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# Lawmakers make 2017 U-turn

**-As 56% endorse Weah's second-term bid**

# Meet the lawmakers



**-who endorse Weah's second run**

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# Continental News

## Guinness confirms Nigerian chef's world record

The efforts by a Nigerian chef to break the record for cooking non-stop have been officially recognised by Guinness World Records (GWR). Hilda Baci became a

central India in 2019 by Indian chef Lata Tondon.

Chef Baci, 27, used more than 100 different dishes from when she turned on her cooker at 15:00 GMT on Thursday 11 May. She stopped cooking on the following

According to GWR rules, she was allowed one assistant at a time and was only permitted to use the toilet or nap during her breaks.

After her marathon cooking session, she spoke about what had motivated her: "I just knew that I need to do something that is... out of the ordinary to put myself on the map, to put Nigeria on the map, to put young African women on the map."

Baci showed visible signs of the physical exertion and got cold compresses applied to her head, and foot massages during her breaks. A medical assistant also checked her vital signs. Her attempt captivated the country, with politicians and celebrities stopping by to cheer her on. "Hilda's cook-a-thon was in fact so popular that our website crashed for two days due to the immense volume of traffic we received from her legion of loyal fans," GWR said.

Baci was no stranger to the heat of competitive kitchen events. In 2021 she defeated other contestants at the maiden edition of the "Jollof Faceoff", including a Ghanaian rival in the final, to claim the crown for the best version of West Africa's fiercely contested spicy rice meal. She said her passion for cooking was inspired by her mother's culinary techniques and that her recipes were homemade. BBC



Hilda Baci says her recipes are inspired by her mother's cooking

national sensation after cooking for four days last month.

She cooked for 100 hours - and was allowed a five-minute break each hour or the equivalent over several hours.

However GWR has logged her record at 93 hours 11 minutes, docking her seven hours for taking a longer break than allowed on one occasion. She still beat the previous record by more than five hours set in Rewa, in

Monday. No GWR officials were at the event in the upmarket area of Lekki in Lagos, but they later reviewed the footage that had been recorded from CCTV cameras.

In her record-breaking effort Baci cooked mostly Nigerian meals, such as jollof rice, as well as different types of rice and pasta, and also made akara - a popular street food made from deep-fried mashed beans. The food was handed out to invited guests.

## Ugandan cult members went to Ethiopia to starve

Eighty members of a Ugandan religious cult who had been convinced to travel to Ethiopia and starve themselves have been repatriated, authorities in Uganda say. Their pastor allegedly told them that they would "meet Jesus Christ" after fasting for 40 days.

A joint police operation is now leading a search for cult leader Simon Opolot. In Kenya, a different religious figure is alleged to have convinced hundreds to starve themselves to death. The 80 members of the Christ Disciples Church reportedly got rid of their belongings earlier this year and then travelled from a rural area in eastern Uganda to southern Ethiopia, a distance of around 500km (320 miles).

"The returnees have said Pastor Opolot convinced them to fast for 40 days so that they can meet Jesus on the 41st day," Simon Mundeyi, the

spokesperson for Uganda's internal affairs ministry is quoted by the Daily Monitor newspaper as saying. "The condition was that to meet Jesus, they needed to be in Ethiopia, and according to him, the world would immediately end." But once the Ethiopian authorities learned of their arrival in March, they were picked up and looked after until the repatriation was arranged, the AFP news agency reports.

Mr Mundeyi is quoted by the Daily Monitor as saying that members of the group, mainly made up of teachers and civil servants, were already very fragile after their long journey without any food. In 2000, at least 700 Ugandan members of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God died after being locked in a church which was then set alight.



## Cameroon Officials Campaign Against Taboos to Encourage People to Donate Blood

Blood banks in Cameroon are usually close to empty due to widely held taboos against blood donation. Officials in the central African country are trying to convince people to move past those beliefs amid an increased demand for blood and blood products in hospitals and on the front lines where soldiers are fighting separatists and Islamist militants. The effort comes ahead of World Blood Donor Day, observed on June 14. Illustrating the shortages is the story of a woman who told nurses at the Yaounde military hospital that she has not found anyone to donate blood to save the life of her two-year-old son.

Hospital workers said the 34-year-old fruit seller's blood was infected and that it could not be transfused to her son.

Medical staff members have requested blood from

But each year, Cameroon needs at least 600,000 pints of blood for both private and government-owned hospitals.

The government says blood donation needs in Cameroon are increasing due to the separatist conflict in the country's western regions and fighting with Boko Haram militants on the northern border with Nigeria.

This year, government officials, health workers and aid agencies took to the streets ahead of World Blood Donor Day, trying to convince people to donate blood and save lives. Ruth Abeng of the Cameroon Medical Council, an association of Cameroonian doctors, took part in the campaign. She said there are very few voluntary blood donors in Cameroon as some people are compelled to donate blood only when they see their sick relatives and friends in need of blood and dying. She said it is disheartening to see patients dying because some of their relatives believe that a blood donation is mystical.



Nurses talk with a 13 year-old boy with a gunshot wound as he lies in a hospital bed in Kumba

government hospitals to save the child's life, the hospital said, adding that the blood bank at the military hospital is empty. Celestin Ayangma, head of the laboratory that is in charge of the hospital's blood bank, said that since January of this year, the Yaounde military hospital had been able to provide only six of the 20 units of blood it needs every day. Ayangma added that patients eventually die if they do not have relatives, friends or other donors to give the blood that the patients need.

By midday on Tuesday, the baby was still waiting for blood. Cameroon's public health ministry reported that in 2022, hospitals in the country were able to collect a little more than 120,000 pints of blood from voluntary donors, family members and friends of sick patients.

Some Cameroonians believe that if they give blood, the recipient will receive any good luck and success they've had in life. Others say God will punish them if they donate blood to an evil person. The government says such beliefs are unfounded and people should not be afraid to donate blood.

The Ministry of Health also says donated blood is not sold as some people erroneously believe. Blood that is donated is stored in banks and transfused to people in need, the government says. Hospitals say patients pay a fee of about \$50 for the hospital to test donated blood and make sure it is safe to use. The government gives donors about \$10 in a bid to encourage more donations. Cameroon says it expects to raise about 20,000 pints of blood by June 14. Hospitals say the amount will not be enough to meet the country's needs but that it will reduce suffering and prevent some people from dying. VOA

# 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 Arvind Subramanian

## Anti-Neoliberalism as if the Poor Mattered

**P**ROVIDENCE - As neoliberalism swiftly gives way to a resurgence of industrial policy in advanced economies, the perspective of low-income countries is being ignored. As in neoliberalism's heyday, a subtle form of intellectual imperialism is skewing the global economic debate toward the interests of major powers.

If developing countries' perspectives were given due consideration, the debate about neoliberalism and industrial policies such as the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) would likely play out very differently. After all, the neoliberal Washington Consensus that took hold in the 1980s delivered tangible benefits to the world's poorest countries. The turn away from it could be similarly beneficial if we draw the right lessons from the neoliberal era.

Neoliberals' embrace of markets and globalization has been widely blamed for a wide range of problems, such as rising inequality, concentration of power, the decline of manufacturing, recurring financial crises, and even the rise of identity politics. But while neoliberalism's liabilities merit serious debate, its balance sheet includes quite a few assets as well, particularly when it comes to the world's poorest regions. As Dev Patel, Justin Sandefur, and I have argued, the era of hyper-globalization enabled developing countries to reverse a 200-year trend and catch up with their richer counterparts, resulting in the fastest reduction in poverty ever recorded.

