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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Continental News

Mothers died trying to save children - Nigeria boat survivor

Among the more than 100 people who drowned earlier this week when a boat capsized on the River Niger in central Nigeria were many parents trying to save their children, a survivor tells the

remained behind trying to carry their children - some of them had three or four children.

"There were also fathers who died the same way trying to save their kids," he says. Had he tried to help save them too, he would have drowned, he says.

especially during the rainy season between April and October. Most of the incidents happen in the central Niger state and neighbouring areas. Three years ago in Kebbi state at least 50 people died after their boat capsized. There have also been other deadly boat accidents recently in Kano in the north, and the southern states of Lagos and Anambra, where 76 people died in October last year. Despite the dangers, for many communities that live on the banks of the River Niger, it is the only form of travel they know.

Most of them, like Mr Alhassan have made the journey countless times in the past.

He was sitting at the head of the boat this time, he recalls. The boat had left in darkness just before 03:00GMT, some of the children had dozed off in their parents' arms and were carried on board. But five minutes after they took off, he heard a loud crack that split the boat in two, he says.

The police say the boat capsized after part of the vessel collapsed, causing it to flood. But the Emir of Patigi - the local traditional ruler - told journalists that river waves overtook the boat and forced it to crash into a tree that had washed into the river.

In Ebo, a community in Kwara state which lost 61 people in the tragedy, many of the young survivors.



Mohammed Alhassan had crossed the River Niger countless times before this tragedy

BBC. Mohammed Alhassan, 22, was one of about 300 people travelling on the overcrowded wooden boat in Patigi in Kwara State. Many were returning from a wedding. But not Mr Alhassan - he was returning from a market.

He shows no emotion as he returns to the bank of the river where he had managed to swim to safety. It is low tide when I meet him. The river is still and his gaze is fixed on the horizon.

But as he remembers the parents who drowned with their children, including his sister and her eight-year-old son, the tears come flooding down his face. "The women

So he swam to safety, but as he did so, he saw the horrifying scene as mothers and fathers sank along with their children as they tried to save them. He is thankful he survived but still traumatised from seeing all those people die, especially the children.

Close to 300 people were travelling in the wooden boat when it capsized on Monday, authorities said.

Travelling across the Niger, Nigeria's longest river, can be perilous in some areas. The wooden boats are often overcrowded, there are not enough life jackets and some of the journey is made in the dark, so accidents are not uncommon

Zimbabwe breaks a record with its tobacco sales

Zimbabwe has produced a record amount of tobacco this year, with 263,000 tonnes sold so far this season.

The agriculture ministry said that 85% of the production came from small-scale farmers, many of whom were settled on land controversially seized more than two decades ago from white farmers under a policy to address colonial era land grabs.

For the government this is a vindication of the controversial land seizures.

Zimbabwe is Africa's largest producer of tobacco and exports to China, the Middle East and Europe. Good rains and better financing helped farmers to achieve the record output.

According to the tobacco marketing authority, the output is expected to rise

further as farmers continue with deliveries to the market. Tobacco is a vital source of foreign currency and has raked in close to \$800m (£630m) this year.

But it comes at a heavy price to the environment as many farmers use wood to cure the tobacco

which can lead to deforestation.

Tobacco - when smoked - can increase the risk of serious health conditions, including several types of cancer. Despite the health risks revenue from cigarette sales globally is rising driven by demand in parts of Asia and Africa.



Tobacco is a vital crop for Zimbabwe's economy

South African Police Receive Chinese Training

South Africa's police minister, Bheki Cele, and a delegation of senior police officials recently returned from a visit to China, where they discussed strengthening law enforcement collaboration. "The ministry is confident that the country's crime problems can be better dealt with when we also step up smart policing. This is why the country is exploring all avenues in this regard including cooperation with Chinese law enforcement to assist in technological advancement," police ministry spokesperson Lirandzu Themba told VOA.

According to a police statement, the delegation's five-day trip included visits to police stations in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, and engagements at China People's Public Security

the collaboration to deal with violent crimes in South Africa through technological interventions, and the safety of nationals residing in both countries also featured high on the agenda," the statement said.

Wang will be working with South Africa on issues including "Belt and Road security, crackdown on transnational crimes and law enforcement capacity building," reported Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

South Africa continues to struggle with violent crime. In the first three months of this year, there were 6,289 murders and the country has among the highest rates of rape in the world. Assaults and robberies have also increased compared to the same time period in 2022. The South African trip comes in the wake of a new report that details growing police cooperation between China and many African countries. "Between 2018 and 2021 over 2,000 African police



University, an elite training institution.

"Members from SAPS (South African Police Service) specialized units such as the National Intervention Unit (NIU) and Special Task Force (STF) recently received combat and educational training and graduated from the university," the statement noted.

Minister Cele also met with China's minister of public security, Wang Xiaohong. High on the agenda was "the establishment of a formal and rigorous policing exchange program of personnel capabilities and training between the two countries."

The two also discussed security preparations for the upcoming summit of the BRICS group of emerging nations. The summit is being held in Johannesburg in August and will be attended by China's president, Xi Jinping.

"Environmental crimes,

and law enforcement personnel received training in China," said the report, published last month by The Africa Center for Strategic Studies. China has supplied African countries with police equipment and also built police training schools, it said.

"China's expanding public security frontlines and tactics in Africa have triggered debates about how much sovereignty African countries surrender by offering Chinese security agencies a highly permissive environment to craft a growing mix of security mechanisms within African countries," the study said. South Africa's ruling African National Congress received Chinese support during its fight against apartheid. The report's author, Paul Nantulya, said that many within the ANC share a basic "anti-imperialist stance."

Asked if South Africa's democratic system doesn't put it at odds with a one-party state like China when it comes to policing, Nantulya noted the ANC favors closer ties with China. 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.

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COMMENTARY

By Eric Posner

The Trump Indictment and America's Political Order

CHICAGO - The indictment of a former president is unprecedented in the United States. But Americans - and the world - should get used to it. It was only a matter of time before a US president or former president found himself in legal jeopardy.

After all, in 1999, President Bill Clinton was held in contempt of court for what was essentially obstruction of justice, including lying under oath (he barely avoided being indicted for perjury). Similarly, Clinton's two predecessors, George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, were implicated in an illegal scheme to trade arms for hostages with Iran, though neither was prosecuted.

Richard Nixon almost certainly would have been prosecuted for Watergate-related crimes and bribery after he resigned from office, had he not been pardoned by Gerald Ford. And some people believe that George W. Bush or his subordinates should have been prosecuted for crimes related to their execution of the "War on Terror."

Still, the normalization of the idea that a president could be prosecuted is only a few decades old. The US founders did not expect the executive branch to police itself, so they lodged the impeachment power in Congress. But three things have changed the impeachment calculus since the founding era.

First, as the party system developed, presidents eventually became the de facto heads of their parties. Second, the presidency became enormously powerful over the course of the twentieth century, creating new risks that a president would use his administrative power to suppress political dissenters and partisan challengers. And, third, as the executive branch became bureaucratized and professionalized, many began to imagine that federal law enforcement could operate independently of the president and his aides - that it could investigate them or resist their pressure to investigate political opponents.

