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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023	LS175.3415/US\$1.00	LS177.7883/US\$1.00

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

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VOL. 13 NO. 102 TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



P11

27,000 Liberians lifted out of 'extreme poverty'

Min. Samuel Tweah
-Finance Minister Tweah claims




P11

Boakai's endorsement suffers blow

Former VP Boakai **NAFOMTAL Pres. Harris Kollie**

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Continental News

First power, now water: South Africa's taps run dry

The peace of a normally tranquil suburban road near South Africa's capital, Pretoria, is being shattered by the sound of drilling. These are not prospectors looking for a new source of the country's mineral wealth, but workers digging for Johannesburg and Pretoria sit. South Africa's recent electricity woes - with regular lengthy scheduled blackouts - have had a knock-on effect on the supply of water. "All of our stations, they need electricity, they need power. You have to pump water everywhere where it is needed,"

"My water bill stays the same even with all the cuts. I feel frustrated, I don't have access to water alternatives [like a borehole] that would make this bearable for me," she adds. There are, of course, millions of South Africans who have lived without having water piped into their homes for years. But the intermittent domestic supply is just one aspect of a multi-pronged problem facing the water industry. "We are in a state of systemic failure, the water sector is collapsing," expert Prof Anthony Turton tells the BBC. The lack of electricity has exacerbated issues created by poorly maintained infrastructure, which has led to vast leaks as well as sewage problems, and a supply of water that cannot meet demand. Seventy million litres of treated, clean, drinkable water are lost every single day because of leaks that are endemic in the crumbling water system. Most of the water wastage identified has been linked to badly run municipalities that are not investing in maintenance, partly because of corruption and theft.

This has also meant that sewage plants are not cleaning the water in the way that they should. And this has had public health consequences. In just a few weeks in Hammanskraal, a township outside Pretoria, 29 people were killed by cholera that had been found in the water supply there. The outbreak has been linked to substandard water purification practices. BBC



Bottled water is being stored in Hammanskraal after there was a cholera outbreak in the water supply

an arguably more precious resource: water. Private boreholes - like this one being excavated in Garsfontein - are springing up across the wealthier neighbourhoods in the country's economic heartland, where taps have been running dry. "I am tired of not knowing when we will have water and when we won't," the frustrated homeowner says. "Having a borehole means we won't have to depend on the government so much, it's what's best for my family." Much of the domestic water supply here depends on electricity to pump it from the source to the vast high plain on which the cities of

says Siphos Mosai, the head of state-owned Rand Water, one of the country's main water providers. "Electricity is really at the heartbeat of what we do and if we don't have it externally, at least for now, it becomes a problem."

"Some days I don't have both water and electricity, and this can be for days at a time. It makes daily life insufferable," says Zizi Dlanga, a 35-year-old private wealth manager.

She lives in a two-bedroom apartment in an affluent suburb in the north of Johannesburg with her sister who is a trainee doctor. She now stocks up on water when it is available and goes to a gym to take a shower.

Sudan's descent into destruction unprecedented - Guterres

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres says Sudan has descended into "death and destruction" at an unprecedented speed.

"Without strong international support, Sudan could quickly become a locus of lawlessness, radiating insecurity across the region," Mr Guterres added when addressing a pledging conference.

He's been speaking at the start of an international humanitarian summit in Geneva, organised by the UN, Egypt, Germany, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, as well as the African Union and the European Union.

The UN says it's appealed for \$3bn (£2.3bn) of funding this

year, but less than 17% has been provided.

The conference comes midway through a three-day ceasefire

between the rival military factions. Several previous truces have broken down. BBC



Hundreds have been killed since fighting broke out in April

Uganda police arrest three after deadly school attack

Pupils in Uganda were singing gospel songs before a deadly attack by Islamist militants on Friday, a woman who lives opposite the school says. "Then I heard screaming," Mary Masika told the BBC. The vicious attack in Mpondwe left about 40 people dead.

Islamic State-linked militants have been blamed for the attack. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) was created in the 1990s and took up arms against President Yoweri Museveni, alleging persecution of Muslims. They are now largely based in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. The Mpondwe Lhubirha Secondary School attacked on Friday is close to the border.

Ms Masika says she and other residents have been left terrified by the attack which lasted about 90 minutes. "I have been unable to eat or

whose bodies cannot be identified because they have been so badly burned. Hurubana Kimadi Onesmus told the BBC he found it difficult to understand how the attackers were able to infiltrate the school where his son, the security guard, worked and where his grandsons were studying. "There is a very heavy military presence in the area," the 69-year-old said. Now there is a lot of security at the school - and the BBC team was given only a few minutes to take some photos of the burnt buildings. It was a devastating and upsetting scene.

