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Continental News

South Africa President Briefs Xi on African Russia-Ukraine Peace Plan

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has briefed Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the upcoming visit by African leaders to acknowledged the impact the conflict has had on human lives and on food security in Africa," the presidency statement said. Various peace proposals to end the war have popped up in

made public. The peace plan is also backed by the leaders of Senegal, Uganda, Egypt, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia.

During Friday's call, Ramaphosa and Xi had also discussed the summit of



China's President Xi Jinping talks with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after their media conference in Pretoria, South Africa

Russia and Ukraine in a bid to end hostilities, the South African presidency said Saturday.

Chinese state broadcaster reported that the two leaders had a phone call Friday. In a statement, South Africa's presidency said Ramaphosa told Xi he noted the peace plan proposed by China and affirmed African leaders' support for initiatives aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"President Xi Jinping commended the initiative by the African continent and

different capitals as the war has displaced millions of people, propelled food prices and made a dent in world prosperity.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a major push to court the Global South, a term used for the regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia, last month in response to peace moves from some of its members. Ukraine's stated position for any peace deal is that all Russian troops must withdraw from its territory.

On May 16, Ramaphosa announced the African peace plan, whose details have not been

emerging economies Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), which is due to be hosted by South Africa in August. South Africa has said it is considering legal options if Russian President Vladimir Putin, the subject of a war crimes arrest warrant, attends the BRICS summit.

The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Putin related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and South Africa as an ICC member would be required to arrest him if he attends the summit in Johannesburg. VOA

Pearl Beach hotel: Islamists kill nine in Somalia attack

Six civilians have been killed and 10 injured after al-Shabab militants attacked a beachside hotel in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, police say.

Security forces rescued more than 80 guests from the Pearl Beach hotel after a six-hour siege on Friday night.

Three members of the security forces died in the rescue operation and have been praised for their bravery.

All of the attackers were killed in a fierce gun battle with security forces, police said.

Pearl Beach hotel was popular with government officials.

Such places are frequently targeted by al-Shabab insurgents, who have been fighting Somalia's government

for more than a decade and retain a stronghold in parts of the country.

People who were caught up in this latest attack described the shocking moment armed men stormed the complex.

"I was sitting near the beach

when the first explosion happened at the front gate of the hotel and there was another one at the back," eyewitness Hussein Saddam told the Reuters news agency.

"I saw four dead bodies - two were women and the two others were men... It was a very shocking scene but Allah has saved me." BBC



Residents pause to assess the damages at the site of an attack at the Pearl Beach Hotel in Mogadishu

Nigerian kidnap gangs drive big-time Nigerian farmers away

Rotimi Williams was seen as one of Nigeria's most successful rice farmers seven years ago, but now the 42-year-old's land stands idle.

The problem: insecurity, which has ground his farms to a halt.

In 2012, Mr Williams left his career as a banker and ventured into agriculture. He was profiled in international media and described as the second-largest producer of rice in Nigeria, with thriving farms across the north.

But the threat to his life and the lives of his workers grew too much.

"There was a time my car was shot at on my way back from the farm," he said. "There were also kidnap attempts."

In the past three years, a sharp rise in insecurity has led to gangs kidnap hundreds of people for ransom in Nigeria,

When the multi-million-dollar factory, partly funded by the central bank, had launched to great fanfare in 2020, it was described in the media as Nigeria's second-largest food processing plant and included the country's largest tomato farm.

Bandits then tried to kidnap some of the staff. They failed, but the plant has been out of operation since.

"There's nowhere else in the world where people require armed security to go to the farm," said Mezuo Nwuneli, the managing partner of Sahel Capital.

His agriculture investment firm is in its ninth year of a 10-year contract to invest \$66m (£54m) in the farming sector on behalf of the government and its partners, including the UK government and some Dutch investors.

On one of Sahel Capital's farms, a security officer was killed during a kidnapping attempt.

"They used to be comfortable working till 10pm but because of



Rice is a crucial part of many Nigerians' diet

and staff of prosperous agricultural enterprises have been particularly targeted, forcing many farms to abandon or reduce operations.

More than 350 farmers were kidnapped or killed in the 12 months up to June 2022 alone, according to a Nigerian security tracking website.

The majority of attacks took place in the northern region where there is swathes of uncultivated land and some of the country's largest farms.

In January 2022, five people were killed in an exchange of gunfire between security agents and armed gunmen on motorbikes, gang members known locally as "bandits", who attacked the premises of GB Foods, a

tomato-processing plant in the north-western state of Kebbi.

the attack, they don't feel safe to work late. In other parts of the world, you can run a farm 24/7."

Prior to the discovery of crude oil in 1956, Nigeria was known for a long list of cash crops, such as palm oil, cocoa, and groundnuts, but the government's focus on the booming oil sector led to the underdevelopment of non-oil sectors, such as agriculture.

This began to change after Olusegun Obasanjo was elected as president in 1999, and made a push to revive agriculture. His government offered farmers improved irrigation as well as new machinery and crop varieties to help boost agricultural productivity.

However, the magic really began to happen when the subsequent administration in 2010 appointed the sleek, bowtie-wearing, charismatic Akinwumi Adesina, as the minister for agriculture. BBC

EDITORIAL

Minister Tweah's threat is belated

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah's threat to hold back salaries of heads of ministries, agencies and commissions, who fail to present budget performance reports to his office is nothing but belated.

"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", Tweah explained 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 million euros, respectively. The monies are intended for various government programs.

But having spent five years in office without enforcing such law, when did Minister Tweah realize that spending institutions of government are not providing performance reports for funds allotted them.

From year to year, this has been a major problem for heads of ministries, agencies and commissions appearing for budget hearings at the Legislature. In fact, ministers go with the audacity of requesting for increments of their allotments without detailed reports of expenditures from the previous year. And the government, under the watch of Minister Samuel Tweah, has been making increments for several ministries.

For instance, increments have been made for the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture, among several others without expenditure reports from the previous fiscal period. Today, the country's educational sector is in shamble with dilapidated public school buildings across the country staffed with volunteer teachers yet to be placed on the payroll.

Similar situation is with the Health and Agriculture sectors, where millions have been allotted thru the Finance Ministry with no progress on the ground like a bottomless drum that one tries to fill with water. What an irony!

Yet, Tweah wants foreign partners to believe that he means business when it comes to public financial management, while the reality in practice is totally the opposite.

In fact, the Public Financial Management Law of Liberia has been on the book since the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. So why has Tweah, as Minister of Finance, not enforced this law as a prudent financial policy 'till now?

These are some of the lip services of our public officials. Without political will, they profess to be tough in applying the rules when they mean completely something else. This has kept Liberia in a vicious cycle with no tangible progress.

The government is trying to present itself as tough in an election year, a strategy that could boomerang and further erodes already dangling public trust. It may well be shooting itself in the leg with the ammunition of Minister Tweah, who seems to be overly zealous in putting out a face that does not exist.

If the right thing was never done at the beginning, how relevant can it be at the end? It could be misconstrued and interpreted as a ploy to witch-hunt people being targeted in government. We rest our case here.

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COMMENTARY

By Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Governments Must Meet Their Biodiversity Pledges

MONROVIA - My work has taken me far and wide, across oceans and vast expanses of land, and I have been lucky enough to see firsthand some of the richest biodiversity hotspots on Earth. But at the end of the day, I always return home - to Liberia, to Africa, which offers the most extraordinary natural landscape and wildlife. The African continent is undoubtedly the planet's biodiversity powerhouse.

Writing about Africa's natural capital doesn't do it justice. How can one describe a quarter of global biodiversity - including at least 50,000 plant species, some 1,000 different mammals, 2,500 types of bird, and up to 5,500 varieties of freshwater fish - in a few words? It's the same with Liberia: my country is home to large swaths of the Upper Guinean Forests, which is among the world's foremost regions for mammalian diversity. It includes hundreds of thousands of hectares of freshwater wetlands and over six million hectares of forests, which are vital for the survival of endangered fauna and flora, as well as for local communities' well-being.

Given its abundance of natural capital, the continent stands to lose disproportionately from biodiversity collapse. When human activity pushes animal and plant species close to extinction and throws ecosystems out of balance, it also puts important valuable natural resources at risk: Africa's diverse biomes play a crucial role in global pharmaceutical innovation, ecotourism, and crop pollination.

