reluctance to fund the preservation of existing forests. At the recent One Forest Summit, co-hosted by Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba and French President Emmanuel Macron, Gabon's environment minister, Lee White, noted that, as some of the world's most important carbon sinks, "forests potentially represent 20-30% of the solution to climate change." Carbon credits can help channel financing toward forest preservation, but only if they are purchased at fair and predictable prices.

There are relatively straightforward ways to improve engagement and accelerate progress toward shared climate and nature goals. For example, the EU's deforestation law could have a far greater impact - and inspire more effective cooperation - if it included support for measures to advance, rather than override, relevant legislation in affected countries. Moreover, building on the insights shared during the One Forest Summit, rich countries could embrace the idea of delivering ecosystem-service payments to countries that maintain their forests, and establish a price floor for carbon and biodiversity credits.

The G7's recently announced Alliance of Nature Positive Economies - conceived as a "forum to share knowledge and create information networks on a voluntary basis in collaboration with the private sector and civil society" - could support the shift toward greater collaboration beyond the G7. Key would be to focus on how to address nature and climate goals without deepening existing technological advantages and erecting more trade barriers, and instead to focus on inclusivity and equity.

Brazil's G20 presidency in 2024, and its role as host of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2025 (COP30), also represent important opportunities. As the world's most influential representative of nature-rich developing economies, Brazil could use these platforms to mobilize greater support for the countries that are doing the most to protect the climate and preserve nature, despite having done the least to cause the crises we face. Transforming the global economic and financial architecture to advance sustainability goals will be key.

Nature and climate will be part of the new geopolitics, for better or worse. The alternative to a more inclusive approach is not slower progress, but potentially no progress at all. Just as Russia has redirected its energy exports to countries that have not embraced Western sanctions, food exporters, facing de facto deforestation "sanctions" from the EU, may simply find new buyers for their goods. In such situations, everyone loses, including nature.

Without a collaborative approach, nature-rich countries may even decide to create a sovereign sellers' club aimed at improving their terms of trade, like OPEC has long done for oil producers. Already, Brazil, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - which possess the world's largest tropical forests - have formed an alliance focused essentially on pressuring the rich world to finance forest conservation.

Measures like the EU's deforestation legislation or voluntary carbon markets may look like steps in the right direction. And they may bring short-term benefits. But by alienating the developing world - at a time of global geopolitical realignment, no less - their long-term costs may be too high.

# OP-ED

By Daniel Gros

## The Transatlantic Carbon-Pricing Clash

**S**OFIA/MILAN - Economists have long argued that regulation alone cannot bring about the reduction in global greenhouse-gas emissions that is needed to curb climate change; a carbon price is also essential. So far, dozens of carbon-pricing arrangements, mostly tax-based schemes, have been implemented around the world. But, when it comes to impact, the devil is in the details.

The US Inflation Reduction Act, passed last year, highlighted just how complicated carbon pricing can be. The IRA includes a little-noticed subsidy of \$85 per ton of carbon dioxide captured from industrial processes, paid to any new facility for 12 years. Whether the provision will lead to a significant reduction in emissions is impossible to predict. What can be expected is a test of the viability of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology.

As it stands, only a few industrial CCS facilities exist globally, and they remove only small amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. While the potential cost of CCS varies widely, many estimates put it below \$85 per ton. The guarantee of a generous subsidy, which investors can count on for a long period, could thus give the sector a major boost.

But whether or not the CCS subsidy proves successful is a secondary consideration. More important is the fact that it establishes a de facto carbon price for US industry. If a steel plant, for example, begins employing CCS, it would receive \$85 for every ton of carbon no longer emitted.

The European Union relies on a very different carbon-pricing model. The European Emissions Trading System - the world's first, and largest, carbon market - employs a cap-and-trade approach. The ETS effectively establishes a carbon price by forcing companies to acquire enough permits, or "allowances," to cover their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. A certain amount of free permits are doled out, and firms must purchase additional permits on the market.

Imagine two identical steel plants, one in the United States, the other in the EU. Both would face, in principle, the same marginal incentive to reduce emissions. The European steel plant that reduces its emissions would need fewer permits, which it could sell to higher emitters at the market price - a price that, at €80 (\$86) per ton, is currently almost exactly the same as that created by the American CCS subsidy.

If the EU plant receives its allowances for free, the financial situation would be exactly the same on both sides of the Atlantic. The extra money would simply be coming from different sources: the federal government (for the US plant) or those who buy surplus ETS certificates (for the EU plant).

But this does not mean that we have achieved transatlantic carbon-pricing harmony, owing to the way the EU approach works in reality. A key feature of the ETS is that it treats the power sector and industry very differently. Power stations get few allowances for free, and have to buy the rest on the market. Industry, by contrast, gets all the allowances it needs for free. A steel plant that cuts production, thereby reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, loses its free allowances, destroying the incentive to reduce emissions. It should not be surprising that industrial emissions have fallen little in Europe since the ETS began operating almost two decades ago.

So, while US industry now faces a kind of carbon price, EU industry still does not. And this will not change any time soon: the EU plans to continue providing most of industry's allowances for free until 2030. Yet Europe continues touting the ETS, with its make-believe carbon price for industry, partly to avoid a politically awkward situation: if the EU attached no strings to its free emissions allowances, companies would close their plants and sell their allowances, realizing hefty profits.

The EU also knows that simply cutting local carbon-intensive production would do little good for the climate, because the same goods would then be imported from outside the bloc. To prevent this so-called carbon leakage, the EU is now planning to introduce a controversial "carbon border adjustment mechanism" (CBAM), under which importers would have to buy ETS certificates equivalent to imported products' carbon content. The current plan is that, as the CBAM gradually comes into force - between 2026 and 2034 - free allowances for industry will be incrementally eliminated.

Since the CBAM will apply only to imports from countries that do not have a carbon price, and the US now effectively has a carbon price, US products should be exempt, averting potentially significant transatlantic friction. But another problem soon arises: once EU industry no longer receives free allowances, producers of carbon-intensive products would have an incentive to shift production to the US, where the government covers decarbonization costs. EU political leaders will then face the difficult choice between continuing free allowances and applying the CBAM to the US anyway.

The CBAM can be justified under World Trade Organization rules, because its purpose is not to protect domestic industry, but to advance a global good by extending the EU's carbon price to imports. But applying the CBAM, including to countries like the US, while maintaining free allowances to EU industry, would clearly protect European industry. This would be very difficult to justify under WTO rules.