But this transformation has created problems of its own. Because the president appoints the head of the Department of Justice, all federal law enforcement decisions can ultimately be attributed to him and his party. This means that any criminal trial of a former president or someone who seeks to be a president (Trump is both, of course), is unlike an ordinary criminal trial and more akin to a political contest, a kind of proxy campaign.

President Joe Biden and his attorney general, Merrick Garland, have thus taken pains to distance themselves from the current investigations of Donald Trump. But Trump and his allies have reminded everyone that Biden appointed Garland and that Garland appointed Special Counsel Jack Smith. Moreover, everyone knows that the prosecution is politically convenient for the Democrats, even though it also appears to be well-intentioned and fully justified.

The prosecution must thus prove not only that Trump committed crimes, but that the decision to prosecute is beyond reproach. To assuage any skepticism on the part of jurors, the judge, or the public, prosecutors will bend over backwards to make a strong case and give the defendants the benefit of the doubt on

procedural questions. We are already seeing this in the unusually detailed indictment that Smith released to the public last week. In the interest of transparency, the special counsel has sacrificed some of the element of surprise that prosecutors normally enjoy.

To counter the prosecution's effort to make the trial as orderly, fair, and decorous as possible, Trump's lawyers will try to turn it into a circus, seizing on every opportunity to impugn the government's motives and, above all, to slow things down. Do not expect a tightly plotted legal drama on the model of *Twelve Angry Men*. We are more likely to get "Waiting for Godot" with elements of *My Cousin Vinny*.

Delays serve Trump's interest, because, as the trial drags on, his lawyers will argue that the proceedings interfere with his presidential campaign. Any attempt by prosecutors to speed things up will be met with cries of unfairness. In the unlikely event that Trump is convicted before the primary elections for the Republican Party nomination begin, or even the general elections, Trump's lawyers will argue that he should not be forced to campaign from a jail cell, as that will interfere with the people's right to elect a president of their choice.

While the socialist Eugene Debs did run for the presidency from prison in 1920, he did not belong to a major party and would not have won even if he had been free. The same cannot be said for Trump.

Indeed, let's imagine that Trump is elected - hardly an unlikely outcome for a leading Republican candidate who is challenging an unpopular octogenarian incumbent. A criminal trial for an elected president (also unprecedented) could be blocked by the courts if they are worried that it would interfere with the president-elect's ability to prepare for the presidency or ability to serve. And if he is convicted and sentenced, what then? Would the nuclear football be handed to Trump through the bars of his cell?

Most likely, the courts would suspend his sentence (or the trial, if it is still not yet complete) until the completion of his term in office. That would virtually guarantee that Trump, with nothing to lose but the prospect of old age in a prison cell, would spend his second term using every means available to prevent his sentence from being carried out. Biden would need to consider pardoning Trump or commuting his sentence to avoid a constitutional crisis and allow the lesser evil of a second Trump term in which he merely continues to corrupt the presidency and mismanage the country.

The machinery of the rule of law is a poor fit for electoral politics. Unless Trump's star fades among Republicans, the trial could end up helping him or further damaging the justice system. Worse, these kinds of legalized political contests could become a regular feature of politics long after Trump has left the scene.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of *How Antitrust Failed Workers* (Oxford University Press, 2021).



Lord, our village da real hustle ground ooh

Dear Father:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No, hustler is allowed here again-period!

OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

The Fertilizer Conundrum

NEW DELHI - The global food system is broken. Largely dominated by multinational corporations, it enables and encourages unsustainable and unhealthy production and consumption patterns and generates enormous waste across all stages of production and distribution.

The global food system also produces massive greenhouse-gas emissions, thereby inflicting substantial ecological damage, and deprives small-scale farmers in many countries of secure and viable livelihoods. Perhaps worst of all, food access remains profoundly unequal, causing extreme hunger to increase rather than decline.

Addressing this multifaceted dysfunction represents a huge and complex undertaking. Any potential solution will likely involve difficult trade-offs, given the apparent tension between responding to short-term price increases and implementing long-term strategies for more sustainable production and equitable distribution.

The global fertilizer shortage is a case in point. Prices soared in 2021, owing to the rising cost of natural gas, an essential input for nitrogen-based fertilizers, and continued to skyrocket in 2022 after the war in Ukraine triggered economic sanctions on Russia, a major fertilizer exporter. But it has become increasingly clear that companies exploited this crisis to raise prices by more than the increase in costs. A recent study by GRAIN and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy finds that the profits of the world's nine largest fertilizer companies increased from around \$14 billion in 2020 to \$28 billion in 2021 - and then soared to \$49 billion in 2022.

It is important to note that the rise in fertilizer prices was not due to higher sales volumes. Rather, the price increases reflected "greedflation": corporations leveraged supply shocks to increase their profit margins dramatically - from roughly 20% of sales in 2020 to 36% in 2022.

While fertilizer prices have declined somewhat since the start of the year, they remain exorbitantly high for most small farmers around the world. Farmers in predominantly low-income countries currently must pay nearly three times what they paid just a couple of years ago to fertilize their crops. As smallholder farmers sink deeper into debt, many are forced to reduce their fertilizer usage, which affects yields and threatens domestic food security. Persistently high fertilizer prices, the United Nations warned in late 2022, threaten to turn the current "crisis of affordability" into a "crisis of availability."

To prevent further disruptions to food supply chains, the governments of India, Kenya, and the Philippines have increased farmer subsidies, whereas the European Union has adopted measures to encourage domestic fertilizer production. But the use of chemical fertilizers is itself associated with major ecological problems, posing risks to sustainable agriculture and the planet. In addition to accounting for 2.4% of all greenhouse-gas emissions, chemical fertilizers are responsible for soil degradation, ozone depletion, biodiversity loss, and air pollution.

Given these risks, governments must avoid knee-jerk responses that will likely undermine ecological sustainability in the long run. Instead, policymakers must subsidize alternative agroecological technologies based on practices like crop rotation, natural fertilizers, and pesticides, which could help reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers while maintaining high yields. This approach would not only reduce costs for farmers, but also mitigate the environmental damage caused by nitrogen fertilizers. Moreover, these alternative technologies already exist. Although viable, they are the Cinderellas of agricultural policy, waiting for their immense potential to be recognized.

To be sure, this transition should not be pursued too rapidly. When Sri Lanka abruptly banned imports of chemical fertilizers in 2021, the result was a dramatic reduction in domestic food production and acute food shortages. But a growing body of evidence suggests that carefully implemented agroecological approaches could significantly boost productivity and soil quality and could be scaled up as needed.

Unfortunately, most private investment and foreign aid, both from public and private donors, continues to bet on increased use of chemical fertilizers, rather than channeling more resources toward agroecological farming. For example, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), founded in 2006 with the support of major foundations, advocates an industrial model of agriculture that involves extensive use of high-yielding seed varieties in conjunction with reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Independent studies, as well as evaluations commissioned by AGRA itself, have found that the organization is far from meeting its goals of doubling yields and incomes for millions of smallholder African farmers. Meanwhile, farmers across the continent are increasingly vulnerable as they become more dependent on chemical fertilizers and other purchased inputs whose prices have soared.

