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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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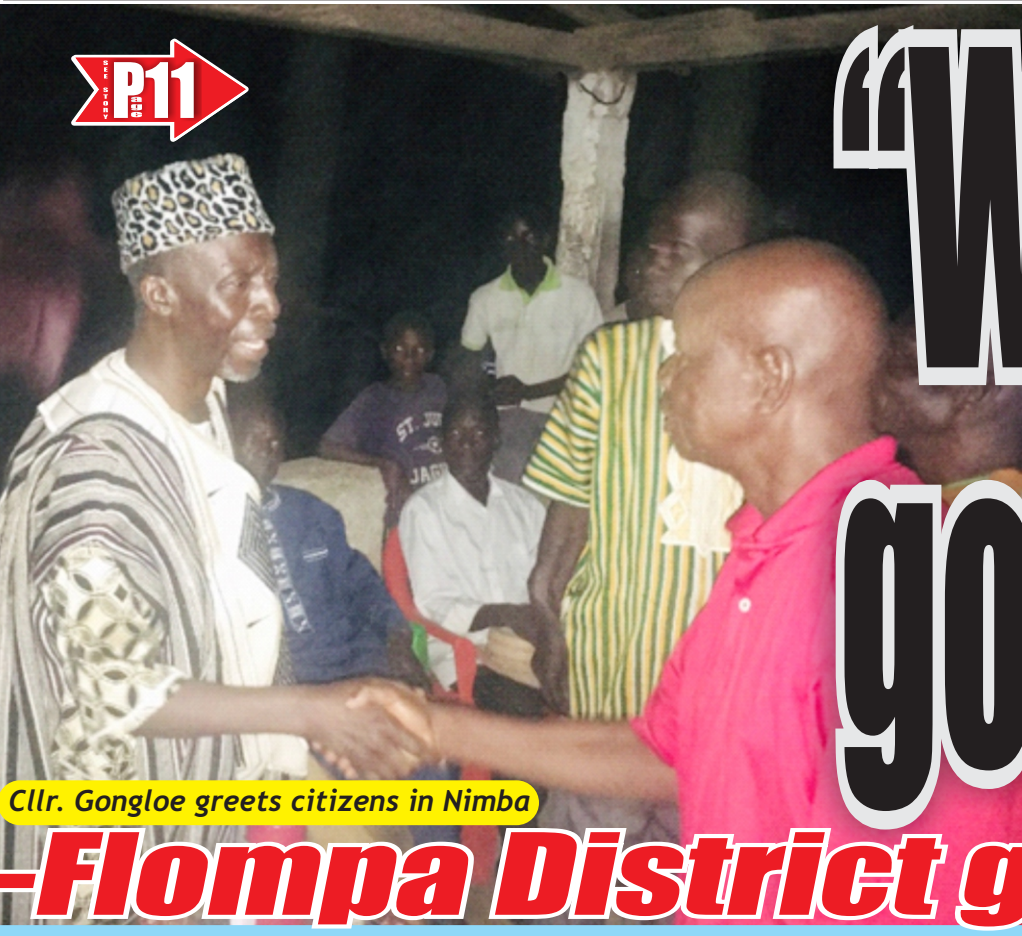
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Continental News

Top Belgian museum rethinks its Congo relationship

In the darkest corner of a grand museum that looks like a neo-classical palace lies a not-so-secret room. It is filled with statues of Congolese people, which have been regarded as racist, that

experts from the African diaspora in Belgium to rethink the controversial statues on display. The museum traces its origins back to when King Leopold II set up the International Exposition of 1897. As part of

The "human zoo" was a tool to convince visitors that Belgium had a duty to bring civilization and Christianity to the African country. The exposition was a huge success and so began Belgium's long and violent history in the Congo. Fast forward to the present and the museum is now marking its 125th year. It is also five years since it underwent a massive renovation, where it removed problematic statues and changed the labelling around objects that created a negative stereotype about Africa. Guido Gryseels was the director of the museum until he retired earlier this year, aged 70, and is largely responsible for ushering in change.

Visitor numbers have improved since the revamp, but some of the African diaspora believe more can be done and that the statues should be removed completely. Others say the museum just should not exist any more given its historical displays representing African people as primitive. The museum says it cannot change the past but is committed in doing its part towards building a better future. "We realised that most children had their first encounter with Africa through a visit to this museum, either when they came with the school or with their parent," Mr Gryseels told the BBC.



Students file past a statue at the Africa Museum in Belgium

were once part of the permanent exhibition. Schoolchildren on educational tours file past the Leopard Man, men with spears and women almost naked. This is the Africa Museum in Tervuren, just outside Brussels, and until recently those sculptures were part of the permanent exhibition.

After facing years of heavy criticism nationally and internationally, the museum worked with a group of

that, 267 Congolese men, women and children were taken by force to Belgium and exhibited to the public in fenced fake villages on the site where the museum now stands. When Belgium gained independence from the Netherlands in the 19th Century, the Western nations' "scramble for Africa" was in full throttle. King Leopold II wanted his own slice of the continent, but without government backing he had to win over investors and the public.

Ghana back as Africa's top gold producer

Ghana has regained its status as the leading producer of gold in Africa after a 32% surge in gold production last year.

The Ghana Chamber of Mines attributed the development to an increase in production in both small-scale and large-scale mining.

But the country is now facing an environmental crisis due to illegal gold mining.

Much of the country's forests, rivers and other bodies of water, have been damaged by illegal gold mining prompting serious health concerns in mining communities.

Popularly known as galamsey, small-scale mining has been the source of livelihood for a lot of unemployed youth in southern Ghana. The government and experts have warned that Ghana could soon have to

import drinking water if the current rate of destruction of the environment is not stopped.

The country's cocoa sector is also under serious threat as farms are being destroyed for illegal mining. The government had adopted a military approach, deploying soldiers to mining areas without much success.

In 2021, South Africa overtook Ghana as the top gold producer on the continent due to a sharp drop in production.

But the Ghana Chamber of Mines say the country's gold output shot up to 3.7 million ounces (105 tonnes) last year, from 2.8 million ounces the previous year. BBC



Some of the gold mining in Ghana has damaged the environment

Fighting to dispel the sickle cell 'curse'

Sickle cell disease affects more people in countries in Africa than anywhere else in the world. BBC Africa Eye joined someone who helps give a voice to those with sickle cell in one town in Kenya, where nearly a quarter of the population lives with the genetic disease. In the small town of Taveta, lodged in Kenya's Taita Hills close to the border with Tanzania, families sat on every available bench under a canopy at a local health clinic. Those who could not find space stood or sat on the grass.

"Who here has sickle cell?" asked Lea Kilenga Bey, the woman at the front, who they had all been waiting to hear from. "All of us," they shouted in unison, meaning that they either carry the genetic mutation or are looking after someone who does.

In this busy market town at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro,

mortality rates are as high as 90%. A woman at the clinic put her hand up to ask a question.

"They say that someone with sickle cell cannot live beyond 20 years old. They only get to 15 years and most they can live is 18 years old." Ms Bey pointed out that she was diagnosed with sickle cell at the age of six months and had survived - she is now in her 30s.

"It is a curse," another woman shouted out. In 2017, Ms Bey founded the Africa Sickle Cell organisation, an non-governmental organisation focused on improving the lives of people with sickle cell. She regularly visits communities to spread awareness of the genetic disease, but she went back to Taveta, her hometown, to help support the people there. "A lot of communities attribute sickle cell to ancestral curses, witchcraft," Ms Bey told BBC Africa Eye. "This is a situation for any unknown thing in the community. People form their own stories around them. So, I had to go and tell people sickle cell is not witchcraft. It's not ancestral



with a population of just 22,000, nearly one in four of the residents have sickle cell, one of the highest rates of the genetic disease in the country.