The overall lesson is that different approaches to carbon pricing for industry have very different implications. For now, the US has gone with carrots, while the EU has focused on sticks. It is difficult to say which approach is better for the climate, but it is easy to foresee major trade and political frictions resulting from these opposing choices.

# OPINION

By Jafer Ahmad,  
Abigail Kukura

## Building a Biotech Alliance of Democracies

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - Like electricity and artificial intelligence, biotechnology is poised to drive a general-purpose leap in human history. Offering the ability to manipulate the very essence of life as we know it, biotechnology represents a multi-trillion-dollar sector that straddles industries as diverse as agriculture, health, materials, and energy.

From pathogen risks and the security of biodata to the ability to bioengineer solutions to our most intractable challenges, the coming era presents both considerable perils and immense opportunities to transform our world at both the molecular and global levels. And the new era is beginning at a time of heightened competition between democratic and authoritarian countries that apply different norms and values to biotechnology.

Fortunately, the United States and its allies and partners have a head start. According to Pitchbook, the US remains the world's leading originator and destination of biotech investments, with US-based firms raising \$466 billion in 2022 - roughly ten times the amount of Chinese-origin capital. Close to 90% of that US capital goes toward domestic investment, highlighting America's role as both a global innovation hub and a marketplace for leading-edge biotech.

As of 2022, this has resulted in the US being home to the world's largest number of biotech companies, nearly three times more than in China. The US government has also begun to set the strategic course for durable biotechnology leadership with the Executive Order on the Bioeconomy and the creation of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

Meanwhile, Europe is a world leader in biotech patents. The continent secured more than 40,000 health-related biotech patents over the past five years, and outperforms the US on biotech patents related to food, macromolecular chemistry, and environmental technology. French DNAScript and United Kingdom-based Nuclera are leaders in producing "desktop" DNA synthesizers. And the UK and Canada have established meaningful national biotechnology strategies dating back to 2017.

But an increasingly authoritarian China is determined to lead the world in biotechnology by 2035. The People's Republic is investing heavily to address impending domestic demographic and health-care challenges and even weaponize biotech innovations for military advantage. While total Chinese biotech investment is far below the US level, it now has the second-highest number of biotech companies listed in the Forbes Global 2000. Furthermore, China may now be the lead producer of research in synthetic biology and biological manufacturing.

The implications for US national-security interests are far-reaching, because collaboration and links between the countries' life-science ecosystems mean that US advances could also accelerate China's biotech development. For example, the rise of BGI Group (formerly Beijing Genomics Institute, now the world's largest genetic-research organization), was partly enabled by its access to US intellectual property and markets.

In the context of international competition, enduring leadership in this general-purpose technology cannot be left to chance. It requires sustained focus by the government, greater public-private collaboration, and a willingness to make strategic bets on our biotech future.

To this end, the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP) has published a National Action Plan for US Leadership in Biotechnology, a policy roadmap with top-line recommendations and supporting detail for coordinated academic, private-sector, and government efforts to establish US leadership in the sector through 2030, alongside allies and partners.

Given the biotech sector's unique nature, it's worth focusing on where the US and its allies and partners can coordinate efforts. As biotechnology's building blocks are inherently local and distributed, it is more diffuse, accessible, and interconnected than other technologies, offering distinct benefits and risks in the context of global tech competition. The US and its allies and partners should capitalize on these distinct benefits to work together more closely in facing a determined competitor like China.

First, because biology knows no borders, bioresponse capabilities must be both local and global. By creating a globally accessible information-sharing portal - a "Bionet" - to enable early-warning systems, the US and its allies and partners could enable rapid localized responses to biotech-related incidents. The data streams provided by a Bionet could support and feed into countries' rapid-response systems for biosecurity ("Medshield(s)"), enabling capabilities such as a biothreat "radar," and swift deployment of vaccines and therapeutics.

Second, setting standards is crucial to gaining and sustaining leadership in any technological sector. The US and its allies and partners should work to shape industry and ethical standards toward democratic principles, respect for individual rights, and promotion of a fair economic playing field. They should also deprive strategic rivals of the opportunity to shape biotech standards in their interests. This requires coordinated and consistent engagement with the International Standards Organization, the OECD, and other relevant multilateral organizations to develop and advance common positions.

Third, the US and its allies and partners should turn disparate genomic-data ecosystems into a strategic resource greater than the sum of its parts. They should consolidate open and proprietary datasets on human, animal, and plant genomes in a central biobank that is well-curated, interoperable, easy for researchers to access and use, and maintains strong privacy protections for human genetic data. This biobank could democratize biotech innovation, facilitate AI-enabled analysis, and reduce reliance on entities like BGI Group.

Harnessing the power of biotechnology requires the US and its allies and partners to work together to craft a shared vision that puts democratic values front and center, especially in an era of international competition with authoritarian countries. The SCSP biotech plan is a starting point from which to do just that.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Beyond corruption within the judiciary

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

From a legal perspective, a juror of one’s peer is a jury whose members are from the same community as the person on trial.

It is also a way of getting a fair jury made up of men and women who could be considered peers of the person who is on trial. This helps in reducing the chances of bias among the jurors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other things to consider could include but are not limited to the person’s ability to withstand social pressure, legal opinions, ability to be impartial, etc. To select a group of individuals who have little or no knowledge of interpreting the facts at hand in the name of forming a jury panel is a mockery of the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

In the late Gyude Bryant trial, the Liberian Government lost the case following a series of prohibitions one of which was a writ of prohibition issued by the Supreme Court. Bryant’s lawyers asked the Supreme Court to stop his prosecution on grounds that the late Bryant was a former head of state who



By Jones Mallay

## LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Finance boss threatens to withhold salaries

By Lewis S Teh

The Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D.

million euros, respectively. Tweah discloses that the Public Financial Management Law of Liberia gives him the

not reporting on time, his or her salary would be withheld.

"If there are government entities not reporting, the Minister will hold your salary; we will enforce this law, now it's my responsibility as finance minister to implement the PFM law", Tweah underscores.

The Government of Liberia and the European Union (EU) on Monday, June 5, signed a US\$88 million package to support various public programs here, as both parties begin a new phase of partnership.

Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah signed on behalf of the Liberian government, while the Head of EU Delegation to Liberia, Ambassador Laurent Delahousse, signed for the EU during a ceremony held at the EU Delegation headquarters in Mamba Point, Monrovia.

The signing took place in the context of the 50th Anniversary of EU- Liberia relations. In 1973, the Commission of the European Economic Community established its first office in Liberia, which has since been upgraded to a full diplomatic mission, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Liberia.