To tackle the environmental challenges facing our world and mitigate the worst effects of climate change, we must reorient the global food system toward a more sustainable and equitable path. This requires transforming many areas of food production, particularly the highly oligopolistic markets for agricultural inputs and crops. By reducing our reliance on chemical fertilizers, we could turn the current food crisis into a genuine opportunity.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a former member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Houston International Trade Development Council launches Educational Scholarship Program NPA

Hon. Diana Nebo, Managing Director National Port Authority
The Houston International Trade Development Council

Texas, 77072. "As President of HITDC and in partnership with the NPA Scholarship Committee, we are excited to be a partner with NPA in this important endeavor to

program on behalf of the NPA. The Scholarship program is open to Liberian students and/or students of Liberian descent (residing in Liberia at the time of applying for a scholarship) pursuing a post-secondary education at a U.S. or Liberian College or University and/or NPA employees seeking to further their education.

Honorable Diana Nebo, Managing Director of the NPA states "As the NPA strives to help educate and train the Liberian workforce of tomorrow, we believe the NPA Scholarship Program will strengthen technical skills in port management, logistics, administration, leadership development that will also help to improve the quality of life for Liberians. We are excited to partner with HITDC and look forward to a fruitful relationship to help lift Liberia."

Honorable Cynthia L. Blandford, Managing Director of Blandford Thompson Consulting, LLC., states that "it is an honor and privilege to be a part of this exciting initiative and to have the NPA as a partner and client to help further their vision to be the Maritime Gateway to Liberia and the Gateway to Liberia's Economy where their Strategic Vision is to Become a Premier Port Authority in the West African Region. We believe this scholarship program will help strengthen the NPA as a national treasure, and we look forward to the future together."



(HITDC), in collaboration with the National Port Authority of Liberia (NPA) Scholarship Committee, are launching the NPA Educational Scholarship program soft-rollout fundraising campaign to help raise funds for academic scholarships for deserving Liberian students and/or NPA employees to help build their capacity and strengthen their technical skills. A reception will be held with the NPA of Liberia's Managing Director Honorable Diana Nebo and her distinguished delegation from Liberia, including the Minister of Commerce and Industry Honorable Mawine Diggs, on Friday, June 23, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at The International Trade Center - Houston, 11110 Bellaire Blvd., Houston,

assist in the building up of NPA - a national treasure of Liberia - by helping to educate Liberians with academic scholarships in Business Management, Administration, Leadership, Science Technology Engineering or Math (STEM), in Liberal Arts, and/or Port Management, where the fundraising goal for 2023-2024 is to help raise \$70,000," stated Mr. Val Thompson, NPA Scholarship Administrator. The National Port Authority of Liberia Scholarship Program (NPASP) was established in 2022 in collaboration with the National Port Authority of Liberia (NPA), and HITDC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Houston, Texas. HITDC will be responsible for managing the scholarship

LFA distributes materials to clubs in Grand Cape Mount

By Naneka Hoffman
The Liberia Football Association (LFA) has presented materials to 14 third-division clubs and 10 community league clubs in Grand Cape Mount County. The distribution which was carried out recently was part of LFA's ongoing distribution of football equipment to clubs and subcommittees. LFA president Mustapha Raji led a delegation to Cape Mount that included Executive Committee members, Tickly D. Monkoney, Kelvin Bayoh, and Cyrus Yeanay. Each club in the third division received five balls and an agility ladder, while each club in the community

league received five balls and a set of bibs. LFA also presented 10 balls, one substitution board, one set of AR flags, a set of goal pole nets, and a set of corner flag poles to each of the three sub-committees in the county. Grand Cape Mount County sub-association comprises three sub-committees, which include the Common Wealth sub-committee, the Garwula sub-committee, and the Tewor sub-committee. "This is the first step, to provide these pieces of equipment to you [grassroots clubs] so that you can know that you are part of the LFA and remain committed to the process,"

said LFA president Mustapha Raji. The LFA Boss said there is a need to provide support not just to the senior, first, second, and women's teams, but also to the grassroots teams because they need empowerment. The Liberia Football Association President explained that following the executive committee's approval to purchase more football equipment, more materials would be provided to clubs. The LFA delegation's trip to Cape Mount was also intended to engage with local authorities regarding the installation of artificial turf in the county.

Starts from page 11

Liberia making significant effort

Department notes. The report notes that as reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Liberia, and traffickers exploit victims from Liberia abroad, revealing that trafficking within the country is more prevalent than transnational trafficking, and the majority of victims are children. "Traffickers recruit and exploit most trafficking victims within the country's borders in domestic servitude, forced begging, sex trafficking, or forced labor in street vending, gold and alluvial diamond

mines, and on small-scale rubber plantations. Traffickers typically operate independently and are commonly family members who promise impoverished relatives a better life for their children or promise young women a better life for themselves." It says they take the children or women to urban areas and exploit them in forced labor in street vending, domestic service, or sex trafficking, and that those involved are also often well-respected community members who exploit the "foster care" system common across West Africa.

Starts from page 6

ECC, Ireland partner to

Bloh at the same time commends public officials who have resigned their positions because they wish to either contest for elected offices or to be active during the campaign period.

However, he says his attention has been drawn by active involvement of the Chair of the Governance Commission in active politics in contravention of Section 5.3.4 of the Act that established the Commission.

"It states that commissioners must maintain a non-partisan stance to prevent the commission's agenda and processes from being influenced by political biases", he explains.

He adds that more troubling, his conduct also violates the Code of Conduct for Public Officials (Section 5.1.3) which clearly prohibits public officials from engaging in political activities while in office, and if nothing is done to stop this unlawful behavior, it could be carried out by other public officials when campaign

starts. He says support from the Irish government will contribute to the work of the ECC in providing an independent voice on the electoral process without fear or favor.

Also speaking, the senior governance programme advisor at the Embassy of Ireland, Good E. Kolubah, says Ireland is proud and delighted to continue its partnership with the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) on the project.

Mr. Kolubah notes the aims of the project are to promote increased civic awareness amongst youth and women, especially first-time voters, and increase collaboration between citizens and the security sector to improve electoral security, and create a safe space for all citizens, especially women and youth, to actively participate and contribute to democratic processes in Liberia. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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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 FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "AMOS ISAIAH."
COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME 00010944
THE PETITIONER BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL FILED A PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF HER NAME FROM GODFREY WISSEH TO "AMOS ISAIAH".
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 5TH DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2023.
COURT SEAL: [Signature of J. Kennedy Peabody]
HIS HONOUR J. KENNEDY PEABODY RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT
REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 06-023 PAGE(S) 00010944
REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.
June 2023 11:00

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ECC, Ireland partner to consolidate Liberia's democracy

By Bridgett Milton

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) in partnership with the Irish government launches Deeping

tied around four distinct yet interrelated pillars: citizens' participation, electoral integrity and electoral security.

"Under the first pillar, the

the fourth pillar highlights consultations on electoral reforms."

He notes that on October 10th this year, Liberia will be conducting its fourth consecutive general and presidential elections since the end of the civil war in 2003, and the cost of the elections will be largely provided by government and international partners.

"The management of the election will be done by the NEC without substantial external logistical support from the international community while electoral security will be the full responsibility of internal security agencies (LNP and LDEA)".

Cllr. Bloh stresses that security agencies must be perceived as neutral and demonstrate non-partisan posture in dealing with all political actors, including women.