The rising tide of global trade lifted developing countries' exports, enabling them to escape economic underdevelopment. While China's success story is well-known, India's remarkable transformation offers an equally relevant example of globalization's transformative power. Once considered inward-looking and uncompetitive, India achieved 13% average annual growth (in dollar terms) in exports - not just of its fabled IT services but also of its manufacturing output - for nearly 25 years. As economic miracles go, that is hard to beat. Such was the power of globalization.

It is to be expected that nativist politicians and thinkers in the West focus solely on the effects of neoliberalism on their own countries. But progressive intellectuals' willingness to overlook its positive welfare effects in developing countries is surprising and disconcerting. Any form of cosmopolitanism, whether guided by the utilitarian principle of maximizing benefits for the greatest number of people, or inspired by John

Rawls's focus on benefiting the least advantaged, would credit globalization with bringing unprecedented prosperity to billions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

To be fair, intellectuals in developing countries have also celebrated the demise of neoliberalism. While their reasons for downplaying its positive impact remain unclear, this may be an example of what Lant Pritchett calls isomorphic mimicry, whereby they reinforce the intellectual imperialism of their rich-country counterparts. Groupthink is not the monopoly of Davos Man; it afflicts global progressives, too.

A similar dynamic is playing out with the United States' newfound embrace of industrial policy. Setting aside the IRA's domestic political ramifications, much of the conversation about the Biden administration's signature climate legislation has focused on its implications for the US-China rivalry, the tensions between the US and the European Union, and the EU's internal politics.

Suppose, instead, that the IRA was assessed according to the needs of a typical low- or lower-middle-income country that is a net energy importer and reliant on fossil fuels. In this context, all that would matter is its impact on the cost of renewable energy. By fostering technological innovation and facilitating economies of scale, the IRA could drive down energy prices and expand developing countries' energy access, bolster their fiscal positions, and strengthen their climate-mitigation efforts. But the IRA's role as a provider of global public goods has been overlooked.

We tend to forget that the renewables revolution is first and foremost an energy revolution. Enhancing low-income countries' access to energy grids would deliver enormous welfare gains. Moreover, because most developing countries subsidize energy, especially electricity, renewables could lower costs substantially, benefiting these countries' public finances.

To expedite the green transition, it is crucial to lower the cost of renewable energy. Given major economies' already-strained balance sheets, it is unrealistic to expect substantial climate financing for developing countries. The recent debates about expanding the World Bank's lending capacity should puncture ambitions about large financial flows from rich to poor. The practical solution is to ensure that renewables can compete with fossil fuels - and fast. Only technological progress, supported by IRA-type industrial policies, can accelerate

# OP-ED

By Erik Berglöf,  
Rania Al-Mashat

## Fostering Climate Agency Where It Counts

**C**AIRO - The gap between the resources needed to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 and the resources that are available currently amounts to trillions of dollars - and is still growing. As many developing and emerging economies lose ground in the wake of the pandemic, public and private capital must be mobilized to accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts. But this requires governments to produce credible plans for achieving global sustainability goals, to design and implement these policies themselves, and to ensure that their strategies' costs and benefits are fairly distributed.

Last November's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27), dubbed the "implementation COP," laid the groundwork for a fairer, more robust climate-finance system. The conference's "guidebook" called on the international community to advance a transformative agenda that accounts for developing countries' national priorities and ensures equitable access to financial and technical resources. It included in its definition of climate justice "equitable access to quality and quantity climate financing" that considers "historical responsibility for climate change" and "supports resilient development pathways, leaving no one behind."

With this in mind, Egypt launched its Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy investment program during COP27, providing a practical and replicable model for ensuring a just net-zero transition through the NWFE's concept of "country platforms." These platforms are meant to help countries build state capacities, and emphasize the importance of developing countries' agency (or "ownership," in aid parlance).

NWFE (pronounced "nuafiy," which is Arabic for "fulfilling pledges") builds on Egypt's commitments under the 2015 Paris climate agreement and aims to attract financial support for the country's development agenda while accelerating climate action. The stakeholders include multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The NWFE platform integrates several high-priority water, food, and energy projects - all selected by the Egyptian government - worth a total of \$14.7 billion. The projects seek to replace existing inefficient thermal power plants with renewable energy; enhance small farmers' adaptation to climate risks; modernize farming practices to increase irrigation efficiency and boost crop yields; strengthen the resilience of vulnerable regions; create water desalination capacity; and establish early-warning systems.

By using innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize public funds, technical assistance, and private investment, Egypt seeks to leverage its partnerships with the MDBs and other development stakeholders to accelerate its climate agenda. This would support the country's green transition and show that climate action and economic development can go hand in hand. Egypt can also rely on these partnerships to help it phase out "brown" oil, gas, and mineral assets. For example, partial concessional financial support from the United States will enable the country to retrain (or retire) fossil-fuel workers.

Yet, the most innovative instrument may be debt-for-climate swaps, whereby Egypt receives partial debt relief from, say, Germany, in exchange for commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. These types of performance-linked financial instruments could provide many developing and emerging countries with an opportunity to lower their debt burden or obtain low-cost funds. By tying development assistance to progress on a common global target, such swaps could also prove to be significant in mitigating the worst effects of climate change.

As a 2018 report by the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance notes, collective action through country platforms has the power to unlock public and private investment to achieve climate-resilient and sustainable development. Such investment platforms can take different forms. For example, Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) - first introduced during COP26 in Scotland in 2021 - aim to direct private capital toward decarbonization targets in the energy sector. Since launching in South Africa, JETPs have also been established in Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and Senegal.

Egypt's NWFE initiative provides a useful model for how developing and emerging countries can expedite the implementation of their national climate agendas in line with global priorities. By encouraging coordination among domestic and external stakeholders, such programs could help bridge the information gap, establish shared standards, and increase the number of bankable projects.

But the platform's success hinges on domestic agency, transparency, and accountability in managing these partnerships. Most importantly, the green transition must be perceived as just in order to be sustainable. Predictability is particularly important for the poor, and fairness is essential to winning long-term public support for climate measures. To achieve these goals, governments must lead on climate finance. The net-zero transition depends on it.

# OPINION

By Peter Singer

## Can We Compare Pain Across Species?

**L**ONDON - In recent weeks, I have been touring the United States and the United Kingdom, promoting Animal Liberation Now, my new book on the ways in which we are inflicting suffering on hundreds of billions of nonhuman animals, especially in factory farms. The persistence of this vast, entirely unnecessary suffering is one of the great moral issues of our time.

Some people doubt this claim because they think that humans matter incomparably more than animals. But it is increasingly accepted, among the general public and ethicists, that preventing suffering is morally important, irrespective of the species of the being who is suffering.

But this concern for other species raises a much more difficult question: how do we compare the suffering of animals of different species? Given our limited time and resources, how many chickens should we help instead of helping one human? An equally perplexing question can be asked about the decision to focus on preventing the suffering of some animals - say, pigs - rather than others, when we are harming many more of the latter. For example, each year we raise, in close confinement, and then kill, without prior stunning, more than 15 times as many fish as the entire human population of the planet. What moral standing does their suffering have?