The new phase of EU-Liberia development partnership stems from 2021 to 2025, for which a total of 191 million euros or 220 million U.S. dollars has been earmarked. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Min. Samuel D. Tweah

Tweah threatens to hold back salaries of heads of ministries, agencies and commissions for their alleged failure to present budget performance report to his office.

"I didn't make that law; it's the legislature and it says the Minister of Finance will hold back salaries of officials, who failed to report for the budget given their various institutions", the minister explains.

Minister Tweah made the threat on Monday, June 4, when the Government of Liberia and the European Union signed four new financing agreements in the tune of US\$88 million and 80

authority to hold back salaries of officials, who refuse to present financial reports on allotments received through the national budget.

"Our President declared last year and this year as a year of governance, so we are working to ensure all government ministries, agencies and commissions are in tight; it's against this call that we are making sure that government entities that received public funds must account for them and report in time."

The minister says financial reporting has become a challenge, and all ministries have to report on time, adding that the law says if a minister is

## Voters urged to save Liberia

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Independent presidential hopeful Robert T. Morris has appealed to potential voters to save Liberia through their decisions at the ballot box this October. Appearing as a special guest on a local radio in Monrovia Tuesday, 6 June 2023, Mr. Morris urged Liberians to vote for the future and think ahead. Mr. Morris said Liberia needs to be saved from the hands of the wicked ones who have pushed the country backward over the years. He criticized the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government for allegedly doing the worst to increase the suffering of Liberians. But Mr. Morris believes that Liberians can make a U-turn, saying it rests in the hands of the young people. "Our nation needs saving, and the young people are the only ones who can save Liberia," said Mr. Morris. The independent presidential hopeful early last week announced his bid for the Liberian presidency. He has cautioned Liberians that the

fight and survivability of Liberia rest on the decision of the people.

Morris stated that if Liberians cannot fight to save their nation, the people and the children will not have any nation to call their own in the nearest future. He pleaded with Liberians to see how far they have gone as a country and look to the future which will be determined in the crucial October elections. He said to change Liberia only requires a

leadership with vision and understanding that is being practicalized into realities.

He cited improving every sector of the country, including the revamping of the education and health sectors as some of the practical steps leaders must take. He also noted the improvement of the livelihoods of the people, creating jobs, and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



## Cummings empathizes with At-Risk Youths and recommends solutions

Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has empathized with hundreds of ghetto youths, detesting their deplorable living conditions, and assuring them of urgent government attention for rehabilitation and transformation, when elected President, come October 10.

Mr. Cummings said he was horrified by the cruel neglect of thousands of youths trapped in various ghettos and hooked on dangerous drugs, with no hope for rehabilitation and a better future.

Mr. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), made the assertions when he visited several ghettos in Monrovia including the 5th Street, Moscow, and Pressure ghettos. He shared messages of hope for relief to the residents.

With combined youth of nearly 400 including girls,

feel hopeless, and are in dire need of redemption for a better life and future.

The youths expressed gratitude for the visit by the CPP Standard Bearer and his promises of hope as well as thanked him for his financial assistance given them over time. They specifically plead for durable and lasting solutions to their plight which resulted out of their personal choices.

The CPP Standard Bearer vowed to prioritize the welfare and rehabilitation of thousands of youths, and help them acquire needed skills, noting that, it was a shame for a huge population of young people to be neglected and living in such deplorable conditions without hope of any relief or sustainable program by government.

Mr. Cummings said, under his administration, there will be a unit focused directly and exclusively on At-Risk Youths that will ensure this group of disadvantaged young people are prioritized and get the



ANC leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

spokespersons for ghettos visited narrated their stories of the difficult street life, their relentless hope for rescue and their desperate need for shelter to lay their heads, especially during the rainy seasons.

A 5th Street Ghetto spokesperson said he was 12 years old when he joined the street life and at 47 years now, he along with others are tired,

attention they need. Some key things that will be done on an institutional level is Provide rehabilitation services and subsequently rehabilitation homes in all fifteen counties that will incorporate counseling, skills training, education, and employment. He mentioned that the National Youth Service program will also include at-risk youths.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Sex workers meet in Nimba

**-To protect trade**  
By Thomas Domah,  
Nimba County

Several young girls said to be commercial sex workers have ended a day's meeting in Ganta and Sanniquillie respectively,

Grand Bassa, and even Monrovia, who they noted are seeing in Nimba to carry out commercial sex.

According to them, the presence of girls from other counties have reduced their price from US\$20 to \$10 and \$5,

various high schools and universities in Nimba, including the PYJ Polytechnic University, Liberia International Christian College (LICC) Nimba County University and the United Methodist University in Ganta.

The girls maintain that they are adequately prepared to serve the public in Nimba and don't need competitors from outside the county.

"We are feeding ourselves and renting rooms; we only depend on such practices so, if those girls continue to reduce the price, it may affect us", they lament.

Meanwhile, police in Ganta, Nimba County have invited the administration of the Liberia International Christian College in connection with an alleged rape case involving two students.

According to the Women and Children Division of the Liberia National Police in Ganta, Student Blama Sheriff, 26, was arrested for allegedly raping a female student of the university.

Police say the administration did not report the matter; instead, it held a meeting with students on campus, warning them not to bring it to the public. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Nimba County, to discuss issues affecting their trade.

According to sources, the meeting was intended to organize themselves and speak with one voice, while vowing to stop girls from other counties coming to Nimba for prostitution.

They said their coming together will enable them to stop girls from Bong, Lofa,

respectively.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN via cellphone, the head of sex workers in Nimba (name withheld) said the presence of girls from outside the county is affecting their business, as they depend on the trade to feed themselves and pay rentals.

The meeting brought together young girls from

## New election law lacks specificity & enforceability

**-Says women group**  
By Lewis S Teh

Scores of women NGOs here have described the new election law currently lingering at the legislature as something that lacks specificity and enforceability. The law calls for women's political participation and representation.

"We are few months away from a crucial election and we have the new election law that the Elections Commission supposed to use to hold political parties accountable on their candidate's representation

As we speak, that law is still lingering; it was sent to the President for signature, and section of that law was vetoed and sent back to the legislature. Up to now, we haven't heard any concrete [thing] regarding the status of the law. This is our paramount concern" says Ms. Christiana T. Wayon, Medical Liberia Advocacy Officer.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, June 6, at Medical Liberia office in Old Road community, the women's group narrates that Section 4.5

of the new election law is of interest to women of Liberia, noting that it's against this backdrop that they thought to hold a media engagement to draw the President and the legislature's attention ahead of the October presidential poll.