The red blood cells of some people with sickle cell, which are normally round, are shaped like a crescent moon or a sickle, and cannot transport enough oxygen around the body. Those with sickle cell can experience episodes of severe pain sometimes lasting weeks. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), two-thirds of people affected by sickle cell worldwide live in countries in Africa. It is the most prevalent genetically acquired disease in the region, and the survival statistics are stark. More than half of children born with sickle cell will die before the age of five, usually from an infection or severe anaemia. Some medical journals say child

curses. It's something that we can solve. "One of the main challenges for people with sickle cell in Taveta, and other towns across Kenya, is access to medicine. Daily treatment is needed for people to live normal lives: antibiotics to prevent infection, drugs to treat the blood cells and dietary supplements like folic acid to help with the anaemia." The majority of people who have less \$1 [€0.80] or \$2 a day will not sacrifice the meal of their home to buy this expensive medicine," Ms Bey said. "It's either the meal or the medicine."

She knows more than anyone what it is like to experience what is known as a sickle cell crisis - extreme pain caused by the blockage of a blood vessel, which can affect any part of the body. Ms Bey has recorded video diaries of her sickle cell crises. Holed up in bed, without any medication, she stares at the camera, eyes half closed, trying to explain how excruciating the pain is. BBC

EDITORIAL

Executive Order 119 should produce fruits

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah issued Executive Order 119 last week Thursday, June 8, imposing surcharge on a few imported goods or raw materials to protect domestic manufacturers and stimulate economic growth.

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION in Monrovia says Executive Order 119, which takes immediate effect, seeks to solidify gains realized under Executive Order 103 and stimulate growth in the Liberian economy.

GOVERNMENT SAYS THIS is her 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 and international brands of locally manufactured goods.

WE COMMEND PRESIDENT George Weah for thinking of doing something to protect local manufacturers in the last year of his first term when he had promised in his inaugural speech in 2018 that Liberians will not be spectators in their own economy during his administration.

NEARLY SIX YEARS after, the government is now coming to do what it should have started earlier, because it is seeking re-election. This is why we say it should produce fruits for the Liberian people to see.

LOCAL BUSINESSES ESPECIALLY, Liberian-owned investments have suffered lack of incentives from government in a harsh economic environment, putting them at serious disadvantage with their foreign competitors like the Lebanese and Indians.

IT IS TIME that government moves to protect Liberian entrepreneurs so that they will be able to remain in business rather than leaving them vulnerable to outside competition, as we have seen over the years.

DOMESTIC INVESTMENTS ARE a bedrock of any economy, and they should be encouraged to thrive, come what may because they represent the true face of the Liberianization Policy.

BUT WHEN LEADERS pay lip service and play politics with the business environment, it is not only the economy that suffers, but the people as well. While we hail President Weah for issuing Executive Order 119, we can but only hope that its real intended purpose will be achieved other than being a cosmetic approach.

WE SINCERELY LOOK forward to seeing its impact on domestic manufacturers that would bring a turnaround to citizens venturing into entrepreneurship.

COMMENTARY

By Sameh Shoukry

The Climate Loss and Damage Fund Is Coming

CAIRO - Last November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, concluded on a historic high note, with the last-minute agreement to establish a "loss and damage" fund. The decision to offer financial support to vulnerable countries suffering the worst effects of global warming was a remarkable achievement that has resonated worldwide. But as we move from establishing the fund to implementing it, important questions remain.

What is a realistic funding target? Who will receive financial assistance? Which entities will have final say over the fund?

As we near the halfway mark between COP27 and COP28 in Dubai, the international community must address these critical questions in the spirit of constructive multilateralism that animated the proceedings in Sharm El-Sheikh. Governments, activists, and affected citizens were able to agree on this key plank of climate justice, and we must now demonstrate the same level of collaboration in making it a success.

In March, the COP27 presidency held the first Transitional Committee meeting in Luxor, Egypt, to begin addressing the operationalization of the fund. The composition of the committee ensured a diverse range of voices, and complex issues were discussed in a constructive spirit of cooperation.

The three-day meeting concluded with the adoption of a work plan containing substantive and procedural milestones to deliver actionable recommendations well in advance of COP28. Moreover, the plan outlines how the committee will focus on all elements of its mandated recommendations at each gathering, gradually working toward consensus.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change defines loss and damage as the harm caused by human-generated climate change. Solutions to postpone, minimize, or prevent such harm to vulnerable communities worldwide must also be human-generated. It is our collective responsibility to implement effective policies to combat global warming, as well as to alleviate suffering and provide financial support to people whose lives have been upended by rising temperatures.

The Transitional Committee meetings are designed precisely for this purpose: to discuss effective methods and modalities that will turn the concept of the loss and damage fund into a tangible reality while identifying gaps in the existing climate-finance system.

Requests and demands are currently being analyzed and considered before finalizing the mechanics to ensure proper implementation.

Backed by a broad range of government, civil-society, and private-sector stakeholders, the fund is designed to consider the short-, medium-, and long-term effects of climate change on developing countries. It will supply financial and technological resources for responding to loss and damage caused by both immediate and slow-onset events. That could mean early-warning systems, disaster-risk reduction, or ecosystem restoration.

As the architect of the fund, Egypt is committed to ensuring its effectiveness, transparency, and accessibility. We strongly believe that all stakeholders must fully collaborate to fulfill its objectives and make a significant change in the communities hit hardest by global warming. The burden of climate change is unequal, and we have the chance to create a much fairer and stability-enhancing balance.

The loss and damage fund represents a major step forward, but it is not enough. We must continue to work tirelessly to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions - the root cause of climate change. This can be achieved by accelerating the transition to clean energy, empowering communities to adapt their livelihoods, and adhering to scientific recommendations in line with internationally agreed principles.

At the same time, the need to create a working loss and damage fund that delivers on the promises made at COP27 is acute. East Africa and the Sahel are currently experiencing severe droughts caused by human-induced climate change, which has resulted in meager rain levels as well as increased evapotranspiration in plants and soil. Plagued by food insecurity, many people in the affected countries are internally displaced or have been forced to migrate, underscoring global warming's disruptive effects and the increasingly limited ability of both nature and humanity to adapt to them.

The newly created fund will remain a top priority in climate discussions, and it is crucial to enter COP28 with a clear strategy for its effective implementation. We must approach the task with a unified sense of purpose - only by working together and getting the details right can we begin to address the vast inequities of the crisis. But given the significance of the task at hand, I am confident that we will succeed.

OP-ED

By Ottoline Spearman

Sexism and Statelessness

EINDHOVEN - Neha is a young Nepali woman, born in Nepal to a Nepali mother. She grew up there and had dreams of becoming a doctor. But, despite being an extremely bright student and at the top of her class, Neha could not take the entrance exam for medical school. Her ambition went unfulfilled, because she was not recognized as a citizen of Nepal.

Nepal is one of the 24 countries that deny women the right to pass their nationality to their children. It is also one of almost 50 states where women do not enjoy the same rights as men to acquire, change, and retain their citizenship, or confer citizenship on their spouse.

The nationality laws of these countries are rooted in sex discrimination and patriarchal norms. The assumption is that national and family identity naturally flows from men and that women are second-class citizens. It is astounding that a quarter of the world's countries still have such blatantly sexist laws on the books. No one questions a man's decision to marry a foreigner and confer nationality on his spouse or children. But it is framed as a woman's fault if she chooses to marry a foreigner, or if the father of her child is out of the picture.