Here, we need to consider some essential philosophic and neuroscientific issues. How do our own capacities to suffer differ from those of animals, and how can we compare the capacities for suffering of different kinds of animals? We also need to ask: Is preventing suffering all that matters, or do other things matter, too, like thwarting individuals' future-oriented preferences? If it is wrong to thwart such preferences, then the differences between humans and other animals, and between different species of nonhuman animals, may become more significant.

Rethink Priorities, an American think tank, has been studying these questions. Researchers surveyed hundreds of studies of animal sentience to provide a basis for estimating how much we should weigh the suffering of a range of animals, relative to the weight we give to the suffering of humans.

To simplify the task, they assumed the utilitarian view that promoting happiness and preventing suffering is all that matters. They also assumed that we should not care any less about suffering experienced by an animal only because it is not human. Provided that the intensity and duration of suffering are equal, we should care about it equally, no matter who experiences it.

To investigate how much animals suffer, as compared to humans, the researchers began by accepting, in accordance with current scientific understanding, that the basic neurochemistry that underlies emotional feelings is essentially similar, at least in all mammals. The researchers then looked at both behavioral and physiological evidence of the suffering of various species of animals.

In *Animal Liberation Now*, I discuss one clear example of behavioral evidence. Commercially raised chickens have been bred to grow so fast that their immature leg bones have difficulty in supporting their weight. As a result, they often become lame, trying not to put weight on one leg.

In one study, chickens taken from commercial flocks were offered two differently colored foods, one of which contained an anti-inflammatory drug. Lame birds soon learned to choose more of the food with the drug, and their limping decreased in proportion to the dose they consumed. This indicates that lame chickens are likely to be in pain when they walk and suggests a close parallel with the effect that relieving pain has in humans.

Other relevant behavioral evidence indicating pain can include changes in heart rate, blood pressure, pupil dilation, perspiration, hormonal levels, and metabolic activity. Here, too, chickens bred for rapid growth serve as an example: the skeletal, heart, and lung problems that they experience are evidence of suffering.

Drawing on this evidence, the researchers at Rethink Priorities developed a set of estimates for how we might weigh the suffering of some representative animals. If we assign the value 1.00 to humans (and round the estimates to two decimal places, to mitigate any misplaced sense of exactitude), their estimates suggest that we might value pigs at 0.52, chickens at 0.33, and octopuses at 0.21. They ranked all fish at less than 0.1, with carp at 0.09 and salmon at 0.06. Interestingly, they ranked bees between these two fish species, at 0.07, and crayfish lower, at 0.04.

Obviously, this effort to draw on the best available empirical research to compare the capacities of animals of different species, and even of different phyla, is open to challenge. But the importance of the effort is indisputable. The possibility of our own species' moral progress may depend on it.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Why only TRH containers being used by drug traffickers?

Last week, an official of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) linked the recent US\$37 million worth of cocaine discovered in a TRH Trading Corporation consigned container at the country's main port to an unknown Kenyan trafficker-interesting.

Though investigation into this latest bust is still ongoing, the Government through the LDEA has moved swiftly to clear TRH Trading Corporation of any link to the drug syndicate just as it did during the US\$100 million drug bust even before the suspects could be arrested, though the cocaine was found in its container.

On October 1, last year, cocaine worth US\$100 million was found in TRH Trading Corporation's rented warehouse off the Japanese Freeway near Tonpoe Village in Gardnerville.

But before the suspects could even be rendered up and charged, Justice Minister Cllr. Musa Dean hailed TRH, a subsidiary of Abijoudi \AJA Group as the whistleblower while naming three foreign nationals as suspects.

The repeated discoveries of cocaine in TRH/AJA Group consigned containers and government's immediate clearance of the company describing the owners as whistleblowers seem to beg more questions than answers.

One tends to wonder whether this immediate clearance of TRH has to do with the special business relationship it has with the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Government-the special tax privileges.

For the record, TRH/AJA has been clearing its consignments from the port without going through inspection like majority of the businesses here do.

They just use invoices and bills of landing. This loose way of clearing their containers from the port, many believe may have motivated the drug to be imported by or through them.

The government, thru the Liberia Revenue Authority, has publicly defended here that disparity in inspecting contents of containers brought at the Freeport of Monrovia that allowed TRH Trading Corporation loaded cocaine containers to leave the port without any check is part of its Post Clearance Audit program.

The Post Clearance Audit Program, according to the LRA, is a universal trade facilitation tool in customs that allows relatively compliant importers access to expeditious clearance subject to review subsequently.No wonder TRH is the only company here whose containers have been targeted to be used to transport cocaine here.

From the last two busts, the argument appears to be true because TRH/AJA Group is the only importer whose consignment has often been loaded with contraband substance and yet the government keeps treating the Lebanese conglomerate as whistleblowers.

When you look at the inconsistency in TRH/AJA Group's initial explanation during the first bust on October 1, 2022, it gives more room for questioning rather than considering them as mere whistleblowers.

But this is a special privilege company, whose containers are not subjected to physical inspection.

Now, ignoring or avoiding physical inspection by all parties-both the government operatives at the port and TRH/AJA simply because they enjoy certain loose and unregulated privileges speak volumes and question the urgent exoneration of TRH in these busts.

Any reasonable person would understand that such practice puts TRH/AJA right in the middle of these drug busts. In any civilized jurisdiction, TRH/AJA Group would be treated as a prime suspect and accomplice.

But Our Government will have you believe that TRH/AJA Group is the victim, helping the alleged suspects and accomplice to now be considered "the drug whistleblower".

By all accounts, reasons provided by the government in granting business privileges to TRH Trading Corporation in whose warehouse and containers cocaine valued combined total of US\$137 million have been found is difficult to digest.

Liberians may never get to know how many containers brought into the country with contrabands have passed unchecked at the Freeport of Monrovia to their concealed or unknown destinations at the detriment of the State.

The fact that warning by Global Maritime Tracking Solution which tracks shipments across the world that the container with the US\$100 million cocaine be subjected to physical inspection was ignored, says a lot about the depth of complacency authorities in the country display.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from back page

## ECOWAS Court is

results, instead, it just makes legal decisions that lack bearing and are not binding on anyone.

Chief Allen, who currently chairs the Governing Council of President George Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, terms the leadership of the ECOWAS Court as a group of puppets that have grouped themselves into international gangsters that only talks about regime change, remove presidents and destabilize countries and put people into abject poverty.

He maintains that rulings at the Court have been a routine that is carried out and nobody can say anything about it, so they are just making conventional decisions that are not implementable since it was established.

"The fact of the matter has not been addressed; we all know the fact of the matter is former President Taylor wasn't impeached; he wasn't dishonourably discharged from his duties as president, but instead, he resigned and turned power over to his successor and installed him as President so, there's nowhere in a Liberian court former President Taylor was judged", Chief Allen maintains.

Report from the ECOWAS Court of Justice says Mr. Taylor filed a suit against the Government of Liberia, asking the Court to order the Republic of Liberia to pay his pension and other benefits for 20 years after his 11th August 2003 resignation from office.

The Court details that in his 10-page application, the former Liberian president, currently serving a 50-year sentence in Britain for aiding and abetting now defunct RUF rebels in Sierra Leone, asked for a declaration that the refusal of the Respondent to pay him his pension and other retirement benefits from August 11, 2003, till date, is illegal and a

violation of his human right, including the right to own property guaranteed by Article 14 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights and Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

He also reportedly asked the Court for an order mandating the Respondent, the Republic of Liberia to pay his pension and other retirement benefits from August 11, 2003, to date, plus 6% interest per month, and thereafter made the payment of his pension benefits current.