He notes that electoral violence in many instances is a calculated attempt by individuals or political parties to instill fear and intimidation in their opponents with the sole purpose of influencing the outcome of election.

He says when this happens, it undermines the doctrine and principle of fair competition that is required for the conduct of any election.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 05

Buu-Yao citizens celebrate road project

By Lincoln G. Peters

Buu-Yao (District #4) Nimba County was a scene of intense exhilaration recently when citizens of the district celebrated the dedication of over 25 kilometers of paved road, linking farms to market and providing easy access to nearby towns and villages.

Chanting "Bad Road medicine," they revealed that prior to the dedication, the district had been lagging behind in many developmental activities due to deplorable road conditions.

They said the dedication is an extension of President Weah's 'Bad Road Medicine' campaign initiated through the group, "Nimba for Weah" that is focused on ensuring the re-

Meanwhile, Mr. Luanupea urged President Weah to continue the road pavement in the district by rehabilitating damaged bridges and farm-to-market roads in other parts of the district.

"While we welcome wholeheartedly the road pavement, we want President Weah to also help with rehabilitation of the bridges along the road. These bridges are at the point of collapse. If these bridges collapsed, we will end up facing the same problem we had with roads. So, we are begging you Mr. President to please fix our bridges", Luanupea pleaded on behalf of the district.

At the same time, they recommended and pleaded with the President to ensure that a son of the district, Mr. Peter Weatoe represents Buu-Yao District#4 on



and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy here.

Speaking at the official launch on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Monrovia, Chairperson Cllr. Oscar Bloh said the project, which runs for one year (May 2023-June 2024) is valued at US\$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars).

He says the grant compliments a current electoral project of the ECC funded by USAID.

Cllr. Bloh explains the project implementation is

focus of the intervention will be the provision of civic and voter education to first-time voters to enable them to make informed decisions; the second pillar deals with promoting electoral integrity through the deployment of three hundred (300) observers on election day; pillar three focuses on building citizens' trust in the police through the conduct of police-community dialogues; police are under-resourced in terms of personnel, logistics, and finance for operations, while

Opposition envious of Weah leadership

-Speaker Chambers

By Lewis S. Teh

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers says the opposition block in Liberia is envious of the ruling Coalition government under the stewardship of President George Weah.

"Mr. President, over the years we have seen that your leadership is enviable by individuals that are desperate to succeed you", he expresses.

Speaker Chambers made the observation recently at the headquarters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change in Congo Town when 56 CDC lawmakers endorsed President Weah's bid for second term come October 10th.

"Having seen the great work that your government under your astute leadership has carried out over the past five years, we the members of the legislature have thought it wise to support you in your endeavors as President",

"Dr. Bhofal Chambers, we are humble today to be here expressing to the world our collective intent to ensure that Shepherd Weah leads us to noble heights."

According to the Speaker, since the ascendancy of the Weah- Taylor administration, the country has made significant progress and the CDC remains a party of hope for the downtrodden.

"This party is the hope that brings restoration; we are prepared to ably lead this

country under the watchful eyes of President Weah" he adds.

The CDC lawmakers say they are resolved in ensuring that President Weah gets one round victory in October.

He calls on citizens, including partisans and supporters of the CDC to maintain the peace ahead of the elections, adding "We must all join to ensure that Liberia becomes peaceful and moves to higher heights." Editing by Jonathan Browne



Speaker Chambers



election of the President.

In appreciation, a prominent citizen of the district, Joe Luanupea, said the road paved by President Weah serves as a complete emancipation of the district, thereby resuscitating its social and economic potential.

"With the pavement of this road, we can now flourish in all of our activities as a district. Our products that used to be destroyed because we couldn't transport them to markets can now be easily taken to our markets to sell. This road will bring economic and social boost to our district", Mr. Luanupea said.

He lauded President Weah for the development through road connectivity, underscoring that the President's intervention is a complete revival of the district and its people.

He promised that the effort will not go unrewarded on October 10, 2023, pledging support of the district to ensure the re-election bid of President Weah is a resounding success.

the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) ticket in the October 10th Presidential and Legislative elections.

According to them, Mr. Weatoe has been instrumental in the upkeep and development of the district in so many ways.

During the ceremony, he donated three motorcycles to the district. In the same vein, he was hailed for his support towards the health and social welfare of his people.

The chairperson for "Nimba for Weah", Mr. Shedrack Thomas Dokie revealed that the road project is an initiative of President Weah's Pro-Poor Agenda to ensure that every part of the country is connected.

Chairman Dokie thanked the people of Buu-Yao district for their appreciation of the President's gesture and urged them to ensure their promise to re-elect Mr. Weah becomes a reality, as they stand to benefit more untold development. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dorcas Faith Foundation to launch in 3 counties

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Dorcas Faith Foundation Inc, a local group, is expected to launch vocational

the need of skill empowerment, to strengthen self-resilience and sustainability for neglected youth in society.

She said the launch of

them to advocate for their participation in society.

"Zogos acquiring these skills will help in their collective development and rebuilding themselves for jobs and improving livelihoods."

She urged would-be beneficiaries to commit themselves to these trainings that will enlighten their careers, as family members will depend on them to make use of skills acquired.

Mother Beyah described as worrisome increase of At-risk youth despite measures by the Liberia National Police (LNP) to get them off the streets in its effort to minimize crimes across Liberia.

Meanwhile, Dorcas Faith Foundation Inc. established in 2018, as a humanitarian organization located in Snow Hill, Supermarket community along Japan Freeway has been offering services such as catering, pastry, event decoration, cosmetology, soap making, Tie & Dye, tailoring, computer studies, and arts & crafts, respectively empowering thousands of young Liberians. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



training program in three counties in Liberia, namely; Montserrado, Bong and Lofa to support rehabilitation of disadvantaged youths.

Founder Mother Esther L. Beyah, stressed the need to provide opportunities for youth, who have been astray in an effort to reintegrate them in society for a better future.

Mother Beyah emphasized

vocational training will ensure that young people, especially the disadvantaged stay in education as well as help in providing employment while guiding them to build their career.

Mother Beyah reiterated that vocational skills will improve women's economic outlook to strengthen their voices as a way of enabling

Disabilities Commission highlights critical issues at UN conference

National Commission on Disabilities Chairperson Amb.

Daintown Domah Pay-Bayee is making a case for the Liberian disabled community at the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The conference is taking place in the United States.

The 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is from the 14th - 16th of June 2022

Amb. Daintown Domah Pay-Bayee described the session theme as critical having realized as a country that Sexual Reproductive Health cannot be achieved if all Liberians, regardless of being with or without disabilities, are not granted the tools to control and decide over their bodies and sexuality as a matter of legitimate human rights.

She disclosed that they validated the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Training Manual

for people with disabilities (PWDs) under the CAD-L Project.

"We also participated in the first-ever National Conference on SRHR in Liberia and came up with Position Statement," she said. She noted that it was a joint effort with Amplifying Rights Network (ARN), the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), and other SHR actors to have a space for jointly promoting and popularizing SHR accurate information free of stigma and discrimination for greater freedom of choice about their sexual health.

She said every first Tuesday of a Month is a Women with Disabilities (WWDs) at the

Commission where they discuss issues around SRHR and other issues affecting them. She pointed out that they have made progress, but there is still more to do.