Deprivation of citizenship disenfranchises entire groups, pushes them to the margins of society, and transforms even the simplest tasks into insurmountable obstacles. Stateless people are routinely denied equal access to health care, education, and the labor market, as well as rights to political participation and free movement. They are told they don't belong and are frequently portrayed as undeserving.

Invidious discrimination is the main driver of statelessness: more than 75% of known individuals without citizenship belong to minority groups. Colonialism and the decolonization process, which led to mass-migration flows, new borders drawn arbitrarily, and the development of ethnocentric and patriarchal norms, underpin most cases of large-scale statelessness in the world. After denying citizenship through discriminatory practices, governments use individuals and communities' stateless status to justify further exclusion, linking statelessness and discrimination in a self-perpetuating cycle.

Some progress has been made. In Malaysia, for example, the government of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, a former political prisoner and thus no stranger to state oppression, recently agreed to amend the constitution so that Malaysian mothers with foreign spouses can pass on citizenship to their children born abroad. Previously, these Malay mothers had no choice but to rush home to give birth - an inconvenient and dangerous journey while pregnant - if they wanted their child to acquire nationality. Even that option was taken away during the pandemic, when borders were closed.

Statelessness - and its effects on people's legal rights and daily lives - has attracted increased attention in recent years. The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights has led the charge, pushing governments to reform their archaic and discriminatory nationality laws and ensure gender equality.

On June 13, the Campaign, together with UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency, and UN Women, is organizing the first Global Summit on Achieving Gender Equality in Nationality Laws to highlight the detrimental effects of these discriminatory laws and to encourage reform. High-level government and UN officials will attend the event in Geneva, but we will also hear from people who endure statelessness because of these unacceptable laws.

The 53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, which considers discrimination against women one of its key issues, will also be held in Geneva, starting on June 19. Three side events to the session will address statelessness, gender discrimination, human rights, and xenophobia, as well as the trafficking of stateless people.

In the run-up to these important events, the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, where I work as a program and media officer, will unveil another valuable resource on June 12: the Statelessness and Exclusion Dialogues podcast. By exploring the relationship between discrimination and statelessness through various historical, social, and political lenses, the series will help people better understand the root causes of statelessness and the marginalization that stateless populations endure.

And what of Neha, who was unable to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor? Her mother and other activists and lawyers in Nepal worked tirelessly to secure Neha and her sister's citizenship. Instead of studying medicine and helping sick people, she decided to study law and fight the sickness of gender inequality in her society.

Now a lawyer, activist, and inspiring young leader in the citizenship rights and statelessness field, Neha will speak at the Global Summit in Geneva, where she will implore those in power to eradicate the archaic and sexist nationality laws that remain a stain on our democracies. You, too, can hear her story and her plea for nationality justice in Nepal and around the world.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson, Daron Acemoglu, Sylvia Barmack

Will Democracies Stand Up to Big Brother?

CAMBRIDGE - Fiction writers have long imagined scenarios in which every human action is monitored by some malign centralized authority. But now, despite their warnings, we find ourselves careening toward a dystopian future worthy of George Orwell's 1984. The task of assessing how to protect our rights - as consumers, workers, and citizens - has never been more urgent.

One sensible proposal is to limit patents on surveillance technologies to discourage their development and overuse. All else being equal, this could tilt the development of AI-related technologies away from surveillance applications - at least in the United States and other advanced economies, where patent protections matter, and where venture capitalists will be reluctant to back companies lacking strong intellectual-property rights. But even if such sensible measures are adopted, the world will remain divided between countries with effective safeguards on surveillance and those without them. We therefore also need to consider the legitimate basis for trade between these emergent blocs.

AI capabilities have leapt forward over the past 18 months, and the pace of further development is unlikely to slow. The public release of ChatGPT in November 2022 was the generative-AI shot heard round the world. But just as important has been the equally rapid increase in governments and corporations' surveillance capabilities. Since generative AI excels at pattern matching, it has made facial recognition remarkably accurate (though not without some major flaws). And the same general approach can be used to distinguish between "good" and problematic behavior, based simply on how people move or comport themselves.

Such surveillance technically leads to "higher productivity," in the sense that it augments an authority's ability to compel people to do what they are supposed to be doing. For a company, this means performing jobs at what management considers to be the highest productivity level. For a government, it means enforcing the law or otherwise ensuring compliance with those in power.

Unfortunately, a millennium of experience has established that increased productivity does not necessarily lead to improvements in shared prosperity. Today's AI-powered surveillance allows overbearing managers and authoritarian political leaders to enforce their rules more effectively. But while productivity may increase, most people will not benefit.

This is not just speculation. Corporations are already using AI-enhanced surveillance methods to monitor their employees' every move. Amazon, for example, requires delivery workers to download an app (Mentor) that scores their driving - supposedly in the name of safety. Some drivers report being tracked even when they are not working.

More broadly, the consultancy Gartner estimates that the share of large employers using digital tools to track their workers has doubled since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, to 60%, and it is expected to reach 70% within the next three years. Although the available evidence suggests that more surveillance is correlated with lower job satisfaction, even many employers who agree that monitoring their employees raises "ethical concerns" still do it.

True, surveillance technology is not inherently anti-human. On the contrary, it could improve safety (such as by monitoring for active shooters) or convenience. But we must find the right balance between these benefits and privacy, and we must do everything we can to ensure that AI technologies are not biased (such as on the basis of skin color or sex).

Tackling these issues will require new international norms and cooperation. Any AI used to track or punish workers should be disclosed, with full transparency about how it makes recommendations. If you are fired because an AI deemed your behavior problematic, you should be able to contest that decision. Yet, because many of the new AIs are "black boxes" that even their developers do not understand, they automatically limit the scope of due process.

Even in a country as polarized as the US, people are likely to unite in favor of restrictions on surveillance. Everyone from left to right shares a basic concern about being constantly watched, even if their specific fears differ. The same is true across the world's democracies.

China, however, is unlikely to cooperate with efforts to rein in the unfettered use of surveillance tools. Not only has it systematically increased domestic surveillance to suppress dissent and monitor social behavior to an unprecedented degree; it also is exporting its surveillance technology to others. The technology of oppression has become cheaper everywhere and all at once.

In this bifurcated world, one camp will probably develop robust standards to govern when and how surveillance may be used. The topic will remain controversial, but the technology will be substantially under democratic control. In the other camp, autocratic leaders will use extensive surveillance to keep their populations under control. There will be cameras everywhere, facilitating as much repression as the regime sees fit to use.

A big economic choice looms for the world's democracies. Should we continue to buy goods from countries where workers are subject to surveillance technologies that we would not countenance at home? Doing so would encourage more surveillance and more repression by regimes that are increasingly seeking to undermine our own democracies. It would be much better for shared prosperity if we advocated for less surveillance technology, such as by stipulating that only products fully compliant with surveillance safeguards will be allowed into our markets.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, the US and Europe granted China much greater access to their markets on the assumption that exports from low-wage countries would benefit domestic consumers and contribute to democratization at the source. Instead, China has become even more authoritarian, and export-fueled growth has bolstered its regime.

We should no longer have any illusions about the consequences of allowing unfettered market access for countries that keep tight control over their workers. Will AI technologies be used to help workers, or to rob them of their dignity? Our trade and patent policies must not be blind to such questions.

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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe promises free education

By Kruah Thompson

The Standard Bearer of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, promises to provide free education from primary to senior high school

boost agricultural productivity. "Freedom of movement is an international right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it is a fundamental right under the Liberian Constitution for citizens to move freely. However, the

hospital in Liberia so they can lead healthy lives.