Moreover, despite contributing only 3% to global greenhouse-gas emissions, Africa suffers disproportionately from the effects of a warming planet, losing up to \$15 billion per year to climate change. Biodiversity loss exacerbates the problem by threatening the continent's rainforests, an important carbon sink. And, given African economies' dependence on natural resources and ecosystem services, it also impedes growth and development.

That is why Africa has been at the forefront of biodiversity conservation efforts, and climate action more generally. The continent is increasingly calling attention to the issue and leading the charge at negotiations, most recently at December's United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal. Several African states, including Liberia, have also held developed countries accountable for their existing commitments at these international summits.

The talks at COP15 were ultimately successful, culminating in the adoption of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. One of its many ambitious targets is to protect 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030. Also called "30x30," it is a proposal that many

in Liberia - including me, as a member of the Campaign for Nature's Global Steering Committee - have long championed. Governments also committed to increase the annual biodiversity-related financing that developed countries provide to developing countries to at least \$20 billion by 2025, and at least \$30 billion by 2030.

Six months after this landmark agreement, we need to maintain momentum and make good on these pledges. As the staggering decline in nature and wildlife continues unabated, now is not the time to falter. The theme of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity (celebrated each year on May 22), "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity," is a timely and powerful reminder of the urgent need to act quickly on the commitments made at COP15 and to shift our focus and energy from imagination to implementation. The recent G7 Summit in Hiroshima, where world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Kunming-Montreal framework, was a welcome step in the right direction.

But governments must deliver on their pledges to mobilize public finance if we want to achieve the "30x30" goal of halting and reversing biodiversity loss. The funding will provide a lifeline for the world's ecosystems and plant and animal species, as well as some of the world's most vulnerable populations - particularly indigenous peoples and rural communities - whose livelihoods depend on their local natural capital.

The global community has a history of breaking its word and shifting the goalposts agreed to in past climate and biodiversity deals. But the promise to increase international financing to developing countries must be kept. As global warming intensifies, we can no longer tolerate the repercussions of another deal like the one reached at the 2009 UN climate summit, which turned out to be mostly hot air.

World leaders have an opportunity to be on the right side of history. But any delay in meeting the targets set at COP15 will undermine this landmark agreement. The resources are there. After rapidly mobilizing trillions of dollars in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developed countries should be able to move with the same speed to finance biodiversity conservation efforts. Their investments would yield significant dividends in developing countries, from supporting millions of jobs and generating billions of dollars in GDP to significantly reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

The moment has come for decision-makers at all levels in developed countries to deliver their end of the bargain. Let us not waste this last chance to preserve the planet's natural wealth. If we can get this right, Africa - and the world - will be better for it.

OP-ED

By Amadou Hott &
Mark Malloch-Brown

Leveling the Financial Playing Field for Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OPINION

By Hippolyte Fofack

Macron and the Future of Françafrique

CAIRO - In early March, French President Emmanuel Macron visited four African states - Gabon, Angola, Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - on the resource-rich Gulf of Guinea. The trip, his 18th to Africa, was aimed at countering China and Russia's charm offensive on the continent: both countries are bolstering their presence in places once considered part of France's sphere of influence - *pré carré français*.

Before embarking on the tour, Macron candidly admitted that France was in a "period of transition" with its African partners, as it worked to develop relationships built on more than just security. But he was quick to add that none of France's six military bases on the continent would be shut down as part of this rebalancing, underscoring the challenges that African countries face in disentangling economic growth and development objectives from security concerns, to which they have long been subordinated.

Macron's insistence on the need to maintain France's military presence in Africa (albeit with a smaller footprint) contrasts sharply with the views of young Africans, who are increasingly opposed to foreign military presence on the continent. Strangely enough, the French agree more with Africans than with their own president: a recent poll by the French Institute of Public Opinion (Ifop) found that 55% of the French favor closing their country's military bases in Africa.

The relationship between France and Africa exemplifies Benjamin Disraeli's assertion in 1863: "Colonies do not cease to be colonies because they are independent." The resilience of the French colonial umbilical cord is evident in several domains of development and statecraft, including security, economic and monetary policy, and foreign policy.

The war in Ukraine is a case in point. When, in March 2022, 25 of Africa's 54 countries either abstained or did not submit a vote on the United Nations' resolution condemning Russia's invasion, Macron criticized their "hypocrisy." Since then, France and other Western powers have deployed immense financial and diplomatic resources to support Ukraine, in stark contrast to the crisis in the Sahel. For more than a decade, terrorist groups have been destabilizing the region, laying waste to countless communities. Yet this issue has received scant attention globally, and the West has been unable to respond effectively.

Besides demonstrating the lopsided global response to conflicts in Europe, the Ukraine crisis has also highlighted the imbalance between France's dealings with Russia and its engagement with former colonies. In 2021, French foreign direct investment in Russia was more than \$3 billion, dwarfing its total FDI in former African colonies, estimated at a paltry \$268 million.

Even more interesting is the composition of these investments: France's FDI in Russia has a strong manufacturing component, which is highly labor-intensive and better at delivering inclusive growth than natural-resource extraction, the main focus of such inflows to Africa. At the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in 2018, Macron boasted that "French enterprises employ 106,000 Russian citizens." Before divesting from the sanctioned country, French automaker Renault alone employed 45,000 Russians.

While Renault helped create thousands of jobs in Russia, streets in France's former African colonies are congested with imported cars - a major source of these countries' external imbalances. This excessive reliance on imports increases the region's vulnerability to global volatility, exports jobs, and, in some economies, has generated unemployment rates above 20%, which only fuels the northward migration that European states have been seeking to curb. On the other hand, many African countries possess the raw materials needed to manufacture cars, including the electric vehicles that will be crucial in the fight against climate change.

Equally damaging is the CFA franc, which, unlike sterling and escudo, for example, persists as one of the most visible relics of colonialism. Established in 1945, the French-backed currency is pegged to the euro and still used in two monetary zones in West and Central Africa. Macron attempted to reform the system in late 2019, announcing the replacement of the CFA franc with the "eco" in eight countries (although it has yet to be adopted). But even with this change, France's guarantee continues to undermine monetary sovereignty and the currency's peg with the euro continues to undercut competitiveness and industrialization.

These adverse effects of the colonial development model of resource extraction have impeded diversification and left Africa's real economy with the short end of the globalization stick. Although Africa accounts for around 17% of the world's population, it accounts for only 3% of world exports in a rapidly changing global economic environment where trade has been largely driven by manufactured goods with increasing technological content.

The social costs are immense. The French multinational Orano (formerly Areva), for example, has been extracting Nigerien uranium for decades while receiving a range of tax breaks and benefits. This arrangement with its former colony has positioned France as one of the main uranium exporters and a global leader in nuclear energy, mitigating its exposure to shortages stemming from Europe's restrictions on imports of Russian hydrocarbons. Yet Niger remains one of the world's most impoverished countries - less than 20% of its population has access to electricity.

Albert Sarraut, the Colonial Minister for France from 1920-24 and 1932-33, best captured the intent of the imperial economy: "Economically, a colonial possession means to the home country simply a privileged market whence it will draw the raw materials it needs, dumping its own manufactures in return." Even today, more than 80% of African countries remain dependent on primary commodities and suffer disproportionately from recurrent balance-of-payments crises that undermine fiscal and debt sustainability.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Running out of Political Strategies

Just weeks before the National Elections Commission (NEC) can announce the opening of candidates' nominations for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections due in October, political parties here appear to be running out of campaign strategies.

Printing of opponent's t-shirts just to divide it amongst party members to wear at one's program, pretending to be disgruntled members from said party who have come to pledge their loyalty and support to one's camp has been on the increase and is now losing impacts and relevance.

Thus, for the most part, political parties appear to be relying on endorsements and pledges of support as means of gaining popularity rather than carving tangible workable plans that will attract voters in real numbers at their directions.

The incumbent is not clear of this gimmick as well. Local officials announcing their endorsement of the re-election bid of President George Weah is no news at all. Simply because these local officials are already serving at the will and pleasure of Mr. Weah. By President Weah losing the 2023 election means they will all be put out of jobs. So, they have no other option but to endorse his second term bid, and doing so should not be big headline news.