Madam Pay-Bayee added that Liberia is seeking support to conduct a national survey to gather aggregated data for the economic and social empowerment of PWDs. According to Pay-Bayee, the need to harmonize national policies and strategies became an overall priority of the Government immediately upon the passage of the Act establishing the National Commission on Disabilities (NCD) in 2005 as an autonomous agency.



BWI shortlisted amongst 10 best schools in the world

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

Liberia's premiere technical school, Institute Booker Washington Institute (BWI) in Kakata, Margibi County has been shortlisted among ten best high schools in the world by the T4 Education and World's Best School Prizes.

BWI which got qualified from the first three stages of the T4 Education and World's Best School Prizes is set to participate in the final round of the competition which will see five schools being qualified as the World's best five schools.

Schools qualifying amongst the finalists will receive US\$50,000 each. The rationale behind the prizes by the institution is to share the best practices of the schools that are transforming the lives of students and making a real

the world's Best School Prizes 2023 and notes that Schools across the globe will learn from the story of this trailblazing Liberian institution and the culture it has cultivated.

BWI, a Liberian government technical secondary school, is empowering students with the necessary skills and knowledge to break the chains of poverty and unemployment.

Every year, over 60% of the graduates of the school successfully launch their own businesses, secure employment or move into tertiary education.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN on the campus of the BWI during a celebration on the day of the announcement of the award, Vice Principal for Students Services, Foday K. Roger, said there are many things that qualified the institution, including learning environment, kind of education



difference in their respective communities. The prizes were established in 2022 by T4 Education which is also a digital media platform.

A certificate signed by the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the World's Best School Prizes, informing BWI about its selection in a category that also has about five schools from India forming part of the process, reads: "This is to certify that Booker Washington Institute has been shortlisted as one of the top 10 schools selected for the 2023 World Best School Prizes."

Vikas Pota, Founder and CEO of the Prizes said: "The schools shortlisted for the World's Best School Prizes, no matter where they can be found or what they teach, all have one thing in common. They all have a strong school culture. Their leaders know how to attract and motivate exceptional educators, inspire change and build excellent teaching and learning environments."

He congratulates the Booker Washington Institute on being named in the top 10 shortlists for

provided and impact it is making on global society, including Liberia.

He said the institution which currently offers associate of arts and associate of science degrees as an affiliation of the University of Liberia provides post-secondary professional diploma programs, has been appointed as the molding center of TVET in Liberia.

He said this means that anyone who wants to teach at any TVET school in the country must make sure to graduate from the BWI.

He noted that products of BWI are actually impacting Liberia and the world at large.

Mr. Roher recalled that about six months ago, BWI Principal Atty. Dr. Harris Fumba Tarnue was awarded the African Legend of Education Award which is a continental.

At that event, according to him, international educational institutions announced that they were going to open entry and set criteria for schools to participate and the backgrounds of participating schools would be investigated, an opportunity BWI took advantage of. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Accusé d'être gay, Cummings dément et promet de relancer l'économie

L'opposant Alexander B. Cummings a nié les rumeurs selon lesquelles il est gay et souhaite soutenir les droits des homosexuels s'il est élu président du Libéria en octobre.

reprocher d'être corrompu, ou d'avoir tué pendant la guerre, ils trouveront ou essaieront par tous les moyens de mentir sur vous», a-t-il déclaré.

Il a dit qu'il n'a pas l'intention de soutenir les homosexuels.

Malgré ce démenti, la plupart

au sud-est du Libéria, d'où il est originaire.

Au cours de la tournée, le chef de la CPP est apparu sur l'une des stations de radio communautaires locales de Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral District # 2, le mercredi 14 juin 2023.

Cummings est le porte-drapeau de la collaboration des Partis (CPP), une coalition de l'oppositio, qui est composée du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et d'une faction du Parti de la liberté (LP).

Selon Cummings, on l'accuse d'être gay parce que son casier judiciaire est vierge.

Il a dit ne rien à voir avec la corruption. Il a promis la bonne gouvernance et dit disposé d'un plan pour améliorer les souffrances que les Libériens traversent dans le pays.

L'ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola fait partie des dizaines d'hommes politiques qui cherchent à renverser le président sortant George Manneh Weah lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023.

Il s'est rendu dans cette

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Je suis heureusement marié à Theresa Cummings depuis 40 ans maintenant et nous avons la chance d'avoir deux enfants et 5 petits-enfants », a déclaré Cummings.

«Donc, la vérité est que s'ils ne peuvent pas vous

des Libériens, y compris ses proches parents, ne sont toujours pas convaincus qu'il dit la vérité.

Les auditeurs, lors de l'émission sur la radio du Maryland exprimaient des doutes quant à la réponse de Cummings.

Cummings a visité des villes et des villages du comté de Maryland,

Libéria : Une nouvelle étude empirique de la Banque africaine de développement sur les diagnostics de croissance identifie, analyse et hiérarchise les contraintes contraignantes pour la croissance

Un nouveau rapport de la BAD propose des solutions de diagnostic pour promouvoir la croissance et le développement au Libéria

Les conclusions d'un récent rapport d'étude analytique publié par la Banque africaine de développement et le gouvernement libérien comprennent quatre grandes catégories thématiques pour faire progresser la poursuite de résultats de développement solides face à divers facteurs endogènes et exogènes.

Retour à l'accumulation dans une perspective macroéconomique et sectorielle ;

L'effet d'un faible rendement social qui inclut un faible développement du capital humain

Et des infrastructures inadéquates ;

Le risque au niveau macro et micro auquel le secteur privé au Libéria est confronté, et donc ;

Étouffement de la croissance et coût élevé de la finance, qui fait aussi de même.

Le rapport devrait aider le gouvernement à mieux comprendre les problèmes du

pays qui entravent la croissance et à formuler une stratégie de développement ciblée, face à des ressources limitées, contribuant ainsi à maximiser l'impact sur le développement.

Benedict Kanu, directeur national de la Banque africaine de développement pour le Libéria, a salué le rapport, indiquant qu'« il est non seulement opportun, compte tenu de la durée de vie de l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD) du Libéria, mais constitue une base précieuse pour les connaissances et les politiques. Dialogue ». Kanu a souligné que «le Libéria et ses

partenaires ont en effet parcouru un long chemin dans la promotion d'une croissance économique rapide, inclusive et soutenue et dans la conversion de cette croissance en opportunités partagées et significatives pour tous, mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire ». Kanu a ajouté que les conclusions et les recommandations du rapport d'étude éclaireront de manière bénéfique les efforts du gouvernement et de ses partenaires au développement alors qu'ils se lancent conjointement dans la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



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

Accusé d'être gay, Cummings dément

partie du pays pour solliciter le soutien des habitants. Il a promis de créer des emplois.

« Permettez-moi d'expliquer un peu plus, le Libéria est doté de plusieurs ressources qui doivent profiter à son peuple, mais si elles ne sont pas bien gérées, le peuple risque de souffrir. Et c'est ce qui se passe maintenant », a déclaré Cummings.

Au cours de l'émission de, le chef de la CPP a dévoilé plusieurs plans pour relancer l'économie.

Il a cité, entre autres, la mobilisation des ressources, les connexions internationales et la création d'emplois.