He made the pledges after receiving an endorsement from citizens of Electoral District#8, Nimba County to contest for the Presidency in October.

Cllr. Gongloe, a former president of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) and a prominent figure in the legal and human rights sphere, has a remarkable history characterized by his unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law in Liberia. During his four-day visit to Nimba County, he received the citizens' endorsement.

At various engagements in Flompa district, Gbeiganpa, Gborzuoplay Town, Giplay, Gunplay, Deyveu, Zoeplay, Gbapplay, Gordmaplay, Gborplay, Gbevonewei, and other towns in Nimba, Cllr. Gongloe actively interacted with citizens. Additionally, on Saturday, June 10th, he attended a program at Zephaniah Gbahn's office in the Buu Tyo, District#5, Nimba County, where a huge crowd gathered to show support.

Cllr. Gongloe graciously accepted the endorsement and assured the crowd that he would never forget Liberians residing in the counties once he becomes the President of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Cllr. Gongloe with student

level by making all public schools in the country tuition-free. Additionally, he promises to provide study materials to students so they can offer tutoring classes for adults who are illiterate while pledging to address the poor conditions of roads in the region by providing necessary equipment in each county. He also promises to bring electricity to Buu Tyo, a place he plans to visit again when he becomes President.

Cllr. Gongloe commits to providing free machinery to every farmer in the country to

Liberian government is violating that right by neglecting road maintenance", he says.

"I see the Ministry of Agriculture carrying cutlasses around, but let me tell you, the work that a machine can do in one day can be done by 10,000 people in a year."

He also vows to reduce the country's maternal mortality rate, adding that one of his policies will be to ensure that pregnant women, children under the age of five, and elderly citizens receive free healthcare services at any

Paye urges opposition to protect October's ballots

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Unity Party former Chairman, Wilmot Paye, is cautioning the opposition community in Liberia especially, the UP to keep an eye on ballot votes in the October 10, Presidential and Legislative elections to avoid fraud.

Speaking in Paynesville over the weekend, during a Unity Party rally intended to galvanize supporters to join the Boakai-Koung Ticket for the October poll, Mr. Paye urged partisans to carefully observe and protect votes counts during the election.

He calls on the UP to police its votes to avoid irregularities or fraud intended to undermine the decision and will of the Liberian people while sending out caveat to the ruling Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) not to even dream of rigging the election.

"There are 2,080 Register Precincts, and 5,011 Proposed Polling Places across the country, and we as

oppositions, this should be our urgent task, to know where they are, inspect them, and how to be vigilant in policing our votes and decisions of the Liberian people, an urgent

task, which is in our hands to safeguard our country", he says.

Paye, who recently

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07



Former Chairman, Wilmot

UL processes over 8,000 new students

By Lincoln G. Peters

University of Liberia (UL) President Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., says the Office of Enrolment Services (OES) is processing more than 8,000 candidates' electronic applications for enrollment.

At a major press conference Monday, 12 June 2023, Dr. Nelson said those successfully vetted would have begun receiving Admission Letters via email on Monday.

He said the exercise of processing the electronic applications of more than 8,000 candidates will continue until Friday, 30 June 2023.

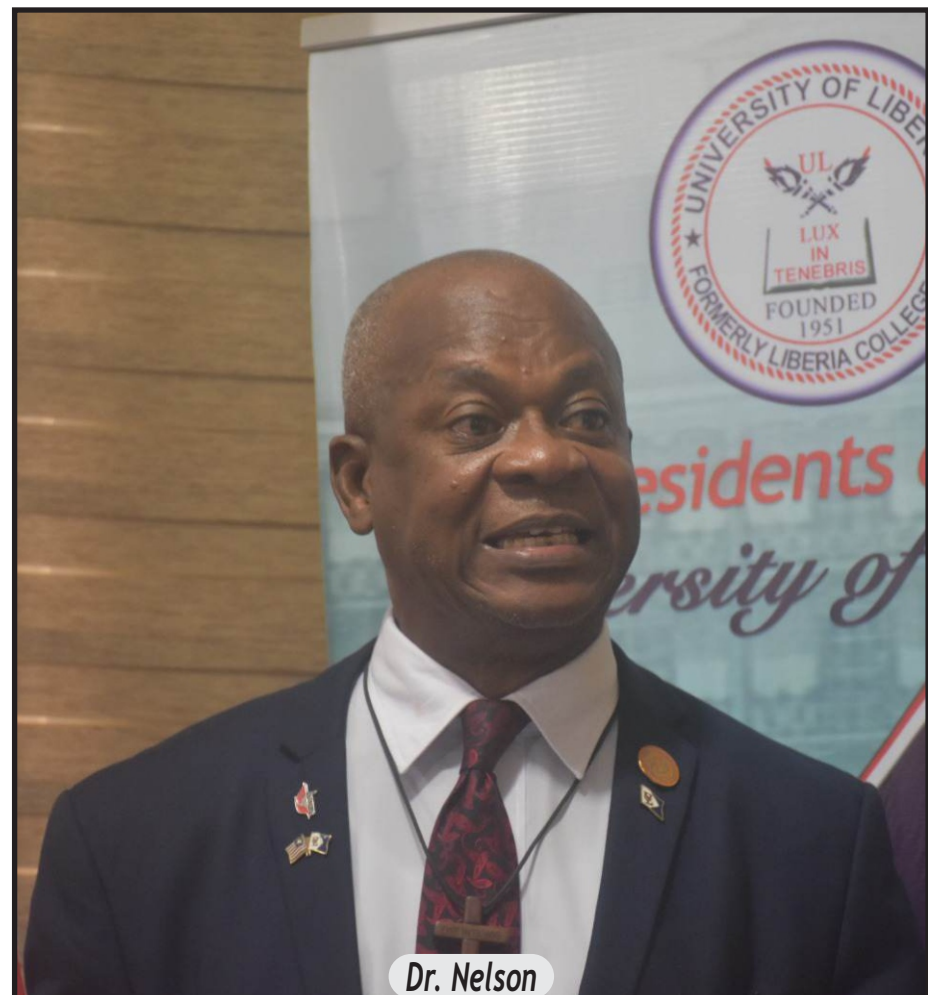
Dr. Nelson used the medium to release the University's

Academic Year 2022/2023," said Dr. Nelson.

He noted that the focus is on all of the related processes that will ensure a smooth and timely conduct of the First Semester before the Presidential and Legislative Elections in October 2023.

Additionally, Dr. Nelson told the press conference that on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, the Center for Testing and Evaluation, through UL Relations, released the schedule for the First Entrance & Placement Exam and Aptitude Test for the 2023 cycle.

He said the Exam and Aptitude test will run from mid-July (for Undergraduate) to early August (for Graduate and Professional Schools). Dr. Nelson said



Dr. Nelson

schedule for its First Semester of the Academic Year 2022/23, saying registration will begin on June 19 and end on July 8, 2023.

He noted that the first semester will be brief because the institution is cognizant that faculty and students must have time to exercise their civic rights during the electoral process in October 2023.

Dr. Nelson disclosed that classes will commence on Monday, 26 June 2023, and Mid-term Exams will run from August 7 to 12, 2023.

He added that lectures will end on September 9, and Final Exams will be conducted from September 11 to 23, 2023.

The UL president explained that having completed the Academic Year 2021/2022 in May 2023 and processed graduates, through "God's Doing," the focus is on the formal commencement of

registration for this year's entrance, which began on Thursday, June 8, 2023, is being conducted completely online. He explained that a fortnight ago UL concluded the exercises marking the 103rd Commencement Convocation of the "Hala-kehmeni" Class of 2022. He said it saw the departure of more than 1,700 students from the walls of the University of Liberia who graduated into the labor market and larger society. "During those ceremonies, we witnessed great scholarship from graduates who mounted the podium, and we were also enlightened by an ALL FEMALE lineup of convocation speakers who graced the occasion," Dr. Nelson recalled.