Besides, he asked for order mandating the country to provide for staff, security and legally prescribed transportation for his wife and children, in Applicant's presence, for the remainder of their lives as well as pay him the sum of \$5,000 ( five thousand dollars) being the solicitor's fees and other incidental costs.

But in its defence, the Republic of Liberia argued that the former President did not qualify for the entitlements provided for in the Act of 6th July 1978 cited by the Applicant as the basis for the suit as he did not retire honorably, which would mean voluntarily quitting office, having reached a certain age but was under a criminal indictment by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

"The Act qualifies in clear and unequivocal terms the mode and manner of a President's retirement and his status after retirement in order for him or her to benefit under the provision of the Act," the State said in its response.

The government further contended that in view of the prevailing political and military situation in the country and in order to save his life, the former president negotiated and accepted an arrangement under which he resigned and was exiled to Nigeria where he was arrested while trying to flee and ultimately sent for trial at the Special Court of Sierra Leone that was transferred to The Hage. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR:.....J. KENNEDY PEABODY.....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF GODFREY WISSEH, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF HER NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "AMOS ISALAH."

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME** 00010944

THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF HER NAME FROM GODFREY WISSEH TO "AMOS ISALAH".

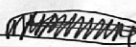
During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on **June 5, 1975, in Barclayville, Grand Kru County, Republic of Liberia**, and that he was born unto the union of **Mr. Bamidele Isaiah and Mrs. Victoria Isaiah**, all of Grand Kru County, Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **Godfrey Wisseh** be changed to "**Amos Isaiah**" beginning this **5th Day of June, A.D. 2023**. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.


THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2023.



HIS HONOUR J. KENNEDY PEABODY  
RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

COURT SEAL:



REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 06-023 PAGE(S) 00010944

*J. Greaves*  
REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

*June 2023 11:00*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Campaign to restore Ja'neh's rights

By Lincoln G. Peters

River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh has vowed to lead a robust campaign to restore all the rights of

have my support and we will push this until it happens," Mr. Wesseh said recently at the Temple of Justice during a program.

Ja'neh was impeached in 2019 following a trial at the

It also ordered the government to pay Ja'neh US\$200,000 as reprobation for moral prejudice suffered in the violation of his rights.

Judge Emma Nmano Shannon Walser was removed in 1979 by a joint resolution of the conservative Legislature after she challenged the government's detention of opposition leaders accused of instigating the rice riot.

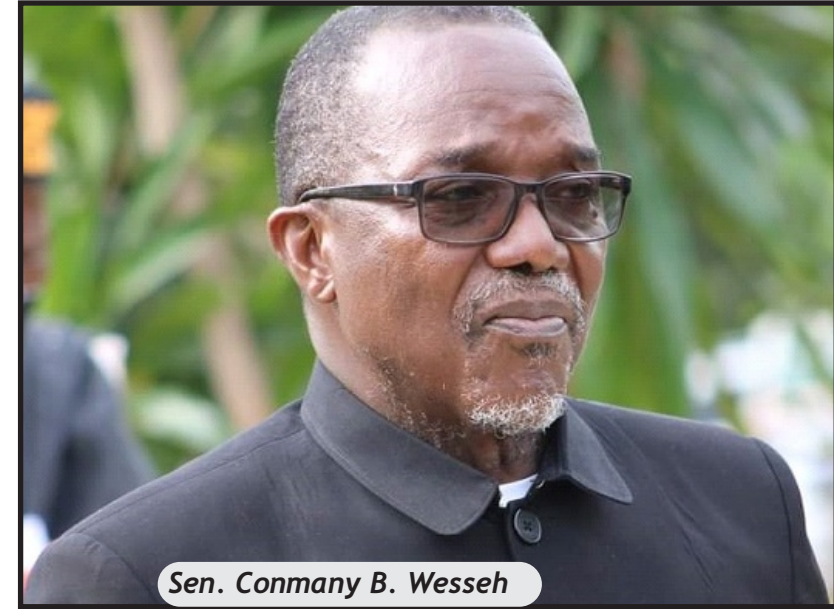
But Senator Wesseh noted that the rights of the late Judge Walser and impeached Justice Ja'neh will be restored no matter how long it takes. According to the opposition lawmaker, formal Associate Justice Ja'neh never got justice because the Constitution was not followed during his impeachment.

Senator Wesseh noted that despite all the illegal and unconstitutional actions, he respects Justice Ja'neh because he stood his ground. He stated that he was part of the senators that wrote the petition against the removal of Justice Ja'neh because they believed that the Legislature's action was illegal and

Liberian Senate for alleged proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, fraud, misuse of power, and corruption.

But the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) community court of justice ordered the Liberian government to reinstate Justice Ja'neh.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh

impeached Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh. Mr. Wesseh said the campaign will also seek the restoration of all the rights of Liberia's first female Circuit Court Judge for Montserrado County, Judge Emma Nmano Shannon Walser, who died in 2021.

"Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh and Judge Walser's rights will be restored. You

# Giving Weah second chance defies logic

-Gongloe says

By Kruah Thompson  
Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe says request from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change for Liberians to give President Weah a second term in office defies logic and common sense.

chance to do better, that's funny."

Cllr. Gongloe, who is seeking the Presidency of Liberia, points to rampant corruption in Liberia, questioning why civil servants face delayed salaries while the Minister of Finance makes excuses, blaming late reports from ministries.

He sarcastically remarks, "Oh, when did he realize this, after being in power for over five years?"

He recalls a statement made by President Weah during his Annual Message to the Legislature in 2011 in which the President expressed shock that some government employees earn as low as US\$40.

However, he notes that the

President did not forget to construct a 45-storey building opposite Baptist Seminary in Paynesville within eight months after coming to power.

"We are not foolish; stop treating us like we are residents of a mental institution."

He expressed doubt about the government's perception of citizens' awareness of the deliberate misconduct being committed by the Weah administration.

Gongloe is of the conviction that the people of Liberia will not be naive enough to elect such a President for second term in the pending elections.

Cllr. Gongloe, Standard Bearer of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) used a metaphor to illustrate his point, saying, "It's like dating a woman with no provision of food, clothing, or any support, and then telling her that she will enjoy those things after marriage. Do you think she would believe you?" He asks.

Speaking to youth of Flompa District in Nimba County, recently, he strongly criticized the Weah administration for wasting numerous opportunities to make a positive impact on citizens' lives in its first term.

According to him, there is nothing impressive about the CDC's performance, adding that a second chance is unwarranted, especially considering their current behavior.

"The CDC government did not show any serious concern for the citizens of Liberia, but now they are asking for second



Cllr. Gongloe

# 'Opposition shall not prevail'

-Weah assures supporters  
By Lewis S. Teh

President George Manneh Weah says the opposition's desire to impede his government's progress shall not prevail, saying they will witness him overwhelmingly triumph in the October elections. "Let us now speak of victory with confidence and conviction. The opposition may try to impede our progress, but they shall not prevail," Mr. Weah said Tuesday, 13 June 2023 when over 40 lawmakers endorsed his re-election bid in Monrovia.

The former Liberian international soccer icon is seeking a second six years term in office at the polls due 10 October 2023.