In politics, announcing big names as crossing carpets to one's camp is good, and it helps boost the morale of political camps, but in Liberia where most big names come with excess baggage, that strategy seems to make little or no impact. In addition, videos of individuals claiming to be hired assassins by certain key figures from opposition camps to assassinate members of the incumbent regime are also in circulation.

These kinds of cheap propaganda are just demonstrations of how some parties here have run out of ideas. This is also in addition to paying for gossip spewed by media mercenaries.

This brings me to a point - few day ago, a certain "Prophet Key", which this author normally doesn't follow because of his style of presentation spewed out lots of fabrications on his "show" describing it as privileged and leaked information about a particular presidential candidate's interaction with some influential journalists.

In parts of his presentation, "Prophet Key" claimed that this writer and two other journalists had been offered bribes in the amount of US\$25,000 each to endorse the candidacy of Collaborating Political Party (CPP) Standard Bearer Alexander Cummings during a meeting.

"Prophet Key" further went on to say that both this writer and the other two journalists declined the offer on grounds that they were supporting the candidacy of incumbent President George Weah. The so-called "Prophet Key" went on to support his falsehood with other false claims which made him more witless than he had ever sounded on any of his shows.

Now, firstly, there has never been a meeting involving this writer and the other two journalists mentioned by "Prophet Key" and Mr. Cummings; not even a group meeting where these journalists including several others have had to meet with Mr. Cummings where in he comes soliciting support before making an offer of US\$25,000.

But here's the catch, whoever sponsored that presentation of the so-called "Prophet Key" show that day, thought it was a very good strategy to either garner the ruling party's attention or make the ruling party looks popular among these journalists.

The element of these journalists refusing the alleged bribe offered by Mr. Cummings was intended to cleverly vindicate them to avoid any backlash after the message had been propagated.

However, these kinds of propagandas can only resonate in an unsophisticated political environment.

Today, Liberian voters appear to have come of age. Certain propaganda just doesn't hold water, so when it includes some individuals who have over the years tried to protect their images then it creates more doubts.

This 2023 election has one of the highest stakes of any election ever held in our country. Therefore, politicians need to go beyond the usual and come up with tangible messages rather than cheap propaganda.

CNE PUBLISHES PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The National Elections Commission (CNE) of Guinea-Bissau has today 8th June 2023 officially published the results of the 2023 Legislative elections which took place on 4th June 2023. Twenty-two (22) political parties contested in the elections vying for 102 parliamentary seats. The Inclusive Alliance Platform (PAI) - Terra Ranka coalition won the parliamentary elections with an absolute majority, obtaining 54 of the 102 seats, according to provisional results announced by the National Elections Commission (CNE).

It should be recalled that prior to election day, 18 out of the 22 political parties signed an agreement under the aegis of ECOWAS committing themselves to participating in free, transparent and peaceful elections. Furthermore, the agreement, which was signed in the presence of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador Abdel-Fatau MUSAH, also aimed at getting the parties involved in the electoral process to agree on the legitimacy of the interim President of the National Elections Commission (CNE) to perform the electoral acts usually reserved for the President of the CNE during the polls on 4th June 2023.

ECOWAS congratulates the people of Guinea-Bissau for their political maturity and for the peaceful nature of the elections. It also recognizes the important role that political party leaders have played in ensuring that their supporters came out to vote in a peaceful and orderly manner. ECOWAS also commends the government of Guinea-Bissau for creating an enabling environment for the elections to have taken place. Commendation goes out to

the National Elections Commission (CNE), for executing their functions as required by law, the Civil Society Organisations, international partners, and above all, the people of Guinea-Bissau who turned out in their numbers to exercise their political rights and civic duty to vote in a peaceful, participatory and orderly environment.

For the 4th June Legislative elections, ECOWAS deployed seventy-five (75) Observers drawn from the ECOWAS Permanent Representatives' Committee, Member States' Foreign Affairs ministries and Electoral Management Bodies, the ECOWAS Council of the Wise, Community institutions (Parliament and Court of Justice), Civil Society Organizations, the Media, and trained election observers. The Mission was led by the Former



President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, H.E. Jorge Carlos FONSECA, and the former President of the Community Court of Justice, Mediator of the Togolese Republic, Her Excellency Madame Awa Amadou ABOUDOU NANA as Deputy Head of Mission.

The deployment is in line with the provisions of Article 14 of the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and in conformity with the commitment of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to deploy Observation Missions to Member States organizing elections.

Starts from back page

watch over his property - Sis Tee Dennis, her daughter Pinky, and Mr. Garya Karmo, Parley said the Doe family in 2022 started requesting that they wanted to buy his land.

Parley said he did not want to sell his land because he had almost completed his house project.

While roofing his house in May this year, Parley said Isaac obtain a stop order from the Barnerville town hall in the Kebbah Community ordering the project to stop.

At the hearing, Parley noted that Isaac, without a power of attorney, alleged that the house was being constructed on Mr. Thomas Doe's land.

But Parley said when he asked Isaac why he wanted to buy the land in question if he knew it belonged to Thomas Doe, Isaac claimed that they had just realized that they planted their cornerstones at the wrong places because they did not have their land deed.

He said despite Isaac admitting that

they wanted to buy his land, and that their cornerstones remain where they planted them, the township commissioner ordered a survey which he sees as an attempt to rob him of his property.

Before going to the town hall, Parley said Isaac had brought a bogus surveyor without the knowledge of the town hall and the suspect backed Isaac's claims in his bogus survey.

Parley has accused the Doe family of trying to infringe on his right by attempting to forcefully and illegally claim his property.

A survey intended to be conducted on Saturday, 10 June 2023 to determine who's the legitimate owner of the disputed land was halted and postponed for this Saturday after a surveyor assigned by the Barnerville Township failed to present his identity.

In furtherance, Mr. Parley told newsmen that Mr. Doe was telling lies, only because he had rejected the appeal to sell his front view property to the Doe family.

Land dispute stalls

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Simeon Freeman wages war on environmental waste

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) standard bearer Mr. Simeon Freeman has embarked on the cleaning and clearing of major waste from communities in Monrovia and its environs.

Over the weekend, the MPC

coming week. It is said to cost approximately US\$500,000.00.

During the clearing and cleaning of the Red Hill Field waste disposal site, residents of the community stood in excitement and appreciation as the Yellow Machine and two trucks cleaned the waste site.

Speaking in an interview

believes that the clearing and cleaning of garbage in the cities will promote good and healthy lives for Liberians and safe them from common diseases like malaria, among others.

"We have embarked on the cleaning and clearing of garbage in the cities to produce a more hygienic condition for our people."

"This is just the kickoff area, but we now have our team ... identifying [the] garbage area. From here, we will be in Duala, Central Monrovia and Paynesville Community, particularly Redlight," said Paasewe.

He said today, people are dying of preventable illnesses like malaria and cold which he said are caused by a dirty and unhygienic environment.

Mr. Paasewe noted that the project is also expected to be taken to Grand Bassa County this weekend.

He stated that the gesture is not strange because Mr. Freeman and the MPC have been working long to improve sanitation and empowerment of Liberians across the country, especially women and youth.

"We have given out about five million Liberian dollars to market women. We hope that Monrovia City Cooperation can join us so that we can give the city a facelift," he continued.

with journalists Friday, MPC National Chairman Mr. Oniel Paasewe said Mr. Freeman's gesture is in accordance with his concern about the livelihood of the citizenry.

According to him, the MPC has embarked on this process to wage a war on sanitation by cleaning garbage across the country.

He said Mr. Freeman



cleared waste from the Red Hill Field garbage site, along with several other communities in Central Monrovia and Redlight in Paynesville. The initiative aims to promote a healthy and hygienic environment for citizens.

The project is expected to be extended to Grand Bassa and other counties in the

Moses Kollie replaces Tyler

- as LPDP's new political leader

By Naneka Hoffman

The Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP) says it has elected former Liberia Civil Aviation Managing Director Moses Y. Kollie as its new political leader, replacing founding political Leader and former House Speaker Jeneka Alex Tyler, Sr.

LPDP Secretary General Mr. Eric Kpayea told this paper in an exclusive interview over the weekend that Mr. Tyler's replacement followed a resolution signed by more than two-thirds of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) members.