Cummings a déclaré qu'au cours de ses cent premiers jours, les entrepreneurs libériens bénéficieront de prêts. Il aura un programme national de service pour les jeunes, le paiement rapide et l'augmentation régulière des salaires des fonctionnaires.

Au cours des cent premiers jours, il prévoit également la réorganisation et la consolidation des institutions gouvernementales, de sorte à avoir un personnel compétent. Il va aussi nommer les bonnes personnes à la tête des institutions d'intégrité pour

mener un audit complet du gouvernement précédent.

Au cours de l'émission, Cummings a encouragé les Libériens du sud-est, en particulier les habitants du Maryland, à soutenir son rêve.

Il a souligné que cela contribuera à réduire les souffrances endurées par les Libériens sous le gouvernement Weah.

Le samedi 10 juin 2023, les citoyens de la ville de Pedebo, dans le sud-est du comté de Maryland, ont défié la forte aversion pour accueillir le porte-drapeau de la CPP.

Il est arrivé dans le comté en passant par la Côte d'Ivoire voisine en raison du mauvais état des routes dans le sud-est.

Il a reçu un accueil enthousiaste de la part des chefs, des anciens, des femmes et des groupes de jeunes ainsi que des groupes religieux qui bordaient les rues lors de son arrivée.

M. Cummings était accompagné de l'ancien sénateur du comté de River Gee, Matthew Jaye.

Le chef du 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 se joindre à lui pour faire une différence.

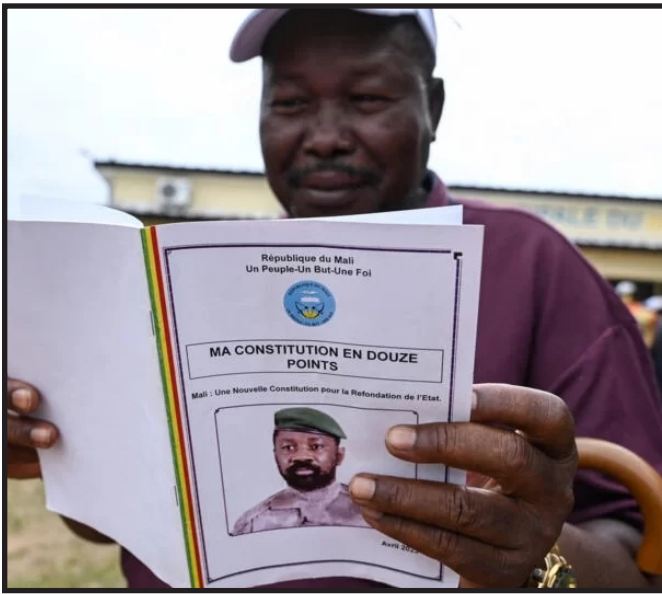
Libéria : Une nouvelle étude empirique de la Banque africaine de développement sur les diagnostics

production de l'étude nationale sur les moteurs du développement durable et inclusif. Selon le rapport, la croissance du Libéria dépend de manière significative de son secteur extérieur, en particulier de la croissance des exportations et des entrées soutenues d'ODI et d'IDE. Cela souligne l'importance de diagnostiquer la croissance et ses contraintes contraignantes de manière holistique. En conséquence, l'étude a utilisé une approche de diagnostic de croissance modifiée pour prendre en compte les problèmes de conflit et de stabilité politique et toutes les données officielles disponibles pour identifier les principales contraintes de croissance au Libéria. Les principales contraintes contraignantes identifiées dans chaque catégorie de l'analyse ("offre, demande, niveau sectoriel" ; au niveau "micro et macro", qui inclut la paix durable) sont les suivantes : l'offre, la demande et les sources de croissance sectorielles et leurs défis. De l'analyse de l'offre dans cette étude, il ressort qu'au niveau macro et sectoriel, la principale contrainte contraignante à la croissance au Libéria était/est le défi de la faible accumulation de capital, qui à son tour est liée à son faible

rendement. Cependant, il s'avère que cela a une dimension sectorielle. Alors que la productivité du travail et donc le rendement du travail sont problématiques dans le secteur des services, c'est le rendement du capital qui s'avère être un problème important dans les secteurs autres que les services au niveau macro (ceci était plus pertinent pour le secteur industriel en particulier).

En résumé, du côté de l'offre, les principaux défis de la croissance et les enseignements politiques à tirer pour y faire face sont les suivants. Premièrement, en s'attaquant à ses principales contraintes, inverser la tendance à la baisse de la production par habitant et de la croissance de la productivité dans le secteur agricole contribuera de manière significative à la productivité nationale et à la croissance économique. Deuxièmement, le résultat implique également que l'augmentation de la productivité sectorielle dans le secteur des services (et ses sous-secteurs), en s'attaquant à leur contrainte, est cruciale pour avoir un impact important sur la croissance à très court terme. Les résultats montrent également que depuis 2005, la main-d'œuvre ne s'est pas déplacée vers des secteurs où la productivité est en hausse ou n'a pas quitté des secteurs où la croissance de la productivité est faible ou négative.

Mali : avant le référendum, les pour et contre la Constitution réaffirment leurs arguments



Au Mali, l'ensemble de la population est appelé à voter dimanche 18 juin pour ou contre une nouvelle Constitution, après le vote des militaires une semaine plus tôt. Pour les soutiens de la possible prochaine loi fondamentale, ce texte renforce le caractère démocratique de l'État malien, mais ses détracteurs estiment que la loi fondamentale proposée offrirait trop de pouvoirs au chef de l'État.

Partisan de la nouvelle Constitution, Amadou Koïta, président du Parti socialiste Yelen Koura, avance que ce changement pourrait accélérer la fin de la transition : « Il y a des avancées, mais ce n'est pas parfait à 100%. Ce qui est important pour nous, c'est une étape extrêmement importante pour la levée des sanctions, pour le retour à l'ordre constitutionnel. La première étape, c'était le référendum. Allons-y pour ce référendum et après on ira vers d'autres élections pour que le Mali puisse amorcer son retour dans le concert des nations. »

D'abord, il y a la création du Sénat, ça pourra quand même permettre une certaine légitimité traditionnelle de pouvoir participer à la gestion du

pouvoir. Le texte permet également - dans l'application de l'Accord pour la paix issu du processus d'Alger - de connaître enfin un début d'exécution politique. Je crois que cela est extrêmement important. Le texte permet également de mettre fin à la transhumance politique, de créer les conditions pour que les élections puissent se passer dans des conditions idoines, notamment introduire soit la proportionnelle, soit d'autres modes de scrutin. Il y a également la création de la Cour des comptes, qui est quand même une norme dans la sous-région que nous avons cherchée [à mettre en place] depuis des années. Il y a également la possibilité pour tous citoyens maliens de saisir le Conseil constitutionnel. L'ouverture du Conseil supérieur de la magistrature à d'autres citoyens autres que les magistrats.

Pour Amadou Koïta, président du Parti Socialiste-Yelen Koura, la nouvelle constitution « n'est pas parfaite », mais « il y a des avancées ».