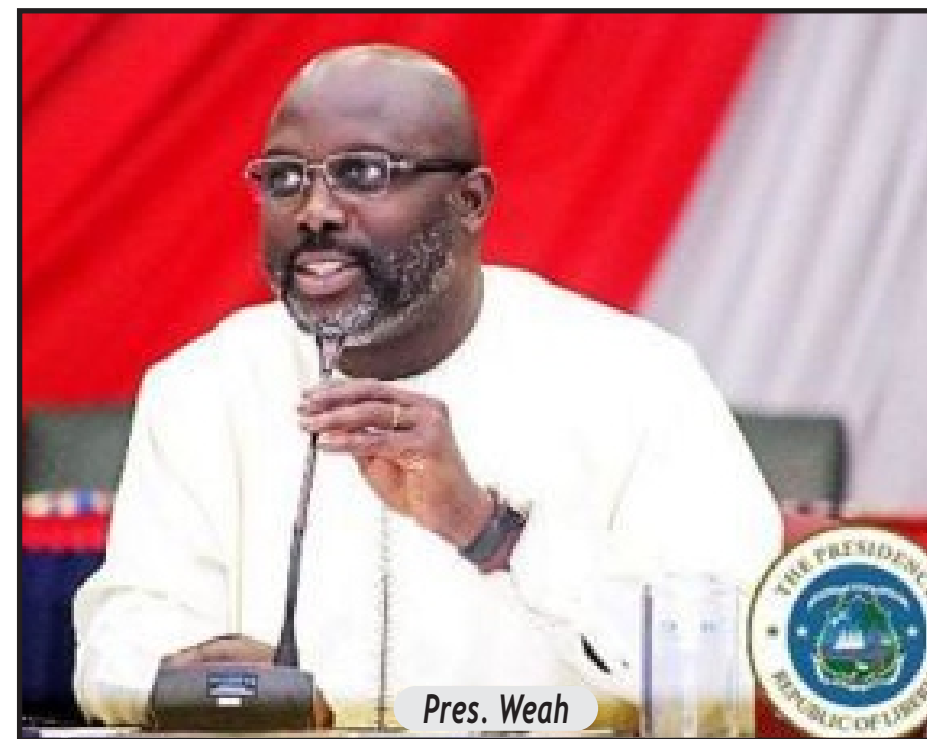
He will battle several opposition leaders including

overwhelming triumph in the pending election. "The Liberian people know that our unwavering dedication to their well-being sets us apart. While our opponents resort to empty promises and divisive tactics, we remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver tangible results that transform lives," said President Weah. Mr. Weah assured Liberians that their voice will be heard as they approach the upcoming elections.

He noted that the will of the people is an unstoppable force, and together, they will shape the future of this great nation.

"Victory is not just within our grasp; it is inevitable," he added.

He said he was filled with 'immense pride' on the fact that CDC's entire Legislative Caucus is standing behind his leadership and candidacy in the upcoming elections.



Pres. Weah

former Liberian vice president Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, former Coca-Cola executive Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, and renowned Liberian human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, among others.

Liberians will elect lawmakers and the president in a crucial election that comes amidst inflation, growing insecurity, drug trafficking concerns, rising youth unemployment, poor health services, and bad road connectivity in much of the country.

At his endorsement ceremony by over 50 lawmakers, Mr. Weah told supporters at the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) headquarters that the opposition attempted to impede his government's progress.

The over 50 legislators backing President Weah's re-election bid are from both the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives. During his endorsement, President Weah said the opposition will witness the strength and unity of the CDC as it marches towards an

Mr. Weah said he stood with profound gratitude and an unwavering belief in the lawmaker's shared vision, as he wholeheartedly accepted their resounding endorsement and reaffirmation of his candidacy for re-election as the President of the Republic of Liberia. "This endorsement is not just a seal of approval for our policies and programs; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the Liberian people," he noted. He extended a warm welcome to all newcomers within the CDC, saying the party is not merely a political party, instead, it is a beacon of hope and progress for all Liberians.

"Within our ranks, there is space for every citizen, regardless of their party affiliation. Together, we will build a stronger and more prosperous Liberia," he continued. He boasted of accomplishing a lot during his first six years in office, saying his government has transformed the face of the nation through infrastructure development, empowering the youth to become the driving force of change, and achieving economic stability.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Life-changing Question Transforms Wildlife Hunter to Forest Eco Guard

Monrovia, Liberia; June 13, 2023: Sam Jomah, 41, is a sixth-grade school dropout in Lukasu Village, Lofa County. He is married with six children. He resorted to hunting wildlife to know any hunter who is rich," he told UNDP during a recent visit to Lukasu.

It was at this point that he decided to join other community members to be hired and trained as a forest eco guard.

The training was about how to identify high-conservation wildlife species and identify illegal human activities within the protected area. They were also given camera traps training, GPS operation skills, and a compass which are all geared toward making biomonitoring effective. The camera traps will be deployed in the forest for a period of a month to monitor the different species of the landscape. Today Sam is an Eco Guard, trained, skilled, and equipped to patrol and monitor the forest for any illegal activities such as poaching. He is paid a stipend that enables

him to provide for his family, and even save up to start a business, possibly a green business. "Thanks to the community-based forestry project, today I know how to spell my name and my father's names. I even know how to use a GPS and a compass," Jomah said. Asked if he is now able to provide for his family without having to resort to hunting, he smiled coyly saying: "Thanks to the project for where it has taken us from and where it is taking us." Sam is among 80 community members who have been recruited and trained as Eco Guards in the Northwest Region of the country covering Lofa, Grand Cape Mount County, and Gbarpolu Counties.

These eco guards will be equipped with tablets, tents, and other assorted items to aid them to conduct research as well as to monitor the forest for illegal activities. They are one of the activities being undertaken by a Swedish-funded community-based forestry management project being implemented by UNDP and FAO in partnership with Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA).

The project is aimed at strengthening community involvement and participation in the governance of protected and community-managed forests.



secure a livelihood for his family. But this changed early this year when confronted with the question: "Have you ever seen a rich hunter before?"

The question was posed by the Society for the Conservation of Nature, Liberia (SCNL) while mobilizing community members for training leading to the recruitment of some of them as Eco Guards for the Gola Forest National Park and the proposed Foya protected area. "I was confused because I was a hunter and used to stay in the forest to kill animals to feed my children and support my family. After thinking, I realized I did not

guard. The training was about how to identify high-conservation wildlife species and identify illegal human activities within the protected area. They were also given camera traps training, GPS operation skills, and a compass which are all geared toward making biomonitoring effective. The camera traps will be deployed in the forest for a period of a month to monitor the different species of the landscape. Today Sam is an Eco Guard, trained, skilled, and equipped to patrol and monitor the forest for any illegal activities such as poaching. He is paid a stipend that enables

# 2023 candidates' nomination begin today

## -NEC announces

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced Wednesday, June 14, for the beginning of candidates' nominations for the 10 October Presidential and General Elections.

In a statement issued Tuesday, June 13, NEC explained that the Candidate Nomination exercise will take place at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville City on Mondays to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM, until 14 July.

The electoral body said Exhibition and Candidate Nomination exercises are in line with its Key Dates released for the 2023 General Elections in Liberia

Meanwhile, NEC is encouraging all registrants and the general public to fully participate in the ongoing Exhibition of the Provisional Registration Roll (PRR).