LPDP is a constituent party of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). He said the resolution was signed at an extraordinary sitting in line with Article 5 Section "C" of LPDP's By-Laws/Constitution.

The provision calls for special sessions or mini conventions to replace any official who shall contravene the By-Laws and Constitution of the Party, or who shall

relinquish his/her position as a result of resignation, disability, or death.

Mr. Kpayea added that in the extraordinary sitting, Mr. Kollie was elected as the new political leader of the party, pending a special national convention to be held in 2024.

Mr. Kpayea said due to the vacancy created by the ascendency of Chairman Kollie as Acting Political Leader, LPDP has also named D. Wa Hne, Jr., as its Acting National Chair.

He stated that Mr. Hne served as National Vice Chair for Political Affairs of the party.

On 1 June 2023, Mr. Tyler resigned as LPDP political leader and also suspended his membership with the party.

He cited a lack of trust in the new framework document of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change as the main reason for his action.

In a related development, the LPDP has officially acknowledged receipt of the resignation letter of its Legislative Caucus' Head, Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #2 Representative, Alex Chelsea Grant.



Moses Y. Kollie

Tailor Union threatens to sue Labor Ministry

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Tailor Union has threatened to drag the Ministry of Labor to the National Labor Court for allegedly violating its by-laws and constitution.

The Tailor Union's plan to sue Labor Ministry comes after the Ministry cleared Mr. Edison Carlon of corruption allegations and ordered his reinstatement as the Union's president.

The Tailor Union is made up of the Board of Directors of the Liberia National Tailors, Textiles, Garments, and Allied Workers Union (LNTTGAWU).

The Ministry of Labour recently released its investigative finding into the report of alleged misappropriation and corruption by the Tailor Union President Mr. Edison Carlon.

The investigation concerned funds allegedly given to the Union by partners, other organizations, and individuals.

Board of Directors of the Tailor Union.

The board termed the report as false and misleading and intended to undermine the authority of the Board of Directors as enshrined in the By-laws and Constitution of the Tailor Union, Article 17.

The Board deems the mandate to reinstate suspended President Mr. Edison Carlon as a complete breach and interference with the Union's constitution.

The Secretary General of the Tailor Union Board of Directors Mr. Mohammed S. B. Bah told a press conference that they categorically reject and defy the mandate from the Ministry of Labour.

He stated that Mr. Carlon has deliberately refused to recognize and respect the authority of the Board of Directors of the Tailor Union as provided for by the constitution.

According to Mr. Bah, the Board of Directors of the Tailor Union is the highest decision-making organ of the organization in the absence



In the report, the Ministry said Mr. Carlon submitted relevant documents to the Ministry and it was established that at no time Mr. Carlon was involved in any financial corruption and misappropriation.

"You are hereby, mandated to reinstate Mr. Edison Carlon as President of the Tailor Union and return the organization to status quo ante," the Ministry ordered.

"We have concluded [an] investigation into the alleged act of corruption and misappropriation of entrusted property and we found him not guilty of all the alleged crimes," the report concluded.

In response, the Board said an audit was conducted without the acknowledgment of the Executive Committee of the

of a convention.

He pointed out that the Constitution gives the Board of Directors the authority to approve all budgetary proposals and to appoint auditors, among others.

Meanwhile, suspended President Carlon has denied any misappropriation and corruption, adding that he was audited and found not guilty.

"My brother, this is the third time that the board has suspended me and I always [win] them at the Labor Ministry," he said.

"What they said I did, I didn't do it. They were the ones that were found guilty and refused to cooperate. I was audited by the Ministry and set free. Now, all they need to do is to have me reinstated," he noted.

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'Boakai weak to lead Liberia'

-Representative George says

By Lewis S. Teh

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Montserrado County Electoral District #7 Representative Solomon C. George says Amb. Joseph

general that will lead the army must be a very strong general, not a weak man," said Mr. George.

"We in the CDC are worried about the UP (Unity Party) ticket because that ticket is not formidable and we can't

For the upcoming October 10 presidential and legislative elections, George said he does not see any political party or ticket that will shake the CDC.

He said does not see a political party or ticket that will cause fear within the CDC, noting that they are not afraid of any collaboration or individual ticket.

Representative George is the second CDC official to launch an attack against former vice president Boakai.

Recently, Monrovia City Mayor and CDC Secretary General Jefferson Koijee descended on Mr. Boakai at the CDC national headquarters.

Koijee said his party was not worried about the October elections because Boakai allegedly had no history of winning elected posts since the foundation of Liberia.

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

Koijee said the CDC will win in Nimba County despite Boakai selecting Senator Jeremiah Koug, a son of Nimba as his running mate.

think or be moved by them," he added.

George also threatened to disgrace Boakai's running mate Senator Jeremiah Koug if sits face-to-face with him.

"I will disgrace him; he knows exactly what I'm talking about," said Representative George.

Nyumah Boakai is a weak individual that can't lead Liberia well.

Mr. George told a local radio station recently that the former vice president lacks the energy to govern the country at this particular moment.

"Boakai da my papay, da my friend's pa, but in the army the



Representative Solomon C. George

Labor Ministry appeals to ILO to support Labor Congress

Labor Minister Charles Gibson has called on the International Labor Organization (ILO) to provide support as the Liberia Labor Congress (LLC) holds fresh elections to foster the interest of workers in Liberia.

Minister Gibson appealed at the 111th annual conference of the ILO in Geneva, Switzerland during the weekend.

According to a release, Minister Gibson said the Liberian government sees a strong Labor Congress advocating for workers as the surest way to developing and sustaining a vibrant middle class in the country.

The Labor Boss explained that in December last year, the Supreme Court of Liberia

ineffective.

Mr. Gibson further said the last elections of the LLC were won by the President of the Civil Servants Association of Liberia, headed by Moiba Johnson.

But the government has always resisted the joining of the public sector workers in the LLC, adding that this seems unacceptable to the rest of the labor unions in the country.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Labor has outlined several positive interventions that the government continues to make in the interest of workers.

Mr. Gibson highlighted the Labor Ministry's rulings in the ArcelorMittal Liberia, Firestone Rubber Plantation Company, the Golden Veroleum, the Liberia



Labor Minister Charles Gibson

affirmed a circuit court ruling which nullified erstwhile elections.

He added that the case reportedly grew out of the long-standing internal wrangling which factionalized the LLC, thus rendering it largely

Electricity Corporation, and the Bea Mountain cases.

He concluded that it brought salary increments, increased food, bonuses, and other benefits to workers nationwide.--Press release

Pres. Weah issues Executive Order 119

-to protect domestic manufacturers and stimulate economic growth

Monrovia, Liberia - President George Manneh Weah has issued an Executive Order here, imposing surcharge on a few imported goods or raw materials in order to protect domestic manufacturers and stimulate economic growth.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia says Executive Order 119, which was issued Thursday, June 8, 2023, takes immediate effect, and it seeks to solidify the gains realized under Executive Order No. 103, and it is to continue to stimulate economic growth in the Liberian economy.

It says the Executive Order is in recognition of the increased need to continue the stimulation of local manufacturing, especially after years of slowdown in economic activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing economic shocks.

Executive Order 119 is government's way of recognizing the need to provide incentives for domestic job creation as envisaged under Pillar 2 (Economy and Job) of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) by

protecting local businesses from unfair competition from international brands of locally manufactured goods.

The Executive Order imposes a local industry development surcharge on the importation of certain goods and/or raw materials that are imported in such quantity and manner that may injure or undermine the survival of local manufacturers.

According to the Executive Order, such products and rates shall be published by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

It is noted that there shall be a transitional period of 60 days before the application of surcharges.

The Executive Mansion release notes that this period is meant to accommodate for affected goods already ordered and in transit to Liberia or with confirmed shipping dates as of the effective date of this Executive Order.

The Liberian Constitution grants the President Executive Power to issue Executive Orders in the Public interest, either to meet an emergency or to correct situations that cannot await the lengthy legislative process.



Pres. Weah

Starts from page 11

Cummings gets

from the Motorbike Union of Maryland for his invaluable support to the Union. Chiefs from across the county also gathered at the youth center to conduct a traditional welcome ceremony, officially endorsing Cummings as "their own son" and showcasing their unwavering support.