The women NGOs include Medical Liberia, POWER Liberia, WONGOSOL, African Women Leaders, Her Voice Sister Aid Liberia, Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH) Paramount Young Women, Women in Solidarity and Women in Peace Building Network (WIONET) among

others. Reading a four-page press statement, the heads of the women's group, Medical Liberia Advocacy Officer Ms. Christiana T. Wayon and the program manager at Women NGOs Secretariat, Ms. Willet L. Salue, said the new election law particularly Section 4.5 lacks specificity and enforceability to advance women's participation and representation in elected positions.

"The ambiguous language

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



## Rep. Mensah wants Health, Finance Ministries summoned

By Bridgett Milton

The Chairperson of Bong County Legislative Caucus, Representative Moima Briggs-Mensah, writes the House of Representatives here, craving the indulgence of Plenary to invite the Ministers of Health, and Finance and Development

Planning to explain processes and procedures through which budgetary allocations for Gbondoi Health Center were disbursed and expended since Fiscal Years 2019-2022.

Rep. Mensah, who represents Bong County electoral district#6, reveals that the National Budget of 2019/20 under Line 301 Ministry of Health Page 221 titled 'Objects of Expenditure#

Planning Tanneh G. Brunson, requesting similar details as mentioned supra but the minister has allegedly refused to respond to her request.

"Few months ago, I made it known to the Liberian people through plenary that the facility called Gbondoi Health Center was not visible and if there were plans to construct one, it should have started long ago after reviewing the legislative allotment made over the years", Rep. Mensah recalls.

She says it would be in the interest of the people of Gbondoi, Electoral District #6, to know what has been the obstacle and delay in constructing said facility or what has been done with the allocated funds over the years.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has forwarded the



264291', US\$40,000 was transferred to Gbondio Health Center, while in 2020/2021, US\$23,330 was transferred there, US\$23,330 for 2019 and US\$23,176 for 2020/2021, respectively.

She adds that in the Special National Budget of 2021, the ministry transferred US\$30,000 to the health center, while in 2022 it transferred US\$50,000.

The Bong caucus chair says in the spirit of coordination and in line with her legislative oversight duty, she wrote the Deputy Minister of Finance for Budget and Development

communication to its Committee on Health, Ways Means, and Finance and Development Planning to report in one week.

There has been growing tension between Representatives Moima Briggs-Mensah and Marvin Cole of Bong County over the construction of Gbondoi clinic.

The two Bong lawmakers have been trading claims and counter-claims over the alleged existence of the clinic, though the National Legislature has since approved twenty-five thousand United States Dollars for the facility in the 2023 National Budget. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Français

## Présidentielle 2023 : Plus de 2,4 millions de électeurs enrôlés

La présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a publié le lundi 5 juin 2023 une mise à jour sur

centrale biométrique à la fin de l'opération d'enrôlement sur toute l'étendue du territoire. Elle a enregistré au total 2 498 904 électeurs, dont 27 192 doublons et

action en justice », a-t-elle averti.

Concernant les 529 mineurs inscrits, la patronne de la NEC a dit que la Commission est en train d'étudier le dossier, d'autant plus que les personnes de cette catégorie, notamment les mineurs, bénéficient d'un degré accru de confidentialité en vertu de la loi.

Selon les chiffres rendus publics, il y a 1 257 490 hommes inscrits, soit 50,32 %, 1 241 414 femmes inscrites, soit 49,67 %.

Madame Brown-Lansanah a également indiqué que 12 399 personnes handicapées se sont inscrites.

Elle a dit que l'utilisation de la plate-forme de saisie de données personnelles en ligne a considérablement réduit le temps nécessaire au traitement d'une inscription au centre d'inscription. Selon elle, la Commission a réussi à capturer les données de 534 286 personnes en ligne.

Dans un développement connexe, la NEC a informé les Libériens et toutes les parties prenantes que l'exposition de la liste électorale provisoire commencera le 12 juin et se terminera le 17 juin 2023.

Au cours de cette période, les 2 080 centres

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

l'opération d'inscriptions biométrique qui vient de se terminer, faisant état de 2 471 183 inscrits sur la liste électorale en vues des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) du Libéria a entamé le processus de vérification des dossiers de 27 192 inscrits qui seraient soupçonnés d'être des doublons.

Elle a commencé le processus de déduplication à l'aide du système de gestion

529 mineurs, qui font l'objet d'une enquête, selon Mme Davidetta Borwn-Lansanah, présidente de la commission électorale.

« 27 192 inscrits ont été identifiés comme étant des doublons et 529 comme des mineurs présumés dans les 15 comtés », a-t-elle déclaré.

« Ces dossiers font l'objet d'une enquête dans le cadre du processus d'arbitrage. Tous les inscrits non éligibles seront supprimés et, le cas échéant, leurs noms seront renvoyés au ministère de la Justice pour une

## L'UE injecte 88 millions de dollars dans l'économie libérienne

Le gouvernement du Libéria et l'Union européenne (UE) ont signé le lundi 5 juin un accord de 88 millions de dollars américains pour soutenir les programmes de développement et de relance économique du Libéria. L'accord s'inscrit dans le cadre d'une nouvelle phase du partenariat.

Le ministre des finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah, a signé lundi au nom du gouvernement libérien, tandis que le chef de la délégation de l'UE au Libéria, l'ambassadeur Laurent Delahousse, a signé pour l'UE lors de la cérémonie qui s'est tenue au siège de la délégation de l'UE à Mamba Point.

La signature a eu lieu dans le contexte du 50e anniversaire des relations UE-Libéria. En 1973, la Commission de la Communauté économique européenne a établi son

premier bureau au Libéria, qui a été transformé en une mission diplomatique à part entière, la délégation de l'Union européenne auprès de la République du Libéria.

La nouvelle phase du partenariat de développement UE-Libéria s'étend de 2021 à 2025, pour laquelle un total de 191 millions d'euros / 220 millions de dollars américains a

été affecté.

Dans le cadre de la nouvelle phase du partenariat UE-Libéria, quatre programmes ont été identifiés pour être soutenus, à savoir : le renforcement d'une démocratie inclusive et responsable au Libéria

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



## Éditorial

### Le gouvernement doit s'exprimer sur l'affaire de diamant

Le gouvernement du Libéria n'est toujours pas clair sur le diamant de 53,3 carats estimé à 5 millions de dollars américains à cause duquel plusieurs certaines de personnes ont manifesté vendredi devant le maquis Jamaica Resort du président George Weah situé à Paynesville.