It reminds all Liberians that the exhibition which started on Monday, 11 June at all of the

2080 Voting Precincts across the country will end on Saturday, 17 June.

It said the objective of the Exhibition is to afford would-be voters and the public the opportunity to verify their details and make sure their names, age, sex, and photo etc. are correct.

During the exhibition, noted explained that individual can also make claims for omitted data such as name, age, sex,

photo to be included, change of incorrect name, age sex, unclear photo on the roll, and object to the inclusion of ineligible persons on the PRR. At the same time, the Commission wants the public to know that accreditation of Party Agents, Observers, and the Media will end on 11 September 2023. The accreditation process started on 10 June 2023.



# Liberia records over 366,584 street children

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberian authorities have revealed here that over 366,584 of the country's children live in the streets in dehumanizing conditions as a result of broken homes and neglect.

The Assistant Gender Minister for Children and Social Protection, Maminah Gorlon Carr-Gay says a survey conducted by the Ministry and partners discovered that over 366,584 children across the country are living in the streets in dehumanizing conditions.

Speaking on Monday, June 12, 2023, at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town during the observance of World Day against Child Labor, the Assistant Gender boss detailed that Montserrado County has the highest number of street

entertainment centers to curb child abuse and children involved in unwholesome practices.

However, he reaffirms government's commitment towards elimination of child labor, providing every child with the chance to enjoy their childhood, learn, and become better leaders for tomorrow.

The minister says government and its partners have set up three safe homes in the country and that one of the three will be used to keep children seen selling in the streets.

Meanwhile, Minister Gibson reveals that about 286 communities have been identified in Montserrado County to provide awareness and education on the kind of work a child should do.

He emphasizes that every child in Liberia is paramount to the government so the Ministry of



-Assistant Gender Minister Maminah Gorlon Carr-Gay

children, totaling 153, 982 and Rivercess County with 100 street children.

She says 78.45 percent of Liberian children between ages 5-14 years are engaged in agriculture, 17.4 percent in services, while 4.2 percent work in industrial areas.

She notes that child labor has been one of the major problems the Government of Liberia has tackled, adding that children who should be in school are rather forced to labor for their families.

However, Minister Carr-Gaye reveals that Liberia has made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate worst form of child labor.

In remarks, Liberia's Ministry of Labor, Counselor Charles Gibson, explained that the Labor Ministry is working with the Senate and the House Committee on Labor to criminalize child labor like it has done with human trafficking.

According to him, the Ministry of Labor has set up two teams purposely to begin patrolling nightclubs or

Labor has established three safe homes, one of which will be used to keep children that will be trafficked or found engaged in hazardous jobs.

He further reveals the Ministry will soon launch a massive inspection exercise of all entertainment and business centers in the country to identify where children are performing child labor and engaged in illicit activities such as smoking, drinking and taking in other substances.

The celebration of the World Day against Child Labor was organized by Ministry of Labor under the theme: "Rescue Children From Street Selling and Vulnerability," and graced by students and representatives of local and international partners.

Liberia seems to be losing its children to waywardness due to broken homes and neglect, while thousands of youth that the government brands as disadvantaged are being consumed by drugs imported into the country. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Français

## Lola : 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

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.

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 aller 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



Cllr. Frances Johnson-Allison

d'infrastructure sanitaire don't 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

« 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

## Cummings chaleureusement reçu par les habitants du Maryland

Les 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

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### La menace du ministre Tweah n'est qu'une farce

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

engagement envers le « mouvement pour un vrai changement » au Libéria. Jeunes motards, agriculteurs, commerçantes, 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

visitant l'église, déclarant : "Je remercie Dieu de m'avoir amené dans mon comté natal 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



retour dans son comté natal a suscité une vague de joie, 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

Pleebo Youth Center, marquant la conclusion d'une journée exaltante et inspirante. Diverses 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

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Arvind Subramanian

# L'anti-néolibéralisme comme si les pauvres avaient de l'importance

PROVIDENCE - À l'heure où le néolibéralisme cède rapidement la place à une résurgence de la politique industrielle dans les économies avancées, on ne tient pas compte de la perspective des pays à faible revenu. Comme à la grande époque du néolibéralisme, une forme subtile d'impérialisme intellectuel oriente le débat économique mondial vers les intérêts des grandes puissances.

Si les perspectives des pays en développement étaient prises en considération comme il se doit, le débat sur le néolibéralisme et sur des politiques industrielles similaires à la Loi américaine sur la réduction de l'inflation (IRA) aurait très probablement une allure très différente. Après tout, le consensus néolibéral de Washington qui a pris place dans les années 1980 a apporté des avantages tangibles aux pays les plus pauvres du monde. À l'heure où les pays prennent leurs distances vis à vis de ce dernier, ce retrait pourrait être tout aussi bénéfique si nous tirions les bonnes leçons de l'ère néolibérale.

À l'adhésion des néolibéraux aux marchés et à la mondialisation, on a largement reproché une longue liste de problèmes : la montée des inégalités, la concentration du pouvoir, le déclin de l'industrie, les crises financières récurrentes et même la montée de la politique identitaire. Mais même s'il y a beaucoup à dire sur le passif du néolibéralisme, son bilan comprend également un nombre assez restreint d'atouts à porter à son crédit, en particulier lorsqu'il s'agit des régions les plus pauvres du monde. Comme Dev Patel, Justin Sandefur et moi-même l'avons soutenu, l'ère de l'hyper-mondialisation a permis aux pays en développement d'inverser une tendance sur 200 ans et de rattraper leurs homologues plus riches, ce qui a permis la réduction la plus rapide de la pauvreté de toute l'histoire.

L'essor du commerce mondial a permis d'augmenter les exportations des pays en développement, en leur permettant ainsi d'échapper au sous-développement économique. Si le succès de la Chine ne fait aucun doute, la transformation remarquable de l'Inde offre un exemple tout aussi pertinent du pouvoir de transformation de la mondialisation. Autrefois considérée comme repliée sur elle-même et peu compétitive, l'Inde a enregistré une croissance annuelle moyenne de 13 % (en dollars) de ses exportations - pas seulement de ses services informatiques, mais également de sa production industrielle - sur près de 25 ans. En matière de miracle économique, cela reste difficile à battre. Telle était la puissance de la mondialisation.

On peut s'attendre à ce que les politiciens et les penseurs nativistes de l'Occident se concentrent uniquement sur les effets du néolibéralisme sur leurs propres pays. Mais la volonté des intellectuels progressistes de négliger ses effets positifs sur le bien-être dans les pays en développement est surprenante et déconcertante. Toute forme de cosmopolitisme, qu'il soit guidé par le principe utilitaire de maximisation des avantages pour le plus grand nombre de personnes, ou bien qu'il soit inspiré par l'accent mis par John Rawls sur les avantages pour les moins favorisés, doit reconnaître ce mérite qu'a la mondialisation : elle a apporté une prospérité sans précédent à des milliards de personnes en Afrique subsaharienne et en Asie.

En toute honnêteté, les intellectuels des pays en développement ont également célébré la disparition du néolibéralisme. Bien que leurs raisons de minimiser son impact positif demeurent obscures, ceci pourrait être un exemple de ce que Lant Pritchett définit comme un mimétisme isomorphe, par lequel ils renforcent l'impérialisme intellectuel de leurs homologues des pays riches. La pensée de groupe n'est pas le monopole de l'homme de Davos : il touche également les progressistes du monde entier.