Speaking during tour of districts, towns, and villages by Mr. Cummings and his guests, traditional leaders and elders welcomed the CPP standard bearer and party to the county, which produced Liberia's 18th President, late William V.S. Tubman.

They described the visit to the county by Mr. Cummings and his entourage as encouraging and welcoming because he is a kinsman of the county.

Cummings will spend an entire week engaging with

diverse groups and extending his visit to two other southeastern counties, namely River Gee and Grand Kru. This visit signifies his commitment to understanding the needs and aspirations of the people, as well as extending his message of Real Change to the people of the Southeast.

About Alexander B. Cummings Alexander B. Cummings is the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), a collaboration of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the Liberty Party (LP). He is a retired executive of the global giant, Coca Cola, and a prominent figure in Liberian politics. Known for his leadership and vision, Cummings aims to create a prosperous and inclusive Liberia through collaborative efforts and sustainable development.

Français

Un député du parti au pouvoir rejoint l'opposition

Le député Alex Grant, un membre éminent du caucus législatif de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, a déclaré

Au cours d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes le jeudi 8 juin 2023 dans son bureau au Capitole, Grant, justifiant son départ du parti au pouvoir et son adhésion au parti de l'unité, a dit

l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à la présidentielle de 2023. Il a expliqué qu'il a quitté la CDC en raison du non-respect de la disposition selon laquelle toute personne souhaitant se présenter à une élection au nom du parti devrait se présenter à la primaire.

Il reproche en tout cas au président Weah de ne pas l'aimer et de n'avoir aucune considération pour lui en dépit du fait qu'il a voté pour ce dernier plus de cinq fois. Il accuse en outre les dirigeants du parti au pouvoir d'avoir rédigé une résolution leur interdisant d'aller à la primaire. M. Grant s'est posé la question de savoir comment la CDC espère aller de l'avant si les législateurs en exercice s'opposent aux élections primaires pour conserver leurs sièges.

Il a fait valoir que la résolution consensuelle rédigée pour éviter les primaires viole le document-cadre signé par les trois partis qui composent la CDC. Le représentant Grant veut briguer le siège sénatorial du comté de Grand Gedeh parce que, selon lui, les habitants de cette partie du pays lui ont demandé de se présenter.



son soutien à la candidature à la présidentielle du chef de l'opposition Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

que le président sortant George Manneh Weah a une aversion personnelle pour lui.

Il s'est engagé à soutenir

Le Sénat somme les autorités de la banque centrale de se présenter au parlement

La plénière du Sénat libérien a convoqué les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) pour fournir une mise à jour concernant le statut des anciens billets de banque qui sont toujours en circulation.

La décision du Sénat libérien fait suite à la motion présentée par le sénateur du comté de Montserrado Abraham Darius Dillon le jeudi 8 juin 2023, demandant la comparution des autorités de la CBL.

Le Sénat a ordonné à CBL

de comparaître devant sa session plénière la semaine prochaine le mardi 13 juin 2023.

La haute chambre du parlement veut que la CBL donne des explications sur la flambée du taux de change actuel et le statut des nouveaux billets de banque libériens. Elle veut que la banque dise ce qu'elle attend pour retirer les anciens billets du marché.

Le Sénat se dit préoccupé par le fait que les anciens billets de banque soient toujours en circulation en dépit de l'impression et de la mise en circulation d'une énorme

quantité de nouveaux billets.

Le taux de change augmente de jour en jour, ce qui rend insupportable la vie des citoyens et des commerçants.

Le sénat souhaite avoir une meilleure compréhension de la situation économique à laquelle le pays est confronté, face à la dépréciation calamiteuse de la monnaie locale face au dollar américain.

Le taux de change à Monrovia est de 177, 178 ou 180 LRD pour 1 USD.

Éditorial

La menace du ministre Tweah est tardive

Le ministre des Finances Samuel D. Tweah a menacé de retenir les salaires des ministres, des directeurs d'agences et des commissaires des commissions s'ils ne présentent pas leurs rapports sur l'exécution du budget selon le délai imparti.

«Ce n'est pas moi qui ai fait cette loi ; c'est le parlement. La loi demande au ministre des Finances de retenir les salaires des fonctionnaires qui n'auront pas présenté leur rapport sur l'utilisation du budget qui leur a été alloué », a expliqué Tweah le lundi 4 juin, lors de la cérémonie de signature de quatre nouveaux accords entre le gouvernement du Libéria et l'Union européenne. Il s'agit des accords financiers de 80 et 88 millions de dollars américains.

Mais nous pensons que cette mesure est très tardive.

Quand est-ce que le ministre Tweah s'est-il rendu compte que ces institutions ne présentent pas de rapports de performance pour les fonds qui leur sont alloués ?

Il est au pouvoir depuis cinq ans, il n'a jamais appliqué une telle loi. Alors pourquoi maintenant ?

D'année en année, cela a été un problème majeur pour les ministres, les directeurs de société et les chefs de commissions qui comparaissent devant l'Assemblée législative pour défendre leurs budgets. En fait, les ministres ont l'audace de demander des augmentations de leurs allocations sans présenter des rapports détaillés des dépenses de l'année précédente. Et le gouvernement, sous la direction du ministre Samuel Tweah, a procédé à des augmentations pour plusieurs ministères.

Par exemple, des augmentations ont été faites pour les ministères de la santé, de l'éducation et de l'agriculture, parmi plusieurs autres, sans qu'il y ait eu de rapport sur les dépenses de l'exercice précédent. Aujourd'hui, le secteur de l'éducation du pays est en ruine, des bâtiments scolaires publics étant délabrés. Les écoles à travers le pays sont dotées d'enseignants bénévoles qui ne reçoivent pas encore de salaire.

C'est aussi le cas pour les secteurs de la santé et de l'agriculture, où des millions ont été alloués par le ministère des Finances sans aucun progrès sur le terrain.

Et maintenant, Tweah veut faire croire aux partenaires étrangers qu'il est sérieux en matière de gestion des finances publiques, alors que la réalité en pratique est totalement le contraire.

En fait, la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques du Libéria est en vigueur depuis l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Alors pourquoi Tweah, en tant que ministre des Finances, n'a-t-il pas appliqué cette loi comme une politique financière prudente jusqu'à présent ?

Ce sont quelques-uns des services de pure forme de nos fonctionnaires. Sans volonté politique, ils prétendent être durs dans l'application des lois, pourtant en réalité c'est toute une autre chose. Cela a maintenu le Libéria dans un cercle vicieux sans aucun progrès tangible.

Le gouvernement essaie de se faire passer pour des gens durs en pleine année électorale. Mais qu'il fasse attention car cette stratégie pourrait éroder davantage la confiance du public. Il risque bien de se tirer une balle dans la jambe avec les munitions du ministre Tweah, qui semble faire preuve d'un zèle excessif pour faire sortir un visage qui n'existe pas.

Si la bonne chose n'a jamais été faite au début, dans quelle mesure peut-elle être pertinente à la fin ?



Français

Ellen s'associe à la Harvard Library pour conserver et gérer ses papiers personnels

La bibliothèque de Harvard, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et le centre présidentiel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pour les femmes et le développement (EJS Center) ont annoncé cette semaine un partenariat pour gérer et donner accès aux archives personnelles et professionnelles de la présidente Sirleaf.

Dans le cadre d'un accord de partenariat innovant, la présidente Sirleaf, ancienne dirigeante mondiale et ancienne de Harvard (MPA '71), placera des archives personnelles qui documentent sa vie avant, pendant et après ses douze ans de mandat en tant que présidente du Libéria à la Harvard Library. La bibliothèque de Harvard traitera les archives pour les rendre publiquement découvrables et accessibles en ligne et dans la salle de lecture des archives de l'Université de Harvard pendant une période d'au moins 25 ans, avec un plan pour retourner la collection au centre EJS au Libéria.

La présidente Sirleaf, qui a exercé deux mandats à la présidence du Libéria de 2006

Harvard documentent la vie et la carrière de la présidente Sirleaf dans la finance et la politique des années 1960 aux années 2010, y compris son mandat de présidente et son temps en tant qu'étudiante à la Harvard Kennedy School. Ils comprennent des documents liés à son activisme politique et social et au processus de paix libérien et aux pourparlers de paix ; discours et allocutions publiques ; comptes rendus de ses campagnes présidentielles et de son travail avec des organisations internationales de développement ; et des lettres et courriels personnels.