Des centaines de manifestants, dont la plupart des courtiers et des mineurs, se sont amassés devant la boîte de nuit Jamaica Resort du président George Weah, le long de l'autoroute de l'aéroport international Roberts à l'extérieur de Monrovia, pour exiger le limogeage du ministre adjoint des Mines Emmanuel T.T. Swen, qui aurait refusé de retourner un diamant trouvé par un jeune libérien.

Mohammed Kamara aurait trouvé un diamant de 55 carats à Gbarpolu, dans l'ouest du Libéria, et l'aurait remis aux autorités du ministère des Mines à Monrovia. La pierre précieuse pourrait être vendue à environ 5 millions de dollars américains.

Des manifestants amenés par Bill Lama et Mohammed Kamara, alias "Jack" et Ma Fatu Nyumah Borbor, propriétaire du ruisseau dans lequel le diamant a été trouvé, ont pris d'assaut jeudi 1er juin la boîte Jamaica Resort, appelant au limogeage immédiat du ministre adjoint Swen, qu'ils accusent de vol de bien.

Selon les manifestants, le diamant de 53,3 carats a été trouvé par le pêcheur Mohammed Kamara, alias "Iron Jacket" dans un ruisseau à Gbarpolu. Le ruisseau appartient à Ma Fatu Nyumah Borbor, qui serait une marchande de minéraux expérimentée.

Selon le manifestant Lama, c'est au cours d'une routine régulière que M. Kamara aurait trouvé le diamant. Il a ensuite informé les autorités de la région. La nouvelle s'est aussi répandue dans tout le pays comme une traînée de poudre.

Le diamant aurait été remis au ministre adjoint des Mines Emmanuel T.T. Swen, en tant que représentant du gouvernement, mais le ministre refuserait délibérément de restituer la pierre précieuse.

S'exprimant, chagrin au cœur, Mohammed Kamara a dit qu'il a trouvé le diamant pendant qu'il travaillait dans le ruisseau de Ma Fatu Borbor. Et il a informé les voisins qui lui ont conseillé d'en informer le ministère des Mines qui a compétence sur les questions minières afin que tout se passe dans la légalité et que toutes les parties en bénéficient.

C'est alors que le ministre adjoint Emmanuel Swen a été contacté. On lui a remis le diamant. Mais maintenant il refuserait de le remettre aux gens qui l'ont trouvé.

« Tout ce que nous voulons, c'est que le président George Weah limoge le ministre Swen parce qu'il est un voyou, c'est un criminel. Il a volé notre diamant », a-t-il dit.

« Nous ne dormirons pas et nous ne nous reposerons pas tant que nous n'avons pas notre diamant. Le ministre Swen a conclu un accord clandestin. Il a essayé d'utiliser son influence pour nous intimider, et il a pris notre diamant et l'a donné à ceux auxquels il préfère le vendre. Il veut profiter de notre sueur, mais cela ne fonctionnera pas », a juré Lama.

Le ministre Swen aurait remis le diamant en question à un certain Kpaku, à en croire ses accusateurs. Ce dernier aurait été demandé de donner 100 000 dollars américains à ceux qui ont trouvé le diamant pour oublier l'affaire, mais finalement, il leur aurait donné 88 000 dollars américains qu'ils ont rejetés.

« J'ai besoin de mon diamant pour que nous le vendions dans la transparence. Nous ne pouvons pas vendre de diamants sans les mineurs et le gouvernement », a-t-il dit.

De même, Ma Fatu Borbor, propriétaire de la mine où le diamant aurait été trouvé, a demandé au ministre Swen de rendre le diamant à Mohammed Kamara, qu'elle décrit comme son beau-frère.

« Je lance un appel à notre président, George Weah, pour qu'il vienne à mon secours en me rendant mon diamant découvert dans ma crique », a-t-elle exigé.

Madame Borbor : « Nous avons besoin de notre diamant. Je pleure sur le président George Manneh Weah pour qu'il intervienne afin que [cela] profite au district et au comté dans son ensemble. C'est une opportunité susceptible de changer ma vie et celle de mes enfants.

La police a arrêté plusieurs manifestants et dispersé les autres. Mais depuis l'incident, ni les autorités du ministère des Mines ni le bureau du président Weah ne s'est officiellement exprimé sur la question. Par conséquent, les rumeurs courent partout.



# Français

## Présidentielle 2023 : Plus de

d'enregistrement deviendront des centres d'exposition et seront ouverts simultanément dans tout le pays de 8h00 à 17h00 tous les jours.

La NEC encourage les personnes inscrites à visiter les centres où elles se sont inscrites. L'exposition doit permettre aux inscrits de confirmer leurs informations. Et en cas de problème, ils pourront demander des corrections, si nécessaire.

La NEC a informé également les partis politiques, les coalitions, les alliances et les candidats indépendants que, sur la base du calendrier électoral, la nomination des candidats pour les élections du 10 octobre 2023 commencera le 14 juin 2023 et se terminera à 17h00 le 14 juillet 2023 au complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe. Cette opération, selon elle, est un élément essentiel du

processus électoral.

« Les dossiers de candidature peuvent être récupérés au centre de nomination du S.K.D. Complexe sportif, à compter du 12 juin 2023 et tout au long de la période de mise en candidature.

La Commission a exprimé sa gratitude à tous les acteurs électoraux, y compris les partenaires locaux, régionaux et internationaux. Elle a remercié le Ministère de la justice et les agences de sécurité nationale, dont la Police nationale libérienne et le Service de l'immigration. La Commission a également remercié les propriétaires des propriétés utilisées, les fournisseurs des kits et logiciels biométriques, Laxton, Neurotechnology et 3D, ainsi que tout le personnel temporaire et permanent de la NEC.

Le NEC apprécie toutes les

## Présidentielle 2023 : Plus de

(environ 16,5 millions de dollars).

Cet aspect du partenariat vise à promouvoir une démocratie plus inclusive et transparente au Libéria. Il soutiendra le cycle électoral et maintiendra la paix, permettra la participation significative des femmes et l'inclusion des groupes marginalisés dans les processus politiques, et augmentera la participation des citoyens dans le processus de prise de décision et la responsabilisation. Le programme sera mis en œuvre avec la Commission électorale nationale à travers le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD).