He expressed gratitude to UL partners in Government, from the RUFORUM and other institutions of higher learning for sharing the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 07

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Labor Ministry announces measures against child labor

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

(LWOB), and the Legislative Reform Committee (LRC), with funding from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), developed hazardous and light work lists for children in Liberia. It backs the Ministry of Labor's campaign against child labor.

said the enforcement order takes immediate effect across the country, beginning with Montserrado County.

Minister Gibson, who has just returned from Geneva, Switzerland, reiterated the government's commitment to preventing children from being subject to working under the conditions that impede their full physical and mental development.

In her Keynote speech, Assistant Minister for Children at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP), Maninah Gorton Carr Gaye, assured the collaborative efforts from the ministries to prevent child labor violations.

Minister Maninah Carr Gaye said the Ministry of Labor has hired several legal practitioners to help with enforcement, whereas the Ministry of Gender has secured several safe spaces for survivors.

Minister Gaye explained that findings showed the worst form of child labor in 2021. 78.45% of Liberian children of ages 5-14 are engaged in agriculture, 17.4% in services, and 4.2% in industry. Making a remark, WinRock International applauded the Government of Liberia's endeavors to develop its first Child Protection Manifesto, which highlights Hazardous and Light Work lists for Children.

The Document tagged "Hard Work, Discipline" was reviewed and validated through the Tripartite Constituent and other stakeholders.

It was endorsed on 13 June 2022, to uphold children's rights and ensure a better future for every child in the country.

Minister Gibson reaffirmed the Government of Liberia's commitment to combating all forms of labor practices in the country while ensuring the eradication of Child Labor. He

Addressing the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town Monday, 12 June 2023, Minister Gibson said a special task force will move into various communities



Liberia's Labor Minister Charles Gibson has announced measures to fight against child labor.

to enforce the measures.

He said the team from the Ministry of Labor will go to businesses, including nightclubs, and entertainment centers to ensure that children are not used as tools. He said those found using children or practicing child labor will be penalized. Minister Gibson said this is in line with the Liberian Government's guidelines against child labor.

In 2022, the Ministry of Labor in collaboration with WinRock International, Lawyers Without Borders

CENTAL convenes dialogue on drivers of conflicts in concession areas

Monrovia, Liberia, June 12, 2023. As part of efforts aimed at garnering the input of stakeholders on key findings of the recently conducted Political Economic Analysis Report (PEA), the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) in partnership with USAID Civil Society Activity (CSA) will on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, @ 9 am to 3 pm, convene a one-day Stakeholders' Policy Dialogue.

governance, development, and service delivery. The study was conducted in four targeted counties: Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount from March thru April 2023.

The findings were gathered from interpersonal interviews and focus group discussions aimed at engaging stakeholders' perspectives on the impact of concessions in the communities, and oversight of concession

investment with the goal of promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Those expected at the forum will include key stakeholders like officials from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), the National Bureau of Concession (NBC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The dialogue, which will be held at the Sinkor Palace Hotel in Monrovia, is expected to amongst others, share key findings from the (PEA) including the drivers of conflict and violence in concession areas and nearby communities in Bong, Grand Bassa, Nimba, and Grand Cape Mount counties.

PEA is a structured approach designed to examine power dynamics, political, and economic forces that influence



Starts from page 6 UL processes over

time with the institutions. As the Class of 2022 was enjoying its moment in the limelight, Dr. Nelson said more than 20,000 current students were lurking for updates on the reopening of the University of Liberia.

At the same time, he said successful candidates from the 2022 entrance exam cycle, who are over 8,000, were finalizing their digital admission process in preparation for Academic Year 2022/2023.

Dr. Nelson said as higher education becomes more affordable through a deliberate Tuition Free policy of the Government of Liberia, championed by The Visitor to the University of Liberia and President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, the management team at this university is doing its best to ensure that it is accessible and affordable without compromising quality.

"Thanks again for supporting the digitization plan of the University of Liberia which has enabled the processing and management of over 22,000

students (and counting) without chaos," said Dr. Nelson.

Dr. Nelson assured members of the public, especially the UL alumni community here and in the diaspora, that the Administration is very committed to ensuring that protecting the image of the University of Liberia exists among its highest priority.

"A student's academic sojourn, from admission to graduation, is guided and governed by policies and procedures enshrined in a number of instruments including the Revised Student Handbook," he explained.

He indicated that students, as an important constituent of the University family, have rights that must be respected at every stage of the teaching and learning experience, in the same way, the rights of faculty, staff, and the administration are protected.

As the Custodians/Managers/Administrators of UL, he said their task is to follow the rules as fairly as possible, without fear and favor, whenever there's an issue that calls into question the integrity and image of the institution.

Starts from page 6 Paye urges opposition to

returned to the fold of the UP after a brief stay with the People's Liberation Party (PLP), reassures his commitment to vigorously campaign for the victory of former Vice President Joseph Boakai.

He reiterates his quest to make President George Weah a one-term President come October, rallying Liberians to vote Mr. Weah out.

For his part, Unity Party Standard Bearer Joseph Boakai reaffirms that he's on a mission to rescue Liberians from abject poverty under the Weah administration.

"Our duty and responsibility is to rescue Liberians from this dangerous and destructive goat, who has kickback our

country beyond; after 176 years as a country, what can we say? We have a proud nation or we are proud of our people suffering in their own country no, absolutely no!"

Amb. Boakai says it's time to provide bring remedies and end the suffering of Liberians, saying "This is our time to ensure the change our people desire by making sure Mr. Weah hit the exit door."

The former VP continues that this is the time for less-fortunate Liberians, young people, women and children to have a better future while assuring Unity Party's commitment to improving livelihood of citizens if elected President in October. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Français

« Le Libéria est en voie de disparition », Boakai

Le principal chef de l'opposition libérienne Joseph Nyumah Boakai a dit que le pays disparaît progressivement sous le régime de Weah, d'où la nécessité d'une rédemption dont il aura la tâche s'il est

militants lors de sa tournée dans certaines circonscriptions électorales du comté de Montserrado le week-end dernier.

M. Boakai a dit que les Libériens souffrent sous le président George Manneh Weah et son gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement

honoré, et c'est pourquoi je suis ici", a déclaré Boakai.

« Je suis ce président que Dieu a destiné. Ce travail n'est pas un terrain de football ni un jeu ; c'est plutôt un endroit pour quelqu'un qui se soucie des gens et quelqu'un qui comprend le pays », a-t-il dit. Il a remercié les communautés chrétienne et musulmane pour leurs prières, disant que : « Ce pays a besoin de rédemption ».

« Certains d'entre vous sont à la fin ou au début de la trentaine, mais maintenant, êtes-vous satisfait de l'endroit où vous vous trouvez ? Nous allons vous donner un avenir et cet avenir arrive », a-t-il dit.

Le dirigeant de l'UP a déclaré que le Libéria est béni parce que Dieu a donné au pays tout ce qu'il a demandé, et cela sera utilisé pour le bénéfice de tous.

« Je peux [vous] assurer que trois ans après les élections du 10 octobre 2023, vous verrez le Libéria, un nouveau Libéria pour vous. Croyez-le parce que nous sommes sérieux à ce sujet », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a critiqué le régime de la CDC pour avoir maintenu les anciens billets de banque en circulation après l'impression d'une nouvelle famille de billets.



élu en octobre.