La présidente Sirleaf a choisi la Harvard Library pour gérer ses articles en raison de sa longue relation avec Harvard et de la capacité de la bibliothèque à rendre les documents accessibles aux universitaires internationaux, y compris les universitaires de la diaspora africaine.

"J'ai une longue relation avec Harvard, et le fait d'avoir mes papiers dans un établissement d'enseignement supérieur de premier plan les rendra beaucoup plus disponibles dans le monde", a-t-elle déclaré. "Je suis ravi que la numérisation permette aux chercheurs du monde entier, y compris du Libéria et de l'Afrique,



à 2018, a été la première femme élue présidente d'un pays africain. En tant que présidente, elle a travaillé pour assurer la paix au Libéria, a fait des progrès significatifs dans le développement économique et social du pays et dans la réforme des domaines de la gouvernance et de l'état de droit, et a amélioré les infrastructures et les services de base. Elle a reçu le prix Nobel de la paix en 2011 pour son travail visant à intégrer les femmes dans le processus de maintien de la paix au Libéria. L'héritage de la présidente Sirleaf comprend également le renforcement de la position des femmes dans la société, qu'elle continue de promouvoir sans relâche par le biais du centre EJS.

Les archives qui arrivent à

d'accéder à mes articles et de les aider à mener à bien leur travail, qu'ils recherchent des postes de direction, étudient l'histoire ou cherchent à écrire un livre. sur moi ou sur un autre dirigeant africain.

"Les papiers doivent en particulier être préservés et mis à la disposition des femmes - au Libéria, en Afrique et ailleurs - pour suivre l'histoire de ma vie", a ajouté la présidente Sirleaf. "Nous espérons qu'ils inspireront les générations futures."

La vice-présidente de la bibliothèque de Harvard et la bibliothécaire universitaire Martha Whitehead ont exprimé leur enthousiasme au nom de l'organisation de la bibliothèque, à la fois pour le partenariat avec la présidente Sirleaf et le centre EJS et pour ce nouveau modèle de collecte de documents.

Lola/Guinée : faute de poste de santé, les populations frontalières de Gbah se font soigner au Liberia



En marge de la remise de la route Bossou -Gbah construite par société minière de la place, une localité située à 6 kilomètres de Bossou et à 500 mètres de la frontière libérienne, notre reporter a constaté le manque d'infrastructure sanitaire dont souffrent les populations de cette localité. Sans oublier le manque d'eau auquel elles sont confrontées.

Cette situation fait que les malades sont envoyés au Liberia pour y subir des soins.

Situé au sud-ouest de la sous-préfecture de Bossou, Gbah était l'un des rares districts de la sous-préfecture de Bossou où il n'y avait pas de route d'accès. Interrogé par notre reporter, Fromo Koiba, le président des ressortissants de Gbah déplore que son district soit confronté au manque de poste de santé.

« Il n'y a qu'un seul point d'eau et le deuxième, c'est dans l'enceinte de l'ancien camp des réfugiés. Gbah est un gros village sans rien, c'est tout dernièrement que nous avons bénéficié de la construction d'une école », dit-il.

Parlant des difficultés que rencontrent les villageois

dans leur quotidien, Fromo Koiba affirme qu'ils n'ont pas de dispensaire ni un médecin dans le village.

« Nous n'avons pas un agent de santé, ni même un volontaire dans le village. Quand quelqu'un tombe malade ici, il faut prendre la personne pour l'emmener à Bossou pour être soignée. Donc nous souffrons de ça. Pour aller au centre de santé de Bossou, il faut avoir les moyens. Si c'est dans la nuit, tout est possible, même la perte de la vie. Gbah étant un gros village, nous sollicitons auprès du gouvernement la construction d'un poste de santé. Parce que quand les femmes sont en état de famille, la nuit quand elles commencent le travail pour accoucher,

il faut déplacer un motard pour aller au centre de santé de Bossou. On n'a pas des moyens de déplacement pour une femme en grossesse. Il faut la prendre dans le hamac ou bien la prendre sur une moto. Si c'est dans la nuit pendant que les motards ne sont pas disponibles, il faut prendre des femmes en état dans le hamac. C'est une chose difficile, mais face à l'impossible on ne peut rien. Nous sommes à 500 mètres de la frontière. Nous envoyons des malades au Liberia, c'est indépendamment de notre volonté parce qu'il n'y a pas de poste de santé chez nous. Si quelqu'un tombe malade ici, si on l'envoie à Bossou, si ça ne marche pas, certains parents envoient directement leur malade à Yekepa où à Saniquelie au Liberia, pour être soigné », déplore le président du district.

« Nous sommes à 500 mètres de la borne, il y a une bonne relation qui existe entre nous et nos frères libériens. Le premier village libérien est à 7 kilomètres de Gbah. Nous sommes de la même ethnie, la même famille, nous sommes trop liés culturellement et socialement, on ne peut pas nous distinguer.

Côte d'Ivoire : opération ramassage des déchets plastiques sur la plage à Port-Bouët

Les activités de sensibilisation à la pollution plastique se poursuivent en Côte d'Ivoire, avec une opération de ramassage des déchets plastiques, ce samedi sur la plage du Lido à Abidjan, qui a rassemblé ONGs, bénévoles et chercheurs ivoiriens.

« Le matin, nous sommes venus. Nous avons fait l'action du tri sélectif. Nous avons trié plusieurs sortes de déchets ». Comme Aminata, 12 ans, ils sont une centaine de bénévoles à s'être rendus très tôt ce samedi matin à Port-Bouët, au sud de la capitale, pour ramasser à la main les déchets plastiques. Sans être découragés ni par la pluie, qui n'a pas cessé de tomber, ni par la quantité astronomique de pollution sur toute la longueur de la plage.

« Cinq groupes ont été constitués, détaille Cheick Ladji Traore, président de l'ONG 350 Côte d'Ivoire qui pilotait l'opération. Un [chargé] du plastique, un de mousse, un de bois, un de chaussures et un d'emballages. À la fois, on a la Journée mondiale de l'Environnement le 5 juin, et la Journée mondiale des Océans le 8 juin. Nous avons décidé de célébrer à



notre manière ! »

« C'est difficile de convaincre, mais on peut susciter, résume Marie-Josée Houenou, une partenaire de l'ONG. Les gens viennent pour participer à une activité sur la plage, ça a son côté festif... » Spécialiste en droit de l'environnement et changement climatique, elle accompagne les villes et les gouvernements pour la définition de stratégies et de lois. « C'est un élan citoyen, ça permet de susciter certains réflexes chez les industriels, chez les consommateurs... C'est comme ça, je pense, qu'on arrivera à créer du changement. »

Plusieurs chercheurs, partenaires de l'ONG sur l'événement, étaient présents pour alerter sur les dangers de la pollution plastique.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Murder In Liberia: Who attacked Counsellor Scott's home, killed Charloe Musu, and wounded many?

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

The subtitle of this article came from a piece by S. Karweaye of the New Dawn paper in Liberia. The story's title, published in the paper's March 6, 2023, edition, is "Political Assassination in Post-War Liberia: The Case of Gloria Musu Scott." Despite the politicization of the story, the fact is that a murder occurred. Why the killing, and who did it? That is the question. Since the incident happened in February this year, no person has been arrested, and the final report has yet to be announced. Why? This article attempts to address the situation.

BACKGROUND

On February 22, 2023, at about 9:30 PM, Charloe Musu (Pictured), a lady in her 20s, was murdered in the home of her traditional mother, Counsellor Gloria Musu Scott. The report indicates that the killer stabbed her multiple times. Two other women residents sustained wounds. Charloe was a graduating senior from Starz University in Liberia. Gloria Scott is a former Supreme Court chief justice, Justice Minister, Liberian National Elections Commission Chair, and Senator. She is a famous lawyer and a legal advisor to an opposition party.