Une dynamique similaire se joue avec la nouvelle adhésion des États-Unis à la politique industrielle. Outre les ramifications politiques internes de l'IRA, une

grande partie de la conversation sur la législation climatique signée par l'administration Biden se concentre sur ses implications dans le domaine de la rivalité sino-américaine, dans les tensions entre les États-Unis et l'Union européenne et dans la politique intérieure de l'UE.

Supposons plutôt que l'IRA ait été évaluée en fonction des besoins d'un pays à revenu faible ou moyen typique, qui est un importateur net d'énergie et qui dépend des combustibles fossiles. Dans ce contexte, tout ce qui importe, c'est son impact sur le coût de l'énergie renouvelable. En encourageant l'innovation technologique et en facilitant les économies d'échelle, l'IRA pourrait faire baisser les prix de l'énergie et élargir l'accès des pays en développement à l'énergie, améliorer leur position budgétaire et renforcer leurs efforts d'atténuation climatique. Mais le rôle de l'IRA en tant que fournisseur de biens publics mondiaux a été négligé.

Nous avons tendance à oublier que la révolution des énergies renouvelables est avant tout une révolution énergétique. Améliorer l'accès des pays à faible revenu aux réseaux énergétiques pourrait permettre d'obtenir d'énormes avantages sociaux. En outre, parce que la plupart des pays en développement subventionnent l'énergie, en particulier l'électricité, les énergies renouvelables pourraient réduire considérablement les coûts, ce qui serait favorable aux finances publiques de ces pays.

Pour accélérer la transition écologique, il est essentiel de réduire le coût des énergies renouvelables. Compte tenu des bilans déjà tendus des grandes économies, il est irréaliste de s'attendre à un financement substantiel du climat pour les pays en développement. Les récents débats sur l'expansion de la capacité de prêt de la Banque mondiale devraient revoir les ambitions à la baisse sur les importants flux financiers, des riches vers les pauvres. La solution pratique consiste à faire en sorte que les énergies renouvelables puissent rivaliser rapidement avec les combustibles fossiles. Seuls des progrès technologiques, soutenus par des politiques industrielles de type IRA, peuvent accélérer ce processus.

Sans une énergie renouvelable compétitive et abordable, la transition verte est vouée à l'échec. Mais pour parvenir à une transition juste, nous devons nous assurer que les nouvelles technologies soient accessibles à tous et ne soient pas uniquement motivées par l'appât du gain du capital privé. Les propres politiques des pays en développement seront essentielles à la réalisation de cet objectif.

Il est instructif de comparer l'approche américaine de la politique industrielle à la stratégie de l'UE (sans doute néolibérale), qui repose sur la tarification du carbone. Contrairement à l'IRA, il n'est pas clair que le plan de l'UE puisse fournir le bien public mondial des énergies renouvelables moins chères. Ce qui est clair, c'est que les taxes carbone à la frontière de l'Europe vont saper les exportations des pays en développement de biens à forte intensité carbone. C'est pourquoi la politique anti-néolibérale américaine est meilleure pour les économies à faible revenu que l'approche européenne.

Bien que les objectifs potentiellement protectionnistes de l'IRA et le risque d'aggravation des tensions entre les États-Unis et la Chine aient peu d'importance pour les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire, toute dégradation de l'ordre économique international aurait de graves conséquences pour les économies les plus pauvres du monde. Pour cette raison, les États-Unis, l'Europe et la Chine doivent parvenir à un certain *modus vivendi* qui permette de subventionner les énergies renouvelables tout en minimisant la charge imposée aux autres. Mais le coût des énergies renouvelables aura lui-même l'impact le plus significatif sur les perspectives des pays en développement.

Le débat politique actuel est marqué par la certitude des échecs du néolibéralisme et par la confusion quant à la suite. Du point de vue des pays en développement, il est toutefois possible de pleurer la mort du néolibéralisme tout en embrassant simultanément son successeur antithétique.

Arvind Subramanian, membre éminent du Centre pour le développement mondial, conseille actuellement le gouvernement du Tamil Nadu en Inde sur la réforme du secteur de l'énergie et la transition verte.

# Meet the lawmakers who endorse Weah's second run

recognizes and encourages partisans' politics for which the CDC was established to be the body through which citizens of similar political views and ideology would seek means to provide political governance to Liberia. Gwaklio noted that they recognize President Weah's efforts since taking office in 2018, commending him for

making significant progress in all areas of the nation. He cited health, education, youth development, gender equality, and social protection, as well as microeconomic growth, as areas President Weah has made progress. He also cited food and fuel prices stability, energy, infrastructure, agriculture and

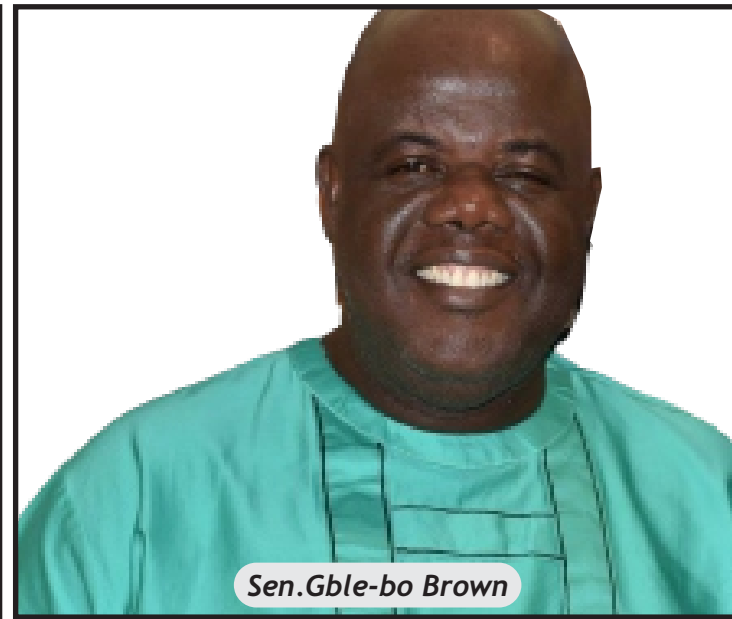
forestry, human rights and the rule of law, national security, social inclusion, and traditional practices. Making opening remarks, CDC national chairman Mulbah Morlu said water supplies in homes have increased, and the CDC is excited to have a leader who has transformed the country within a short period.

For his part, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Cheap told the crowd that the assembling of lawmakers was a sign that President Weah is on the verge of retaining the presidency. "We are from the first branch of government, and we are members and supporters of the CDC who have come to reaffirm

our support to the reelection bid of President Weah," he said. He said over the last five years, the Legislature has been stable, and there has been no removal of speakers and Pro-Temp. He cautioned CDC supporters to hold together and not pay attention to rumors as they gear toward the election.



Sen. Edwin Snowe



Sen. Gble-bo Brown



Sen. Numeni Bartekwa



Sen. Morris Saytumah



Rep. Matthew Zazar



Rep. Vincent Willie



# Lawmakers make 2017 U-turn

Unlike 2017, when almost half of sitting members of the National Legislature announced their rejection of his presidential bid, on

party's policies and programs, but a testament to its unwavering commitment to the Liberian people.