Le programme a également capté le soutien à l'EFTP (environ 31 millions de dollars), le soutien au secteur agricole pour stimuler la production alimentaire (24 millions de dollars) et le soutien à la foresterie et à la conservation pour un développement économique durable (16,5 millions de dollars). Ce programme vise à promouvoir la création d'emplois et la génération de revenus grâce à l'utilisation durable et à la conservation des ressources naturelles telles que l'agroforesterie, la plantation de bois de feu, les pépinières polyvalentes et la formalisation des scieurs à chaîne.

« Les quatre nouveaux programmes que nous signons aujourd'hui lancent une nouvelle phase de soutien de l'UE de 2021 à 2025. Quatre autres programmes seront signés l'année prochaine avec le partenariat UE-Libéria », a dit l'ambassadeur Delahousse. Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Tweah, a salué les 50 ans de partenariat avec l'Union européenne, affirmant que cela n'a pas été un gaspillage, car son impact sur la croissance et le développement est positif. Le partenariat soutient également l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la paix et la prospérité de ce gouvernement.

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## Le ministre adjoint Swen se prononce sur l'affaire de diamants



Le sous-ministre des Mines et de l'Énergie (MME) Emmanuel T.T. Swen, qui se trouve au centre d'une affaire de diamant, a finalement rompu le silence, prenant ses distances avec la pierre précieuse.

Le diamant en question a été récemment découvert dans le comté de Gbarpolu par un pêcheur identifié comme Mohammed Kamara, alias "Iron Jacket" à la concession numéro 9 Diamond Creek dans le comté.

La semaine dernière, des manifestants ont pris d'assaut le Jamaica Resort du président George Weah le long de l'autoroute Robertsfield à Paynesville, exigeant le limogeage du ministre adjoint Emmanuel TT. Swen, qu'ils ont accusé d'avoir confisqué leur pierre précieuse.

Mais s'exprimant pour la première fois le lundi 5 juin 2023 au CEIO, un forum intellectuel local de Monrovia, le ministre adjoint Swen a rejeté les allégations selon lesquelles il serait en possession du diamant.

« Il n'y a pas de diamant en ma possession. L'homme qui a trouvé son diamant l'a donné à un courtier nommé Bakou, qui l'a apporté à l'association des vendeurs de diamant puis au ministère pour que les autorités le voient. Il a son diamant, pas

moi », a dit le ministre Swen.

« Il n'y a pas de coffre-fort au ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie pour garder les diamants, et nous n'avons jamais gardé de diamant au ministère auparavant », a déclaré Swen, se demandant dans quelle mesure il serait possible pour lui de garder un diamant qui fait l'objet d'une enquête et qui est obscurci.

Selon le ministre Swen, lorsque le diamant a été trouvé dans le comté de Gbarpolu le vendredi 21 avril 2023, c'est le président de l'Association libérienne des diamantaires, Mustapha Tunkara, qui l'a apporté au ministère des Mines pour que les autorités le voient et procèdent à une enquête. Car il y avait une controverse quant à savoir qui a réellement trouvé le diamant.

Il a dit que c'était à ce moment-là qu'il a demandé à M. Tunkara de garder le diamant en sa possession, mais il (Tunkara) lui a dit qu'il ne pouvait pas garder un diamant entouré de controverse.

Swen a poursuivi en disant qu'un courtier est venu à Monrovia avec le diamant sur l'autorisation de plusieurs parties, dont M. Mohammed Kamara, alias Junior Jack, pour que le ministère le voie.

Le diamant, a été confié à l'Association des Vendeurs de Diamond du Liberia pour le garder.

## Au Sénégal, des « nervis » sont-ils de sortie ?

Statu quo au Sénégal après l'explosion de violences qui a agité le pays jeudi et vendredi derniers, dans la foulée de la condamnation de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko à deux ans de prison ferme pour « corruption de la jeunesse ». Dans ce contexte de tension latente, la présence de « nervis » - des hommes de main - aux côtés des forces de maintien de l'ordre pose question.

Des dizaines de véhicules, notamment des pick-up blancs non immatriculés, stationnent depuis dimanche devant le siège de l'Alliance pour la République (APR), le parti présidentiel, dans le quartier de Mermoz. Des jeunes sortent du bâtiment avant de s'engouffrer dans les voitures. « Ils arrivent, ils vont passer devant les policiers pour aller arrêter les gens et ils sont armés », décrit Maître Moussa Diop, désormais membre de la plateforme des Forces Vives F24, qui a dénoncé ce lundi 5 juin le recrutement de nervis par le pouvoir.

« Il y a des personnes qui dépendent du parti au pouvoir. Je tiens à le préciser parce que j'ai des images, j'ai aussi le point de départ. Elles sont



utilisées par le pouvoir pour faire un travail qui n'est pas le leur. On ne peut pas prendre des personnes privées pour assurer l'ordre public. »

Moussa Diop a quitté la coalition présidentielle en 2020, et dit « ne pas avoir connu de nervis » avant les émeutes meurtrières de mars 2021. Pourtant, « cette pratique est loin d'être nouvelle dans l'histoire politique du Sénégal », affirme un responsable de la société civile, « et par différents partis ». À chaque pic de tensions, ces pick-up redoutés font leur apparition.

Alors que le ministre Mame Mbaye Niang a appelé à « faire face, quartier par quartier », qui sont donc ces jeunes regroupés ces derniers jours au siège de l'APR ? « Toutes les personnes au siège de l'Alliance pour la République, ce sont des militants.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Pro-poor defender turns against Weah

By: Naneka Hoffman

A former youth leader of Doe Community, Clara Town in Monrovia says President George Weah has failed

Liberia five good times since 2018, what is obtaining on the ground is totally different from what Ambassador Weah was elected as President.

Tipayson quotes South

attracted more investment to Liberia", he recalls.

However, he observes after the Sirleaf administration, these institutions under President Weah have gone flat to the ground.

"Whenever international partners and investors don't trust your systems because they see that you play with integrity institutions, there will be least investment going to the country that which Liberian has seen", he adds.

Tipayson says it is a known fact that most of the people who supported Ambassador Weah were young people, but wonders how many programs can the CDC government list to empower young people, pointing that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had the Positive Youth Development (PYD) program that was established to empower young people and to ensure that they are skilled to get ready for national leadership and even community discipleship services.

He notes that under the Eah administration, the system is far different, as corruption has taken over and that the emotionally-focus mindset that Liberians had that yes indeed when they make Ambassador Weah President, things could have changed and jobs could have been created, are not happening. He says President Weah came under the platform of Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, promising to create 1000 jobs every year, which has not happened.