A few months before the incident, Madam Scott reported to the police two rubbery attempts at her compound. According to her, the police did nothing. Immediately after the stabbing, she drove to the home of the current minister of justice, Mr. Frank Mussa Dean, and informed the minister. Dean was said to have advised her to change her phone number. Scott did not, and neither did anyone else, take Charloe nor the wounded persons to the hospital immediately until the following day, about 7 hours after. According to a report, Scott later informed the police that she pepper sprayed the intruder at a close range after the stabbing. Charloe died in the hospital.

Counselor Scott and her children live in an over 10 feet concrete fence house (See Photo) protected by three security guards. The report also stated that the alleged intruder escaped. Still, the guards said they saw no intruder leaving the premise that night.

EVENTSAFTER

After the killing, Cllr. Jerome Verdier, former chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), accused Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee of having masterminded the murder carried out by Varlee Telleh, a former commander of a rebel group and presently an employee of the city. A few days after the allegation, concerned persons, including friends and associates of Counselor Scott, dressed in all black, demonstrated at the ground of the Capitol Building. They called the incident a political assassination and demanded justice for Scott. Others wrote or expressed on the radios calling for the government to act. Kojjee and Telleh have denied the allegation; the police investigated them. But Verdier, upon questioning by the police, gave no evidence, saying that he wanted the government to act seriously on the case.

The situation leaves many questions. If the intruder was pepper sprayed, how was the person escaped over a high fence? Why did Counsellor Scott travel many miles to the Justice Minister instead of going to the nearest police depot, a walking distance from her house? Why were the victims not taken to the hospital immediately? Pepper spray is a chemical that causes eye pain and difficulties in seeing. When asked, Scott said she did not know the spray's name, nor could she locate it.

This revelation and other information have many people wondering. Supporters and the opposition parties have been silenced since. Moreover, though an autopsy and the police report have been completed, the Justice Minister is said to take no action to bring the perpetrator to book. Pathologist Dr. Benedict Kolee stated that Chaloe died due to excessive bleeding. Some analysts view that the minister is holding the case to protect Counselor Scott. Further, according to a Liberian who is a police expert in the US, the minister can be questioned and called to testify about what Scott told him when she visited.

Meanwhile, FrontPage Africa wrote that there has been a dispute between the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the Justice Ministry regarding the case. Accordingly, LNP "wants to charge Cllr. Scott with the crime of murder, but Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean is reportedly opposed to that decision and calling for a lesser charge of manslaughter or

Liberia. He was jovial but uneducated. According to the investigation, his death was for ritualistic sacrifice. Some county officials killed him for political advancement by taking his body parts. Maryland County Superintendent James Daniel Anderson and County Representative Allen Yancy were among the individuals involved. Anderson's father, James Nathaniel Anderson, was the ruling True Whig Party chairman. Previously, he served as Senate Pro-Temp. The superintendent was his oldest son. Additionally, Yancy was the late President William Tubman's cousin and family member of Allen Nathaniel Yancy, Liberia's vice president, in the late 1920s. The chairman tirelessly pleaded for his son.

Interestingly and historically, President Tubman from Maryland selected Tolbert from Monserrado County to become vice president upon Vice President-elect Ben Freeman's death. Tolbert was a loyal VP to Tubman for over

20 years. He succeeded Tubman when the president died in 1971. Moreover, while the Barclays, Dennises, Coopers, and Tolberts dominated Monserrado County's politics, the Tubmans, Andersons, Yancys, Gibsons, Barnes, and Wilsons ruled Maryland County, which was one of the original counties constituting the Republic of Liberia in the 1860s. Thus, Maryland and its leaders were vital to Tolbert's presidency.

President William Tolbert faced the decision to persecute or kill the case. Should he seek justice for a commoner or forgo the matter in the interest of the party boss and influential people? He chose the former. The court in Maryland judged the accused and found them guilty. They appealed to the Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial. In the second hearing, the lower court again ruled the seven defendants guilty. The Supreme Court, this time, confirmed the verdict that called for death by hanging. The Maryland elites were unhappy with Tolbert, but the people of Maryland jubilated in the streets for the execution.



negligent homicide."

On June 5, 2023, Liberians peacefully protested on the Capitol ground and at the justice ministry, calling for action on Chaloe's case.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

Silence and inaction in Chloe Musu's case are potentially dangerous. They give Liberia a bad image and make the country appear unsafe. The government needs to take the issue seriously. Minister Dean needs to recuse himself or resign. He is not helping the administration and not administering justice but apparently stopping it. He should remember that there is tomorrow. The position of being a minister is not an entitlement. He should be reminded of past Justice Minister Jenkins Scott, who became a madman after losing his job. Scott was infamous as a minister under President Samuel Doe. When the government fell, he wandered around Monrovia, slept in the streets, ate garbage, and died.

President Weah needs to take appropriate action. It is his administration that is viewed negatively by the opposition. He will be judged and not the Justice Minister. The president has stated that he should not be adjudged by his speeches but by his decisions. If Dean is not doing the right thing, the president should remove him immediately. Like other appointed officials, the minister serves at the will and pleasure of the president. President Weah will be seen as weak, unable to make tough decisions. It could impact his re-election bid this October if taken lightly. His opponents could use it against him.

Making difficult decisions is a hallmark of good leadership. For instance, in 1977, Moses Tweh, a Kru fisherman and folk singer from Grandcress, was murdered in Maryland County,

Here the Maryland officials killed Tweh, a poor man, for their personal interest because they felt he was nobody, and his death would not matter. But they were wrong. After the high court ruling, Party Chairman Anderson appealed to Tolbert to give clemency to the convicted murderers, particularly the son. But the president refused and made the following public statement.

"(...) I will never permit myself to be influenced in one way or the other by sentiments. I will do my duty when it is time to do my duty in the fear of God in keeping with the oath of office of the president."

Despite Tolbert's shortcomings as president, he is remembered as a man of justice. President Weah must give justice to Chaloe Musu.

WHY DOES THE CHALOE'S CASE CONCERN ME?

I pass by the residence where the murder happened each time I travel to the area to visit my daughter. She lives in the Brewerville vicinity. Whenever I see the house, I am reminded of the death. I ask myself what is the result of the matter?. Why is her killer going scot-free while her body is still in the mortuary? I am a father. I have all girls. I am concerned about their lives and that of others. Chaloe could be my daughter. Her life was snatched away. She was deprived of her youth and future. Who knows, she could have become a senator, a medical doctor, a lawyer, an accountant, or a president.

She could be your daughter, sister, niece, or friend. She was a Liberian and a human. Her soul will not rest until her murderer is caught and brought to justice.

Cummings gets rousing welcome

By Patrick N. Mensah
Maryland County

Citizens of the southeastern town of Pedebo, Maryland County on Saturday, June 10, defied heavy downpour of rain to welcome Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Standard Bearer Alexander Cummings to the county with a massive turnout.

Mr. Cummings, a native of Maryland, arrived in the

can't be doing one thing over and over and expect different results", he told the citizens.

Our correspondent said though bad roads have nearly isolated the southeastern Liberia region, the unwavering support of the citizens propelled Cummings to make an extraordinary journey through Cote d'Ivoire to enter Maryland.

Our correspondent added that the severe weather,

Cummings, we want" and "God has answered our prayers." Cummings, acknowledging the fervent support, disembarked and engaged with his dedicated followers, shaking hands and expressing gratitude for their unwavering support.

The CPP Standard Bearer subsequently proceeded to a palava hut in the border town, where he was greeted by the town chiefs in a traditional Maryland kola nut welcome ceremony.

As Cummings made his way into Harper, men, women, and children from various towns and villages emerged, dancing and celebrating the return of their beloved son.

At the Pedebo Harper junction, he was met by scores of supporters, prompting Cummings to exit his vehicle and walk alongside the overwhelming crowd toward Harper.

In Harper, Cummings attended a church service at the Full Gospel Church, officiated by Pastor Joseph Jasper, a respected figure from Cummings' hometown, Gbeken. Joined by hundreds, notably the youth of Maryland, Cummings expressed his gratitude to God for bringing him back to his home county.

He emphasized the significance of starting his trip by visiting the church, stating, "I thank God for bringing me to my home county of Maryland, and I am glad that the church is the first place that I have visited on this trip."