Mais les détracteurs de la proposition de loi fondamentale estiment qu'elle offre beaucoup trop de pouvoirs au chef de l'État. Parmi eux, Djiguiba Keita dit « Prêt Pour la Révolution » (PPR), secrétaire général du parti Parena, qui affirme que ce nouveau texte n'est pas démocratique : « On a entendu dire qu'il y a une avancée parce que le président peut être démis de ses fonctions, mais là aussi, c'est de la poudre aux yeux parce qu'il a la mainmise sur l'Assemblée et surtout sur les sénateurs, un tiers des membres, et en général, la majorité de l'Assemblée avec lui. Pour que ce Parlement le démette, les conditions sont telles que ce n'est pas possible.

Quand il y avait des tentatives de révision, on se disait que le pouvoir du pénal était trop important. Il faut vraiment que les présidents

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

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

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

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



notre manière ! »

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

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

FEATURE ARTICLE

RECYCLING FOR PROFIT: WASH Commissioner and Recycling Companies Frustrated with Lack of Government Support

By Kruah Thompson with New Narratives

SONIWEIN, Liberia—After 26 years living as a refugee in Ghana, returning home in 2017 was daunting for Mary Nelson and her family. With adult children to support, Nelson did not know how she would make money to survive. But a chance meeting with a visiting German man changed her life.

“This white man showed up and told me he wanted to take my picture and post it on his social media pages,” said Nelson. “He promised he’d buy waste materials from

the project and ready to test our first brick,” said Benson. Empowerment of low income women has been a benefit. “Also, we are thinking about expanding this project to the various community in Montserrado to empower other women like Mary.”

Getting things started was not easy according to Nelson. “I had to battle with community residents’ complaints about pollution and most of my friends bullied me for getting involved in the business,” she said. But now the business is stable and she has given employment to disadvantaged youth in the community people are onboard. “The community now benefits from the waste we collect.”

The business has some way to go.

“On a good day, I make close to \$LD5000 in profits, but on a bad day, my profits are around L\$2500,” said Nelson. “But, at the end of everyday sale, I must pay the 70 boys \$LD600 each, and for the unstable ones (those who reluctantly report to work), I give them \$LD200 daily, as they bring in more business.”

But Nelson’s plans are big. “My goal is to reduce the spread of plastic waste in Liberia. And I am also

hopeful to grow my company into a national brand that can employ more at-risk youths.”

Nelson is not the only Liberian making inroads in the country’s waste management sector.

James Mulbah, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Green Cities Liberia, is another Liberian building a business in recycling. Established in 2014, Mulbah’s company has grown, to twenty-four employees. They’ve also attracted support in grants from the Swedish and German governments, Climate-KIT, and the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund.

Mulbah’s company produces organic fertilizer, plastic cups, and gasoline from plastic waste.

“Plastic, organic and electronic waste is a major problem for countries across the continent and causes health and environmental problems,” said Mulbah. “Our solution is to collect and recycle this waste into usable products such as geometric sets for learners, rubber latex cups for rubber farmers and for making toilets b” But like Nelson, he too is facing challenges to fully operate.

“As a waste company operating in Liberia, we also want to do more to help the governments reduce and recycle the huge piles of waste in the country, but do not have the relevant equipment to do so.”

Mulbah called on the Liberian government to directly fund the operations of local waste management companies.

Experts have said there is a lack of awareness among the general public about the importance of recycling. This means that many people do not see the value in recycling, and there is a low demand for recycled materials. Without a demand for recycled materials, recycling businesses struggle to make a profit and sustain themselves. There are also few incentives or subsidies available for businesses that want to invest in recycling. This means that businesses must bear the full cost of setting up and running recycling operations, which can be expensive and financially challenging.

“We have built the capacity of our workers for close to five years both locally and internationally, but with all the knowledge, we cannot increase productivity with limited resources,” said Mulbah. “If government intervenes in the process to regulate and provide more aid for this local institution, this can create more jobs for more Liberians.”

He claimed that with such support, they can reduce waste in Liberia by 60% and boost the recycling business on the overall.

“The potential of waste recycling in the country is very huge.”

Mulbah’s call is buttressed by Bobby Whitfield, Chief Executive Officer of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Commission.

“We need adequate legislation for plastic management in government regulation to boost funding opportunities for business startups by the private sector,” said Whitfield at a clean up exercise in the Soniwein Community in Monrovia last year.

But in an in an exclusive interview Commissioner Whitfield said that while the government has shown strong political leadership by establishing the WASH Commission in 2020, funding has not been forthcoming, and he is struggling to understand why.

“By the time the funds reach the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Commission, they are already restricted, which makes prioritizing the Commission a serious challenge.”

Whitfield conceded the funds available to government are limited and President Weah has identified roads, education, and health as priorities. He estimates the Commission needs yearly investment of \$US160 million. Donors are contributing \$US30 million and government is contributing \$US42 million leaving a shortfall of nearly \$US88 MILLION, but the draft National budget for the 2024 Fical year show the opposite.

“Without adequate funding and support, the Commission will continue to face significant challenges,” Whitfield said. Alloycious David, Environmentalist & Land Rights Advocate of the Environmental Protection Agency, agreed with Whitfield. While the EPA has provided some training and loans through partnerships with the UNDP and international NGO he said more government support is needed.



A stockpile of waste gathered on Solutions Avenue in Monrovia for commercial purposes. Credit: Kruah Thompson with New Narratives.

me one day.”

The man who Nelson knows only as “Regny”, connected her to Abundant Rain, a company that has been one of the leaders in recycling plastic waste in Liberia. Donors have been working hard to encourage a recycling business in Liberia, especially Monrovia and Paynesville have become overwhelmed by a waste management crisis. Mountains of trash, much of it plastic, are polluting waterways and blocking drainage causing major health issues for residents, and prompted EU Ambassador Laurent Delahousse to call Monrovia “disgusting” and “the dirtiest city of the many places I have visited in my work in Africa,” in 2021.

Experts say recycling of plastic is essential to dealing with the massive problem that plastic waste has become around the world. In addition to the waste management problems it also leaches chemicals into soils and waterways. In the oceans plastics are choking and poisoning sea life. According to the World Bank 800 tons of waste is produced by Monrovia households alone every day. Collection of that waste is only part of the solution. Finding places to dispose of it has been a challenge. Experts say recycling as much as possible for reuse will be essential to dealing with the problem.

In Ghana, 840,000 tons of plastic waste are produced annually—9.5% of which are collected for recycling—more than 2,000 waste pickers are involved in cleaning beaches etc, benefitting companies and the government. Recycling waste could be part of the solutions to Liberia’s sanitation problems, according to a joint 2007 report by the United Nations Environment Programme Post-Conflict and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Abundant Rain saw an opportunity and branched into recyclables in 2018 when it began producing “JENGU” bricks (a bricks made by crushing glass and rubber bottles) and paving stones from plastic waste. And that’s where Mary Nelson came in. The company needed people to collect plastic waste and Nelson found them.

She created a company called Solution Avenue in 2020. Abundant rain trained Nelson’s workers and provided some financial assistance to get her business going. It’s been a fruitful relationship on both sides according to Lemuel Benson, Project Manager for Abundant Rain.

“Through her (Nelson’s) help, we are on the final stage of



“Transforming plastic into finished product can have a positive impact on the economy or the country as a whole by first protecting the environment and by avoiding litter,” said David in an email. David believes such support will “provide jobs for our people, provide products such as pavement bricks, roofing tile, diesel fuel as well as other products.”