According to him, President Weah's Pro-poor Agenda is a complete contradiction to his lifestyle of flying private jet when his people can't afford them, jobs not being created and primary schools are broken down with everything in shamble, wondering why should Liberians continue with this President who continues to make the country a laughing stuff. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Africa's ANC former youth chair Julius Maleba as saying 'The only way the leader can be considered a people-center [person] is when the leader has reason to fear a judgment of his people.' He says Mr. Weah, a popular President, came to power in 2018 and promise in his inaugural speech delivered at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville to reduce his salary and benefits by 25 percent, but Liberians should ask themselves since the President made that statement if there have been any publication, reference documentation or whatever, to prove that it was carried out, noting that was an integrity test which Mr. Weah failed. He says for the head of a nation to make such an open statement that borders on integrity and then turn to do something far different, he needs to be brought to check.

"I didn't support the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime but there was one thing we all could see: the Unity Party-led government under Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf strengthened integrity institutions which observably

Starts from back page **Liberia's Sara Beysolow Nyanti leads dialogue**

global force, committed to increasing both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions. The summit provides women leaders with a platform to contribute to global discourse from their perspective as women political leaders. Madam Nyanti will also be presenting trailblazers awards to the current President of Ethiopia and others as per the program.

Meanwhile, Day 1 of the Summit which will be held at the European Parliament will focus on Women Peace & Security. This is an area that Madam Nyanti leads in South Sudan, and it was the theme of the conference which she convened in South Sudan.

However, the question that needs to be asked is why Madam Nyanti has not done the same type of meeting in Liberia. Credited for her role in getting Senatorial aspirant Magdalene Harris of Grand Bassa County involved in this meeting, we must ask what of the large number of women in Liberia who do not have access?

The summit will also co-host a session with the World Bank Group to discuss the launch of their Gender Strategy as leaders

will be invited to share insights that will help inform the World Bank Group's work on gender.

Liberia still has underrepresentation of women. The Senate still only has 2 women while the House of Representatives only has 9 women. Madam Nyanti might need to consider this going forward to get more Liberian women involved in leadership.

Speaking to this paper via WhatsApp from Brussels, Madam Magdalene Harris expressed excitement and optimism about the summit.

"I feel blessed to be a part of this summit and I want to thank Madam Sara Nyanti for her role in getting me to participate because in today's world, you need a woman of power to lift other women and that is what she has done," the Grand Bassa County Senatorial aspirant said.

She further explained that the gathering consists of women of power from around the world, and she expects to build networks, something that will shape her own political career.

However, she remained grateful to Madam Nyanti who is at such height and has brought her along. She said she looks forward to the theme Women Representation Matters and will explore networks.

Starts from page 11 **Economy is sluggish**

Chie said he was appalled by the news that social media and a few radio stations had been parading with information alleging that he purchased a certain number of vehicles for the opposition Unity Party.

"Some said 8, others 10, 15, and up to 25 pickups. Opportunists have just added 73 bikes to the list and may add more items before the week ends," he said.

Chie said this information is untrue, baseless, and unfounded and has now become a smear campaign to distract the attention of the ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

"At no time have I purchased any vehicle for or made [a] donation of any kind, directly or indirectly, or requested any individual or business, directly or indirectly, to make a donation to the Unity Party or any other opposition political party, institution, and individual," Chie clarified. He lamented that these lies are said to have started as the result of panic by some persons when information was posted on social media that the Unity Party had acquired 15 pickups and 73 motorbikes.

"This situation is now being exploited by some opportunists who are constantly placing more inciting information on social media to confuse and laugh at the CDC and nourish confusion among its rank and file."

The Senate President Pro-tempore said the opposition Unity Party is quite aware that he has not donated to its institution.

"I challenge anyone in this country to provide evidence that I have made a donation of vehicles or any item, directly or indirectly, to any opposition political party." He said if anyone has such evidence, they should provide it to the press for publication.

"I do not sneak, and I have no need whatsoever to sneak. Let me state here that I remain committed fully to the CDC and use this opportunity to thank many CDCians and other supporters of the CDC who have expressed, both privately and publicly, that they don't believe the false allegations against me and have named some of those behind this false accusation and black lie."

He insisted that from the opinion polls he has seen, the CDC is in a comfortable position and will retain the Presidency whether on the first ballot or the second ballot.

Chie said there is no need for any person to panic when there is news that a certain political party has brought in or purchased a certain number of vehicles or some logistics. According to him, the CDC Government, despite a few challenges here and there, has done well for the people. He thinks the people will give CDC a second chance to complete the various projects and programs it has started all around the country.



Former youth leader Michael Tipayson

miserably in managing the affairs of Liberia in the past five years, so he should be shown the exit door in October.

Michael Tipayson, a former Youth Chairman of the Doe Community and Pro-poor defender notes that the ruling Coalition government headed by President Weah has performed poorly.

Speaking on Tuesday, June 7, from the United States via Skype Mr. Tipayson argued that President Weah should have used his first term to prove that he can perform the mandate given him by the Liberian people.

He calls on President Weah to change his style of administering the country by consulting the masses on steps aimed at improving governance in the country.

He explains that God has blessed Liberia to become a better county but having gone abroad and seen how a country should be structured, ways governance should work for the people and how system should operate, he is disappointed.

The one-time Pro-poor defender says having been to

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# CPP clinches hopes on silence voters

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

the former ruling Unity Party (UP) regimes plunging Liberians into a crisis of poverty, humiliation, and marginalization leaving them vulnerable with veins of anger not wanting to speak, and awaiting the desirous change, something Cllr. Brumskine said suited right within the

their lives, the disadvantage youths, who are yearning for rehabilitation, and I can tell you for sure the magnitude and significance of this ticket.

“We are representing the women, children, the silent voters, - who are unable to speak. “We are representing the gaps between the rich and poor, this is why I’m of the conviction, we will win the election, with evidence of the silence voters,” Cllr. Brumskine averred.

Cllr. Brumskine also used the occasion to beat criticisms that she is not suited to be the Vice-Running Mate to Mr. Cummings, in crucial election, “I’m not a Vice Running Mate, but a Vice Winning Mate,” she said adding, “There’s no better time than this time to impact the change the people need. This is not about Charlyne Brumskine; this is about the young people of Liberia, who yearn for a visionary leader. Let us stop the way we do things, and change the mentality,” she said.

When quizzed what kind of Vice President she would be if the CPP is elected in October, Cllr. Brumskine said she will serve in partnership with Mr. Cummings, impacting lives, rather than just sitting like a raising car parked in the garage.