Energized by the massive show of welcome, Cummings proceeded to Pleebo where he was once again met upon arrival members of the Muslim communities, the Motorcyclist, Money Exchangers, Disabled Council, the Rural Women, Zones Leaders chairmen, Health Workers, National Teachers Association and traditional chief of Old Sodoken Town, Pleebo district respectively.

He joined the multitude of supporters and marched towards the Pleebo Youth Center, marking the conclusion of an exhilarating and inspiring day. Various individuals expressed their optimism and determination, voicing their support for Cummings and his journey to the Liberian Presidency.

During the event, Alexander Cummings was honored with a certificate

'Liberia gradually disappearing'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's main opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai says the country is gradually disappearing under the Weah-led regime, and it needs the redemption he will lead when elected this October.

The UP leader said Liberia is blessed because God has given the country whatever it has asked for, and it will be used for the benefit of all.

The UP leader assured Liberians of a new, better, and transformed Liberia within three



"This country is disappearing and we are not going to allow it [to] be. This country needs redemption," the Unity Party standard bearer told his supporters over the weekend.

The former Liberian vice president addressed a cross-section of Unity Party (UP) partisans, sympathizers, and well-wishers during his tour of Montserrado County Electoral Districts 2, 3, 15, and 16 over the weekend.

Boakai said Liberians are suffering under President George Manneh Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government.

He particularly lamented the conditions of females who are selling in the streets for money that can't even buy them a cup of rice to eat.

"God is saying now to you, Liberia you have had all but this time I am going to give you somebody that I have honored, and that's why I am here," Boakai said.

"I am that President that God has destined. This job is not a football field and not a play; rather, it's a place

years of his administration when elected during the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

"I can assure [you] that three years after the election on October 10, 2023, you will see Liberia, a new Liberia for you. Believe it because we are serious about this," he said.

Boakai said people think they will throw biscuits, money, and rice at Liberians and get their votes in return.

He criticized the CDC regime for keeping the old Liberian dollars in circulation after the printing of a new family of banknotes.

"When you change money you have to get the old ones from the market, but not in the case of this government," said Boakai.

He said it was quite recently that he saw the one thousand Liberian dollar banknote.

"You don't bring money for yourself, but [for] the country.



for someone who cares for people and someone who understands the country," Amb. Boakai continued.

Mr. Boakai thanked the Christian and Muslim communities for their prayers, noting: "This country needs redemption."

"Some of you are in your late or early 30s but now, are you satisfied with where you are? We have to give you a future and that future is coming," he assured the people.

However, they are who they are and so they need to be shown the exit door," Amb. Boakai noted.

According to Boakai, no Liberian needs to be told about the difficulties and hardships that they are going through.

He said Liberia is complete laughter, saying partners and the international community think the country is a joke because things have changed badly.



county via Ivory Coast due to perennial bad road conditions in the southeast to a rousing welcome from chiefs, elders, women, and youth groups as well as religious groups who lined the streets to welcome him.

The former Coca-Cola Executive who is among dozens of candidates seeking to unseat incumbent President George Weah in the upcoming 2023 presidential and legislative elections is visiting the county to seek his kinsmen's support.

Accompanied by former River Gee County Senator Matthew Jaye, the CPP leader asked his kinsmen to reflect on their lives for the last five years and make a choice if they want to continue such

characterized by heavy rainfall, failed to dampen the spirits of men, women, and children who eagerly awaited Cummings' arrival.

With dedication and resilience, they stood for hours in the rain, showcasing their commitment to the "movement for real change" in Liberia. Young motorcyclists, farmers, market women, students, elderly people and more who arrived as early as 8:30 am, pledged their unwavering loyalty and support to the native of Maryland, vowing to wait for as long as it took for him to arrive.

Amidst the pouring rain, a small convoy, led by Cummings, reached the Pedebo Border in the mid-afternoon. The cars



path or join him to make a difference comes October 10.

"Marylanders, you have seen what has come to you in those 5 years past; if you will stay here and elect these same people to power, who have not done anything for you, you will get the same thing again; because you

disembarked from the ferry first, followed by Cummings, who stood on the ferry, waving to the excited supporters. The sight of their CPP Standard Bearer returning to his home county of Maryland evoked a wave of joy, prompting chants such as "Your leave us, oh... dah

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Land dispute stalls journalist Parley's house project

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

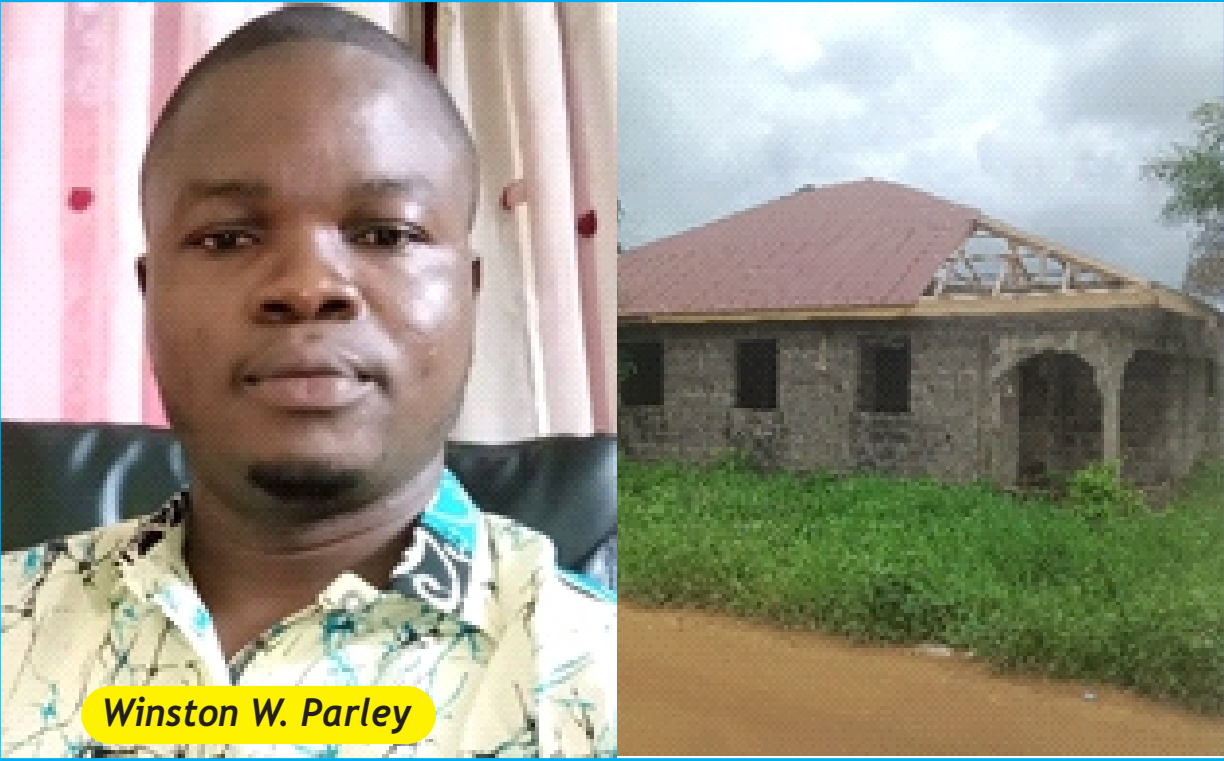
A dispute over a parcel of land has stalled ongoing construction work being carried out by Liberian journalist Winston W. Parley in Barnerville,

According to him, he bought a half lot of land in the Duja Community in 2015 and his cornerstones were planted after a survey.

Parley said he bought the land while working as a

Isaac Doe to stair the land conflict.

He said since he purchased the property back in 2015 and started developing it, there has never been any issue about trespassing until now,



Winston W. Parley

Montserrado County. Parley says the township commissioner in Barnerville, Madam Jabbateh and her assistant, Mr. John McCintosh ordered him to stop roofing his house after those who wanted to buy his land later claim ownership of the same property.

reporter at the NewDawn newspaper, and he has been developing it gradually up to the time he became a Copy Editor at the NewDawn.

Parley says he bought the land from Timothy Z. Yearr, and he shares boundaries with one U.S.-based Thomas W. Doe, Jr., who has been using

saying Mr. Doe is trying to illegally claim his front-view property because he did not agree to sell it to them.

He said he probated and registered his property, and over the past years

Through those keeping

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