This story was a collaboration with New Narratives as part of the Investigating Liberia Project. Funding was provided by the US Embassy in Liberia. The door had no say in the story’s content.

Liberia making significant effort

Government of Liberia does not fully meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but trafficking, sex trafficking, related criminal networks, and officials accused of complicity. "Train labor inspectors number of suspects in the previous reporting period. The government initiated prosecution of 13 defendants and continued



is making significant efforts to do so, say the latest US Human Trafficking report. "The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, if any, on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore, Liberia remained on Tier 2", the document released here Thursday, June 15, reads. Liberia remaining at Tier 2 means it has failed to advance from that level in its fight against human trafficking, says the 2023 trafficking in persons report released by the U.S. Department of States.

The report further details that these efforts included prosecuting and convicting an official complicit in human trafficking and identifying more victims and referring them to services.

However, the State Department notes that the Government of Liberia did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas, as investigations decreased and law enforcement officials continued to lack adequate resources and understanding of trafficking to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes, observing that victim services, especially shelter, remained insufficient.

Meanwhile, the report recommends that government expand victim services, particularly for victims outside the capital, males, and victims requiring long-term care. It also calls for increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases, including those involving internal

and social workers on standard victim identification procedures and the national referral mechanism", the report reads. It also wants improved collaboration between anti-trafficking police units, immigration, labor, and judicial authorities, as well as increased financial or in-kind support to NGOs that support trafficking victims.

The U. S. State Department also recommends training for law enforcement and judicial officials on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting trafficking cases under the revised 2021 anti-trafficking law, and increased labor inspections in the informal sector and mining regions to improve identification of trafficking cases, including child forced labor, among others.

On question of prosecution, the report says authorities here maintained law enforcement efforts, and that the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons Within the Republic of Liberia criminalized all forms of sex and labor trafficking and prescribed minimum sentences of 20 years imprisonment, which it notes, were sufficiently stringent.

The report details that the Liberian government during the period under review, investigated eight trafficking cases, involving 12 suspects, including five for labor trafficking and three for unspecified forms of trafficking, and continued investigations of seven cases involving eight suspects. "This compared with investigating 13 trafficking cases involving an unknown

prosecuting three defendants from the previous reporting period. This compared with prosecuting 12 defendants in the previous reporting period."

It says of those prosecuted, 15 individuals were prosecuted under the Revised Trafficking in Persons Act of 2021 and one was prosecuted under the previous 2005 law, while courts in the country convicted four traffickers, three for labor trafficking and one for an unspecified form of trafficking, compared to eight convictions during the previous reporting period, with sentences ranged from three to 25 years' imprisonment, adding "Three of the convictions were obtained under the Revised Trafficking in Persons Act of 2021 and one was obtained under the previous 2005 law."

At the same time, the report says for the first time, the Government of Liberia prosecuted and convicted a complicit official on human trafficking charges, including a former National Security Agent for accepting money for his role in a human trafficking scheme involving facilitating transport of Liberian women to Oman.

"The former official was sentenced to 25 years in prison and ordered to pay a fine and restitution. However, corruption and official complicity in trafficking crimes remained significant concerns, inhibiting law enforcement action", the State

Over 230,000 cyclists endorse Boakai

Over 230,000 motorcyclists and tricycle operators have endorsed the Presidential bid of opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai at an elaborate ceremony Thursday, 15 June 2023 in Paynesville, Montserrado County.

Boakai and several opposition leaders on different party tickets are seeking to battle incumbent President George Manneh Weah out of the Executive Mansion during the polls on 10 October 2023.

The 78-year-old lost to Mr. Weah at the run-off in 2017, and he is making his second and possibly final try for the nation's highest seat. Through a press release issued Thursday, the Office of the former Liberian Vice President said the Federation Of Motorcycle and Tricycle Unions of Liberia pledged to support Mr. Boakai's bid, a boost to the Unity Party campaign.

The release said the President-General of the Union, Mr. John A.F. Kenyor introduced the officials of the Union and coordinators from the fifteen counties to the Unity Party Standard Bearer.

According to the release, Mr. Kenyor told Mr. Boakai that the battle

Party and call on the party to recognize all the Union's Coordinators in the fifteen counties to attain maximum political dividends ahead of the October 10 polls.

Speaking at the occasion Thursday, Amb. Boakai said Liberians must recognize the value of people, and praised the over 230,000 motorcycle and tricycle union members for the immense services they are rendering to the people and country.

He gave special recognition to their services in the absence of a reliable transportation system in the country.

The Former Vice President lamented the unbelievable and dangerous conditions of transporting critically sick people at night.

Mr. Boakai told the Union that they will be on the right side of history when it is written because the leadership of the Union refused to be induced by money or vehicles. He said he refers to this as putting the country above personal interest.



is not his, but for the Federation of Tricycle and Motorcycle Unions of Liberia. It noted the Union's commitment to making sure that Mr. Boakai is elected president of Liberia. "The President-General told the crowd that the decision is about the nation and not about individuals," the release said.

According to the President-General of the Federation of Motorcycle and Tricycle Unions of Liberia, "Liberia will rise again."

He pointed out that motorcyclists will no longer be exploited for the selfish ambitions of politicians and that they will no longer be blind loyalists to selfish individuals and political institutions because they have in the past exhibited a wrong way of leading people.

Kenyor stated that his Union will be on the campaign team of the Unity

He told the Union that because of the level of organization that has been attained by the Union, it can now speak with one voice.

Mr. Boakai expressed happiness with the level of inclusion of women in the Union's administration.

While the ceremony was in progress, the UP leader was joined by his running mate, Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koung.

Mr. Koung also spoke to the Union's Officials and recognized some of his classmates in the gathering.

The occasion was attended by the Chair of the Unity Party, Rev. Dr. Luther Tarpeh, the force behind the Union, and a corps of JNB advisers and support staff.-- Press release

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

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Army worms attack crops, water in Nimba

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County
Rampaging armyworms have attacked three districts in Nimba County, destroying crops and polluting drinking water.

water after army worms contaminate creeks and rivers. The caterpillars, according to farmers, have destroyed their crops and rendered their waters unsafe for drinking purposes.

crops destroyed by the worms as cabbage, pepper, garden egg and cocoa, among others. According to them, the situation could reach rest of the nine electoral districts in the county if nothing were done by government to find a remedy.

They appeal to the national government through the Ministry of Agriculture to intervene immediately.

Due to the presence of the huge caterpillars, farmers are being constrained to take along drinking water when going to their farms.

Some farmers revealed they are now using table salt to respond to attacks by armyworms, lamenting that the presence of the caterpillars may cause them to lose all of their crops if quick actions were not taken to fight the infestation.

"The situation is affecting us", they said noting that the attack on their crops and farmland may reduce agricultural production in the county this year.

Meanwhile, authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with USAID are touring three counties reportedly affected by armyworms, including Nimba.



Over one thousand farmers in Kpain (District#8), Domah Town (District One) and District Two respectively, in Nimba are now facing serious challenges in carrying out their farm work and villagers have been left without safe drinking

Farmers Mezee Domah, Keturah Kou Gogol and Ernest Johnson alarm that the presence of huge armyworms in their districts and adjacent villages has seriously affected their livelihood.

They named some of the

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