“Mr. Cummings and Myself will have a partnership in governance,” She said, adding “I wouldn’t be a Vice President just sitting and looking, Mr. Cummings, know my expertise, that is why he has selected me to represent my people, thought the decision was a difficult one, but I must be grateful for the opportunity to lead my people and that time is now,” she added.

# Economy is sluggish

Senate President Pro-Tempore Mr. Albert Tugbe Chie says the Senate has noted signs of a bit of sluggishness in the economy since the 2023 National Budget was enacted into law.

“Since the 2023 National Budget was enacted into law, the Senate has noted signs of a bit of sluggishness in the economy leading to challenges that include depreciation in the exchange rate,” he said Tuesday, 6 June 2023.

At a press briefing, Mr. Chie also noted a “little struggle” [in] completing payment of salaries on time as well as agencies and institutions complaining of delays in getting funds for their various activities and programs.

Given the challenges he listed, Mr. Chie said these economic matters have been discussed with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the recent mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“It has been noted that the Liberia Revenue Authority has not been meeting [its] quarterly targets,” he added.

Chie revealed that the IMF has also indicated that revenue from Customs is not performing despite the increase

for Geo-Information Services (LIGIS) has written the Senate and indicated that the final census results will be available by the end of this month. Once the results are received, he said the Legislature will act per the Constitution and other laws.

Concerning bills in Joint Committee Rooms, Chie explained that there are several bills that are subject of Conference Committees between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

These bills, he said, include the Drugs Law, the amendment to the New Elections Law, the Infrastructure Bill, and a few others.

According to him, the Senate Plenary has received assurances through the Judiciary Committees that all bills in the joint committee room will be completed before the adjournment of this second segment.

In another development, Mr. Chie has frowned on staffers of the Legislature holding political party activities on the grounds of the Capitol. “While we cherish



ANC leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

Cllr. Charlyne W. Brumskine

silent majority voters.

CPP agenda for the people.

The younger Cllr. Brumskine further explained that the poll will be decided by young voters between the ages of 18-35. She argued that this is the group she referred to as the silent majority because they are feeling the hardship and extreme suffering under the Weah-led Government.

Speaking when she appeared on Truth Breakfast show on Tuesday, June 6, the CPP Vice Standard bearer noted that these people (ages 18-35) are not speaking because they are the driving force behind the elections’ results. Cllr. Brumskine said Liberians are in dire need of urgent change that will impact their lives and livelihoods, and there is no better time than this to make that change.

She criticized both the CDC- led Administration and

The CPP Vice-Standard Bearer said the pillar of the CPP Agenda speaks of policies of transformation, transforming the lives of ordinary people, impacting the lives of the younger generation, women empowerment, Job creation, and improving health and education sectors among others, which place the CPP above other competitors as the silence voters will decide, she said.

She described the Cummings- Brumskine Ticket as a formidable force. “I’m not a conventional Politician, but Mr. Cummings chose me, because he knows I have the vision to lead, and this is a unique partnership not about me, but for the market women, the Yanna boys, the children selling in the streets, the young people of Liberia, who are eager to improve

youths,” he lamented. “If you go to the hospitals, no better health facility, our patients are being transferred to neighbouring countries for survival,” he continued.

Starts from page 6

# Voters urged to save Liberia

empowering the youths, women and children.

According to Mr. Morris, one of the major problems facing the country is acute poverty, despite infrastructure developments and human

resources potentials. “If you go around some, you can see our people are suffering, no jobs for our young people, majority of them are now engaged into bad habits, turning into disadvantaged

in the volumes of imports. “Slowness in the economy is not strange in an election year in developing countries due to many factors associated with elections, including the laissez-faire attitude of Taxpayers,” he argued.

According to Chie, the Executive and Legislature are working together to remedy the economic challenges, and hopefully by the end of July, significant progress will be made. He detailed that some of the measures that may have to be taken quickly are to cancel some of the incentives agreements which have been entered into between the Government and some private entities.

He made special emphasis on the ones without legislative ratification, and the cancellation of certain duty-free privileges, especially on fuel. “There is a forecast of a finance gap in the 2023 National Budget in the tone of approximately 44 million US Dollars and there are plans to prepare and enact a Recast Budget in order to cut spending,” he continued.

Regarding the National Census results, Chie said the Liberia Institute

political pluralism, nevertheless, such activities should not be carried out here by our staffers,” he cautioned.

“We kindly request all staffers to abide by the memorandum to that effect issued by the Director of Security.”

Further, Chie addressed accusations that he allegedly donated vehicles to an opposition political party.

He said on 16 May 2023, he left a caveat while delivering his opening statement at the second segment of the sixth session.

In that statement, he said he had urged Liberians to be careful to digest well what they hear and read before they believe because this is an election year. “Political lies, character assassinations, rumors, fabrication with the intent to deceive the masses will be the order of the day,” he repeated his warning.

After giving such a warning,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07

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## Liberia's Sara Beysolow Nyanti leads dialogue at WPL 2023 Summit in Brussels

### -After hosting a successful women confab in South Sudan

Liberia's Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Deputy Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General in South Sudan will join thousands of Women Political Leaders (WPL) from around the world in Brussels,

the largest worldwide gathering of women politicians, including some of the most powerful women leaders on the planet. It convenes and gives a platform to leaders whose influence inspires women to enter and rise in politics.

This follows a successful conference in South Sudan that saw 500 women from 15 countries gather to lift the women of South Sudan.

The WPL Summit 2023 is being held at the European Parliament in Brussels on June 7 and at the Belgian Federal Parliament in Brussels on June 8.

The WPL 2023, which comes 10 years after the first WPL Summit was held at the European Parliament will this time discuss peace, security, and why "Representation Matters".

According to the Summit's documents, throughout the past years, the WPL Summit has been co-hosted by parliamentary and governmental bodies in every major region of the world. This year, The European Parliament and the Belgian Federal Parliament are the official co-hosts of the #WPLSummit2023. Fitting, as for the first time, all three legislative bodies are simultaneously presided over by women.

WPL has emerged as a



Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Belgium for this year's Women Political Leaders Summit.

Madam Nyanti who is also the UN's Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan will be shaping the conversations around global leadership and the role of women.

The WPL Summit 2023 is being held under the theme Representation Matters. It's aimed at working to increase the number and influence of women in political leadership positions.

Madam Nyanti, currently Liberia's highest-ranking international public servant will serve as Lead Facilitator of

an international dialogue on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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