« Ce pays est en train de disparaître et nous n'allons pas le permettre. Ce pays a besoin de rédemption », a déclaré le porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité au cours du week-end.

L'ancien vice-président libérien s'est adressé à ses

démocratique (CDC). Il a particulièrement déploré les conditions de vie des femmes qui vendent dans les rues pour avoir de l'argent qui ne peut même pas leur acheter une tasse de riz pour manger. « Dieu vous dit maintenant, Libéria, vous avez tout eu, mais cette fois, je vais vous donner quelqu'un que j'ai

Cummings chaleureusement reçu par les habitants du Maryland

es habitants de la ville de Pedebo, dans le sud-est du comté de Maryland, ont défié les fortes averses pour accueillir le porte-drapeau de la collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) Alexander Cummings.

M. Cummings, originaire du Maryland, est arrivé dans le comté en passant par la Côte d'Ivoire en raison du mauvais état des routes dans le sud-est. Il a été chaleureusement accueilli par les chefs, les anciens, les femmes, les groupes de jeunes et les groupes religieux. L'ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola, qui fait partie des dizaines de candidats cherchant à renverser le président sortant George Weah lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, s'est rendu dans le comté pour solliciter le soutien de ses proches. Accompagné de l'ancien sénateur du comté de River Gee Matthew Jaye, le chef de la CPP a demandé à ses proches de réfléchir à leur vie au cours des cinq dernières années et de faire un choix s'ils veulent continuer sur cette voie ou le

rejoindre pour faire une différence le 10 octobre. « Marylanders, vous avez vu ce qui vous est arrivé au cours de ces 5 dernières années; si vous restez ici et maintenez au pouvoir ces mêmes personnes qui n'ont rien fait pour vous, vous obtiendrez à nouveau la même chose, parce que vous ne pouvez pas faire une chose encore et encore et vous attendre à des résultats différents », a-t-il déclaré. Notre correspondant a déclaré que bien que les mauvaises routes aient presque isolé la région du sud-est du Libéria, le soutien indéfectible des citoyens a poussé Cummings à faire un voyage

extraordinaire à travers la Côte d'Ivoire pour entrer dans le Maryland. Notre correspondant a ajouté que le mauvais temps, caractérisé par de fortes pluies, n'a pas réussi à démoraliser les hommes, les femmes et les enfants qui attendaient avec impatience l'arrivée de Cummings. Avec dévouement et résilience, ils se sont tenus debout pendant des heures sous la pluie, démontrant leur engagement envers le « mouvement pour un vrai

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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

Cummings chaleureusement reçu

changement » au Libéria. Jeunes motards, agriculteurs, commerçants, étudiants, personnes âgées et bien d'autres arrivés dès 8h30 du matin, ont promis leur loyauté et leur soutien indéfectibles au natif du Maryland, jurant d'attendre le temps qu'il faudra pour qu'il arrive.

Sous la pluie battante, un petit convoi, dirigé par Cummings, a atteint la frontière de Pedebo en milieu d'après-midi. Les voitures ont débarqué du ferry en premier, suivies de Cummings, qui se tenait sur le ferry, saluant les supporters excités. La vue de leur porte-drapeau qui est de retour dans son comté natal a suscité une vague de joie,

du Maryland, et je suis heureux que l'église soit le premier endroit que j'ai visité lors de ce voyage."

Dynamisé par le spectacle massif de bienvenue, Cummings s'est rendu à Pleebo où il a de nouveau rencontré à son arrivée des membres des communautés musulmanes, le motocycliste, les échangeurs d'argent, le Conseil des personnes handicapées, les femmes rurales, les présidents des chefs de zone, les agents de santé, l'Association nationale des enseignants et chef traditionnel de la vieille ville de Sodoken du district de Pleebo.

Il a rejoint la multitude de supporters et a marché vers le Pleebo Youth Center, marquant la conclusion d'une journée exaltante et inspirante. Diverses



provoquant des chants. Cummings, reconnaissant le soutien fervent, a débarqué et s'est entretenu avec ses partisans dévoués, serrant la main et exprimant sa gratitude pour leur soutien indéfectible.

Le leader politique de la CPP s'est ensuite rendu sous l'apam de la ville frontalière, où il a été accueilli par les chefs lors d'une cérémonie de bienvenue traditionnelle avec des noix de kola. Alors que Cummings se dirigeait vers Harper, des hommes, des femmes et des enfants de diverses villes et villages ont émergé, dansant et célébrant le retour de leur fils bien-aimé.

Au carrefour de Pedebo Harper, il a été accueilli par des dizaines de partisans, incitant Cummings à sortir de son véhicule et à marcher aux côtés de la foule écrasante vers Harper. À Harper, Cummings a assisté à un culte à l'église Full Gospel, présidé par le pasteur Joseph Jasper, une personnalité respectée de la ville natale de Cummings, Gbeken. Rejoint par des centaines, notamment des jeunes du Maryland, Cummings a exprimé sa gratitude à Dieu pour l'avoir ramené dans son comté d'origine.

Il a souligné l'importance de commencer son voyage en visitant l'église, déclarant : "Je remercie Dieu de m'avoir amené dans mon comté natal

personnes ont exprimé leur optimisme et leur détermination. Ils ont juré de soutenir Cummings jusqu'à la présidence libérienne.

Au cours de l'événement, Alexander Cummings a été honoré d'un certificat de la Motorbike Union of Maryland pour son soutien inestimable à l'Union. Des chefs de tout le comté se sont également réunis au centre de jeunesse pour organiser une cérémonie de bienvenue traditionnelle, acceptant officiellement Cummings comme "leur propre fils" et montrant leur soutien indéfectible.

Cummings passera une semaine entière à dialoguer avec divers groupes et à étendre sa visite à deux autres comtés du sud-est, à savoir River Gee et Grand Kru. Au cours de cette visite, il veut comprendre les besoins et les aspirations de la population et transmettre son message de changement réel aux habitants du Sud-Est. À propos d'Alexander B. Cummings

Alexander B. Cummings est le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) composée de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et du Liberty Party (LP). Il est un cadre retraité du géant mondial Coca Cola et une figure éminente de la politique libérienne. Connue pour son leadership et sa vision, Cummings vise à créer un Libéria prospère et inclusif grâce à des efforts de collaboration et au développement durable.

Côte d'Ivoire : glissement de terrain mortel à Yopougon après les fortes pluies



Une famille de cinq personnes est morte dans un glissement de terrain à Abidjan, le week-end du 10-11 juin 2023, pendant les fortes pluies. Le drame a eu lieu dans la commune de Yopougon à l'ouest de la ville, au quartier de Millionnaire Extension, une zone inondable avec de nombreuses constructions précaires.

« Il y a un drame qui s'est passé. Il y a cinq morts. On ne s'attendait pas à ça. » Il était 1h du matin, ce dimanche, quand la petite maison s'est effondrée. Ici, on les surnomme des « Sicobois », des habitations de fortune en bois et en tôle, fragile rempart contre les pluies et les coulées de boue... Une famille, un couple et ses trois enfants, y habitait. Tous les cinq sont morts sous les décombres.