"To all the newcomers who have chosen to join our

In 2017, President Weah campaigned against former vice president Joseph N. Boakai on a clean slate, putting him steps ahead of his opponents. This year, the President is expected to spend much of his campaign speeches defending his performance over the last years, while debunking criticisms from opposition camps.

President Weah will also be expected to defend his administration's handling of the US\$100m cocaine bust, the deaths of auditors, the missing LD16 billion, the US\$25 million mop-up exercise, incessant insecurity, the continuous fall of the Liberian Dollar against the United States Dollar, etc.

However, Mr. Weah seems to be aware of those issues and how members of the opposition would want to use that to weaponize their campaigns.

"The opposition may try to impede our progress, but they shall not prevail," Mr. Weah told jubilant supporters at his party headquarters preempting the opposition's move.

"Let me repeat: The opposition may try to impede our progress, but they shall not prevail. They will witness the strength and unity of the CDC as we march toward an overwhelming triumph. The Liberian people know that our unwavering dedication to their well-being sets us apart, while our opponents resort to empty promises and divisive tactics, we remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver tangible results that transform lives." Mr. Weah added.

"My fellow Liberians, as we approach the upcoming elections, rest assured that your voice will be heard. The will of the people is an unstoppable force, and together, we will shape the future of our great nation. Victory is not just within our grasp; it is inevitable" he added. -*Othello B. Garblah*

mighty Coalition for Democratic Change, I extend a warm welcome. The CDC is not merely a political party; it is a beacon of hope and progress for all Liberians. Within our ranks, there is space for every citizen, regardless of their party affiliation. Together, we will build a stronger and more prosperous Liberia.

Our accomplishments during my first term have been significant. We have transformed the face of our nation through infrastructure development, empowered our youth to become the driving force of change, and achieved economic stability that has positively impacted the lives of countless Liberians. These achievements are a testament to the resilience and determination of our people." President Weah said of his administration amidst cheers.

Although Weah, 56, continues to boast of his administration's achievements over the years, claiming to have achieved more in the last five years than all previous regimes before him combined, he remained under heavy criticism for poor performances too backed by damning human rights reports, huge unemployment, and economic hardship.



Tuesday, June 13, about 56% of the current legislature (54 out of 103) endorsed the re-election bid of incumbent President George Weah.

The 56 lawmakers are from both the House of Representatives and Senate majority of whom are members of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

Their endorsement comes on the eve of the National Elections Commission (NEC) declaring the opening of candidates' nominations ahead of the October 10, presidential and legislative elections.

President Weah seizing the moment on Tuesday told his supporters that they can now speak of victory in the 2023 poll with confidence and conviction.

"Let us now speak of victory with confidence and conviction," he said, adding "The fact that the entire membership of the Legislative Caucus of the Mighty Congress for Democratic Change, representing a significant percentage of the membership of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, is standing behind my leadership and candidacy in the upcoming elections, fills me with immense pride."

He further described their endorsement as not just a seal of approval for his

# Meet the lawmakers

By Lewis S. Teh

Over 50 Senators and Representatives have jointly endorsed President George Manneh Weah's re-election bid ahead of the 10 October 2023 polls. On the list of lawmakers that have endorsed President Weah are members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Legislative Caucus. From Montserrado County, Weah has attracted Representatives Moses Acarous Gray, Dixon Seboe, Solomon C. George, Frank Foko, Jimmy Smith, Thomas Fallah, Abu Kamara, Edward P. Flomo, Abraham Conneh, and Goerge Samah. Grand Kru County lawmakers who endorsed Mr. Weah are Fornati Koffa, Albert Chie, and Numeni Bartekwa.

From Sinoe County, he has Crayton Duncan, Augustine Chea, Samson Weah, and Matthew Zazar.

From Maryland County, President Weah has received the support of Gble-bo Brown, P. Mike Jury, Bhofal Chambers, and Isaac Roland.

Grand Bassa County lawmakers backing President Weah are Mary Kawah, Matthew Joe, and Vincent

Mannah Johnson, Edwin Snowe, and Finda Lassana. For Nimba County, President Weah has Prince Togkpa, Johnson Gwaklio, Gonpue Gargon, and Joseph Sewanlie. From River Gee County, he receives the backing of Francis Young and Alexander Poe.

River Cess lawmakers backing the president include Rosannah Shack; while from Gbarpolu County, he has Kanio Wesso, and Alfred Kaiwu. For Margibi County, he has Emmanuel Nuquay, Clarence Garr, Ivar Jones, and Torpo Weh.

From Lofa County, he has Mariamu Fofana, Julie Wiah, and Joseph Jallah. Bong County lawmakers supporting President Weah's re-election are Marvin Cole, and Edward Karfiah.

The headquarters of the CDC was a place of attraction when the lawmakers from both the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives pledged their unwavering support to the re-election bid of President Weah.



Willie.

From Grand Cape Mount County, President Weah has Simone Taylor, Mabu Sonni, and Emerson Kamara.

Grand Gedeh County lawmakers who support President Weah's re-election are Zoe Pennue and Marshall Dennis. From Bomi County, he has Haja Siryon, Morris Saytumah,

On behalf of the lawmakers, Nimba County Electoral District #9 Representative Johnson Gwaklio read the statement endorsing Mr. Weah's re-election bid. Gwaklio said the Liberian political system, in keeping with Article 77(a) of the Constitution

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Starts from page 6

## Campaign to restore Ja'neh's rights

unconstitutional.

The River Gee lawmaker said due process was never accorded the formal Associates Justice. "The Supreme Court itself in its intervention was wrong. I

mean the Supreme Court was dead wrong," said Senator Wesseh.

He added that the matter reached the ECOWAS Court which in its ruling had disgraced Liberia for doing

everything wrongly.

"Disappointingly, we have not been able to live [up] to the ruling of that court and pay the damages and restore the rights of Justice Ja'neh," he noted.

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## ECOWAS Court is a toothless bulldog

By Lewis S. Teh  
The chairman emeritus of the ex-ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) Chief Cyril Allen describes the Abuja-based ECOWAS Court of

complaining that he was being denied his benefits as a former President.  
But commenting on the ruling here Tuesday, June 13, when he appeared on a local radio station, Chief Cyril

made former President Taylor dishonorably discharged.

He says the Legislature of Liberia didn't even impeach Taylor, arguing that the former president, instead, turned power over to his successor (the late Vice President Moses Blah) and installed him in office as President, to complete his term so, he was not dishonorably discharged as claimed by the Court.

According to him, Mr. Taylor, as a former President of Liberia is entitled to his benefits like any other ex-President except somebody wants to rule differently in their thinking.

"This is the same puppet regime; the ECOWAS Court is a toothless bulldog that has no means of implementing decision", Chief Allen reacts.

He says the Court's ruling is an intellectual exercise that its leadership goes through, using said process as a means of collecting money from the ECOWAS Fund to keep themselves up and pretend like they are working.

He further argues the Court has had absolutely no case that has produced



Justice as a toothless bulldog that has absolutely no history of implementing its so-called conventional decisions.

Late last week, the Court in Abuja, Nigeria ruled against jailed former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor. Mr. Taylor had taken the Government of Liberia before the regional court,

Allen, Taylor's confidant, described the ECOAWS Court of Justice as a "kangaroo court" established by puppet regimes in Africa to serve their colonial masters.

He notes that the complexity in the case is straightforward, arguing that there weren't any legal rulings in a Liberian court that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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