Mariam Berthé, une voisine, se souvient de la scène. « La maison... C'est tombé sur eux. Notre mari est venu pour les aider, pour enlever la

maison sur eux, pour les faire sortir. Mais on n'a pas pu les faire sortir de là-dedans. On était là, on les a vus. Ça nous a découragés, on est ensemble ici. Nous-mêmes, depuis 1h du matin, on n'a pas dormi. On est là, même, on est traumatisés. »

« Nul ne peut aimer vivre dans ce genre de coin »

Car le quartier est situé très bas, à hauteur des canaux d'évacuation d'Abidjan... Les eaux et les boues de la ville tombent ici avant de s'écouler dans la lagune. Le président des Jeunes, Mamadou Diomandé, fait partie de l'équipe qui a tenté de secourir la famille. « Quand il pleut, ça devient de la soupe. Donc quand on est arrivés sur les lieux, c'était barré. Il a fallu qu'on fasse un travail de fond, dégager la route... Et quand on est arrivés, il a fallu qu'on creuse encore, puisque la boue était déjà sur les victimes. »

« Vous voyez, poursuit-il, ce sont des zones à risques. Mais nul ne peut aimer vivre dans ce genre de coin. Les gens disent "Non, quittez, quittez, quittez !", mais on n'a pas les moyens pour ça ! » À peine a-t-il fini de parler que la pluie se remet à tomber. « Allez-y, vous devriez remonter, conclut-il. Nous, en bas, on a l'habitude. »

Juste avant le drame de ce dimanche, l'Observatoire de la solidarité et de la cohésion sociale (OSCS), un organisme gouvernemental ivoirien, avait déjà indiqué que 15 enfants étaient morts depuis le début de l'année à cause des intempéries.

Bénin : l'armée recrute pour sécuriser ses frontières

À Bénin, le recrutement exceptionnel de 5000 jeunes Béninois par l'armée annoncé par le gouvernement en avril dernier a démarré. Depuis 2021 le Bénin fait face à des attaques de groupes armés. Ce recrutement entre dans le cadre du « plan de riposte ». Les nouvelles recrues vont compléter le déploiement anti-incursion terroriste qui mobilise déjà plus de 2000 hommes. L'opération est planifiée en plusieurs étapes, la phase en cours prévoit le recrutement dans un premier temps 3500 jeunes dont 2000 sur titre c'est-à-dire des recrues avec des qualifications dans les métiers de mécaniciens, conducteurs, maçon etc... Parmi les critères de sélection il est demandé aux candidats de maîtriser au moins une des langues parlées aux frontières du Bénin et du Burkina Faso. L'épreuve de sport est terminée, les candidats vont enchaîner avec la visite médicale le 17 juin, dans 5 jours, qui clôt la procédure de recrutement.

Ils seront formés en six mois par des instructeurs béninois dans les garnisons du Centre et du Nord du pays : Dassa, Djougou, Tanguiéta, Bembéréké et Kandi.



Pour les modules spécifiques il est prévu de faire appel aux expertises d'instructeurs américains et belges.

>> À lire aussi : Washington annonce une aide à la Côte d'Ivoire, au Togo et au Bénin contre le terrorisme

Les recrues s'engagent pour cinq ans et seront déployées sur les théâtres d'intervention à la frontière entre le Bénin et le Burkina - où ont lieu des attaques - pour défendre le territoire et protéger les sites touristiques de grande attractivité (secteur dans lequel Patrice Talon a fait des investissements massifs), comme le parc W, immense réserve naturelle de plus de 10 000 km², s'étendant sur le Burkina Faso, le Niger et le Bénin. Depuis plusieurs années, des groupes jihadistes se sont installés à l'intérieur, et les trois États ont bien du mal à contenir leur poussée...

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Substance abuse

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Substance abuse in Liberia is prevalent with unimaginable negative consequences, including death. The public is restless with outcry for government to do something in addressing the situation. Read below suggestions by some citizens on what government should do to respond to the substance abuse that is ruining the lives of young people.



'The time is belated, for the fact we have three months to election and there is nothing the government can do. Government can't fight the issue of drugs. There are lots of indications, as it relates to reducing drugs in the country. Some of the things that you just listened to, what took place recently and the government set those guys free on the issue of the one hundred million dollar drugs; the government set those guys free without anything being done. The government is the one that set those people free so, what you think

It is something that we see our illegal system and justice system is getting better but more needs to be done. The government needs to focus on the rehabilitation side because some of us, we are in the various communities and we know what is going on. The importation of drugs has been less. The drugs are being manufactured now within Liberia so, the Joint Security that is responsible, the Liberia National Police and the immigration are all security apparatuses that need to step up their game and move in the various communities and engage stakeholders and explain to them by creating programs for people to know the major part of a drug. The government should create rehabilitation



site, those drugs that were brought into Liberia in the past, those drugs are no longer coming. There are being manufactured here. What you need to do, don't chase the followers, or you need to do is create the need between the final consumer and the security sector, then they will be able to lead you out where those drugs are being manufactured from or what can be process. If government was so greedy for US\$100 million, it would have influenced the process, but for the picture of justice, the entire investigation process was open.

government will do to those people? Nothing. I think the only government that can solve the drugs issue is the next government that will be coming because for now, it is belated. I am told that they're trying to pass a law on the drugs issue, but it's belated. Even if there is another law now, it will take effect in the next government. I am saying it is belated right now. Government can pass laws that will punish people that will bring drugs, because if they don't bring drugs there will be no user, in as much you will bring drugs, there must be users; there must be tough punishment for people that will bring drugs and lesser punishment for people that will purchase drugs."



“The drugs issue Anybody that is caught in the act now in Liberia is of selling drugs, you should be very alarming; sent to court and after the especially, the young hearing, if you are convicted, you people, so I believe that should be sent to South Beach. the only solution for the And government should pass a drugs issue is for the non-bailable law on the drug government to pass a issue; that is the only solution to non-bailable law. solving drug problem in Liberia.

The drugs problem is hard to discuss, in the sense that our brothers know that the thing can kill but they will still buy it and take it. And now we don't have enough security like for example, you can visit one of the ghettos here and the security forces can shatter that particular place. For you to say the government will deploy security there, the security is not enough for that so, when the security forces shatter them today, before next week that same ghetto will come



back again, that is the reason it is hard to discuss. As for me, if the government can take this step by opening a rehabilitation sector on the highway with trade school and pick them up from the streets and carry them there, maybe some of them will change if they learn trade there and make money out of it, they will change.



This drug problem is increasing every day in the country; I think the government needs to build more rehabilitation centres and with trade schools to pick those guys from the streets and put them in the centres where they will be able to learn trades. And there should be counsellors there that will be counselling them. The government should create more programs, there should be more awareness in schools on drugs and teachers must be able to explain to students the effects of drugs, and there should also be awareness in communities and on radio stations about the effects of drugs. Government should pay security apparatus good salary especially, the security officers that are assigned at the various borders because that is where the drugs can usually pass from before entering the country and lastly, there should be more advertisement on the issue of drugs; I think these are the best ways to solve the drugs problem in our country.

“We’re no longer going for the tail”

By: Kruah Thompson

The people of Flompa, Electoral District# 8 in Nimba County say they are going for Presidency this time around,

8, Mr. Glay revealed that the reason behind their unanimous decision to vote for the Liberian People’s Party (LPP) Standard Bearer in the upcoming October

Nimba County, especially Flompa District, will elect someone, who will serve as head of the country, rather than settling for the Vice Presidency.



vowing to elect Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe, having witnessed the emergence of two former Vice Presidents namely, the late Enoch Dogoleah under former President Charles G. Taylor, including the late Moses Z. Blah, who ascended to the Presidency of Liberia for three months.

According to them, none of these leaders truly represented them and granted them the presidency they had desired.

“Therefore, this time around, we are aiming for the head instead of settling for the second position. And that head is Cllr. Tiawin Gongloe,” says Preston D. Glad, spokesperson for the elder council of Flompa District in Nimba.

During Cllr. Gongloe's visit to Flompa on Thursday, June

elections is because they have served leaders in the past who were not their own.

Mr. Glad says this year's election presents a candidate from their region, particularly Nimba, who has declared his intention to become President of Liberia.

They believe that Cllr. Gongloe possesses the necessary qualifications and experience so, as elders of their district, they are determined to stand with him while encouraging others to support his bid for the Presidency.

He emphasizes that Nimba has the numbers, and it is unfortunate for them to always support other candidates, making them President while neglecting their own interests.

He says this time around,

“Even if someone from Nimba, such as Jeremiah, is going as a Vice President, we have already witnessed them in that position numerous times. What more does he need?” He asks.

He recalls that they supported Jeremiah Koug as a representative and later as senator, even though he did not complete his term. Therefore, they have no intention to support him for the Vice Presidency without careful consideration.

The secretary general of Flompa Elder Council also affirms they have placed their trust solely in Cllr. Gongloe, who according to him, is the only candidate they see fit for the Presidency. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Professor alleges fraud at UL, but...

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia’s former Chief Justice Cllr. Frances Johnson-Allison, now Assistant Professor of Law, has accused the Louis Arthur Grimes School at the University of Liberia of graduating academic fraudsters during the 103rd commencement convocation.

Cllr. Johnson-Allison said students Alimatu Nuri Hutchinson and Ebenezer Wilson did not pass her course.

But she said the Dean of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, Dr. Cllr. Jallah Barbu and the University of Liberia Faculty Senate have graduated them.

The former Chief Justice said the graduation of students Alimatu Nuri Hutchinson and Ebenezer Wilson is a clear justification of academic fraud at the Law School.

Following the graduation of both students, the former National Elections Commission Chairperson wrote on her official Facebook page to criticize Liberia’s education system.

“What does it say about Liberia’s modern-day education system when the Nation’s highest institution of learning condones academic fraud by graduating students who did not meet the requirements for graduation,” Cllr. Allison pondered.

She accused the two graduates of allegedly using money to influence

needs to graduate. I declined because she failed ... Children Law that many got “A” in,” she added.

Cllr. Johnson-Allison said approximately, a total of 39 students wrote. “when I refused to pass her and left for America, she used my secretary to change their grades to passing grades which he admitted to the Crimes Services Division of the Liberian National Police,” she noted.

Cllr. Johnson-Allison disclosed that the information was reported to her in the United States by some students whom she described as whistleblowers.

She pointed out that the Faculty Senate spoke with her in an interview to establish the issue surrounding the students’ grades to conduct an investigation.

She said she told the Faculty Senate that the students didn’t pass the course, therefore, they should not graduate.

“I later wrote the Dean of the Law School after this happened. I authorized the person I left in charge of my office to take the issues to the police,” she narrated.

Meanwhile, the University of Liberia President Dr. Julius S. Nelson said they stand by their decision to graduate both students.



Dr. Nelson

Cllr. Frances Johnson-Allison

her secretary to change their failing grades to passing grades to graduate.

Based on Cllr. Allison’s complaint, Campaigners for Academic Crimes Court, and former student leader activist Martin K.N. Kollie interviewed Cllr. Johnson-Allison.

She maintained her position that both students should not have graduated.

“This one semester, I taught Legal Ethics and Children’s Law. The lady in question Mrs. Alimatu Nuri Hutchinson failed my test by getting “D,” Cllr. Johnson-Allison explained.

“Later she came to me to have the grade changed to “C” because she

According to him, they have not received any official complaint from Cllr. Johnson-Allison to have denied the student of graduation.

“We stand by the graduation of those students because we have not seen any formal compliment from Cllr. Johnson-Allison concerning this matter,” he said.

“If she comes and proves beyond all reasonable doubt with due process according to the students, we will take action. But for now, we stand by our graduation,” he concluded.

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Gongloe promises free education

Liberia. Township Commissioner Zephaniah Gbahn says that they are happy for a presidential candidate to come from Nimba. According to her, she has served the district for more than 10 years but has never witnessed a candidate enter Buu Tyo and present his or her platform without attacking their colleagues.

She claims that Cllr. Gongloe was precise in presenting what he has to offer for the county, without insults or attacks. Therefore, they are promising their support for his candidacy in October. “I have served this district for ten years, and all the candidates that come here either criticize other candidates or highlight their failures. But for you, Cllr. Gongloe, your approach was different. Therefore, we will support you, not just because you are our son, but because

you understand our needs”, Madam Gbahn notes.

Matta Jame Ester, Township Commissioner for Gbeiganpa Nimba County District# 5, expresses gratitude to Cllr. Gongloe for his decision to remove negativity from the land, promising to reach out to all people in the town to encourage them to vote for him. In response, Cllr. Gongloe promises to ensure that all their demands are met, including improving all medical facilities in the region. He emphasizes that from 1981 to present, all medical centers built in the country have faced similar challenges.

According to him, if elected President, he will prioritize eradicating corruption in Liberia by publicly disclosing salaries of all government officials and punishing those who steal

from the Liberian people.

“Corruption is the reason why we witnessed heinous activities in the bushes; today, because when these greedy politicians want power, they resort to places where human body parts are demanded. They will do anything for power; bring me human liver, bring me human hearts and kidneys. And as a result, they will come here to kill your children and harvest their organs”, Gongloe explains. The presidential hopeful firmly believes that if he can tackle corruption under his administration, such practices will cease to exist. Meanwhile, all the districts that Cllr. Gongloe visited expressed gratitude and pledged their support to him in his efforts to alleviate the hardships imposed by President Weah on the people of the district.

A Congratulatory Message to Dr. Mrs. Joyce Tarpeh

Dr. Mrs. Joyce Doctor of Pharmacy great accomplishment that Tarpeh, your (PharmD) from the brings pride not only to you graduation with a University of Liberia is a and your family but to the country at large.

Your Husband Mr. Emmanuel S. Tarpeh and your children are proud of your academic accomplishment.

Dr. Mrs. Tarpeh formed part of UL's 103rd Commencement Convocation which ran from 29 May to June 2023 and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

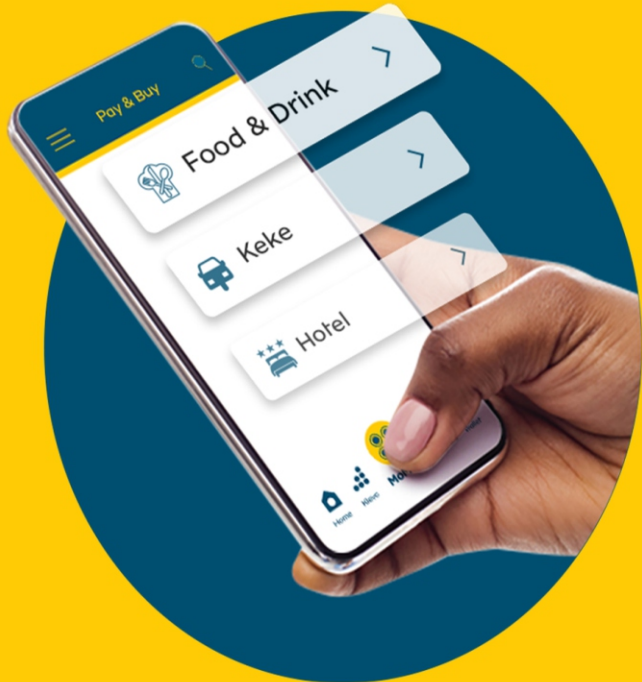
On the occasion marking this great academic achievement, the entire NewDawn family headed by the Publisher, Mr. Othello B. Garblah, his wife Mrs. Tracy M. Garblah, says congratulations to you for being studious and wishes you bountiful blessings as you seek to make your contribution to the health system of the Republic of Liberia.

Congratulations!



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