Lots of dried blood is still on the ground outside the girls' dormitory - they had been attacked with machetes and others shot dead as they ran away. The boys' dormitory had been locked - they had either refused to open it to the rebels or they were locked inside by them. The militants poured fuel on the building and set it alight.

Inside, the smell of death is unmistakable - beds have been reduced to wire mesh with pieces of



Mary Masika, who lives opposite the school says she would often hear the students singing before bedtime

sleep since then," she told the BBC in Swahili.

The students usually sing before bedtime - and at first she and her daughter thought the noise that interrupted their songs at around 22:00 (20:00 GMT) suggested that they were having a bit of fun.

But it soon became clear that something horrific was under way at the school, which had around 60 boarders living in a small compound. ADF rebels had entered dormitories, setting fire to them and using machetes to kill and maim students.

One family in Mpondwe held the funerals on Sunday for a father and son killed in the attack - 47-year-old security guard Elphanas Mbusa and 17-year-old Masereka Elton. Their other son, 15-year-old Brian Muhindo who was also attending the school, is missing. They do not know if he is among the six boys kidnapped or one of those

flesh still stuck to them. Ms Masika said towards the end of the attack, at around 23:30, she heard one of the assailants talking at her gate and asking a fellow fighter if "the job was done". They were talking in Swahili - the lingua franca in the region - and afterwards began shouting "Allahu Akbar", meaning "God is greatest". She said after these chants one of them added: "We have succeeded in destabilising Museveni's country." In response, President Museveni vowed to send more troops to Rwenzori Mountains, which are along the border between Uganda and the DR Congo, saying: "Their action... the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action... will not save them."

The area around Mpondwe seems to be a mix of Christians and Muslims. Some of those attending the funerals on Sunday were dressed in traditional Muslim attire. Other funerals for the pupils killed in the attack were held in villages across the region, with most people dumbfounded and pained by the brutality of the assault. BBC

EDITORIAL

LEC's Gap Communities Electrification Project is welcoming

THE LIBERIA ELECTRICITY Corporation (LEC) has embarked on an ambitious program to electrify four communities in some suburbs of Monrovia. The Gap Communities Electrification Project (G-CEP) that seeks to expand electricity in slum communities and help curtail power theft is worth commendation.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for Engineering and Major Connections (PEMC) at LEC, Dele I. Shobayo, said the project is an effort to overcome power poverty, while decentralizing electricity to foster socio-economic development and improve livelihoods of residents.

THIS IS A noble program and should be applauded by every well-meaning Liberian, because it's aimed at improving citizens' lives by stimulation local economic activities and providing security.

THERE ARE DOZENS of communities in and around Monrovia and across the country that are without electricity. Citizens are subjected to darkness, local businesses are strangulated and students are unable to study at night because of lack of electricity.

THE G-CEP THAT is connecting 72nd Army Camp Field Community in Paynesville, Lonestar Cell Number One, Jacob Town and Iron Factory communities, respectively is poised to put smiles on faces of residents.

THOUGH THE LEC is faced with serious capacity challenge, but we hope that this initiative would be extended to other equally slum communities were citizens are walloping in darkness. It should not be selectively done.

BESIDES ECONOMIC AND social benefits, electricity is security, as it drives away criminals and others contemplating on carry out other dubious acts under the cover of darkness.

FOR NEARLY 20 years since the cessation of arm conflict in Liberia, lack of electricity has remained a serious hindrance not just to resuscitating the economy, but promoting security and maintaining a safe society.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER 8PM, major streets across Monrovia are deserted primarily due to insecurity exacerbated by lack of electricity that creates room for crimes to easily flourish. This is why we think the G-CEP is a game changer that should be applauded by citizens.

THEREFORE, WE CALL on government, particularly policymakers at the LEC to consider extending the program to other slum communities so that citizens there will benefit from similar opportunity.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

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COMMENTARY

By Simon Johnson, Daron Acemoglu, Sylvia Barmack

Will Democracies Stand Up to Big Brother?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OP-ED

By Louis Kuukpen, UNDP Liberia's Resident Representative a.i.

Sexual Violence in Liberia: End the Silent Epidemic

Monrovia, Liberia-June 19, 2023: June 19 is observed globally as the Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict to raise awareness and strategize on ways to eliminate sexual violence.

Sexual violence is a severe violation of human rights that is considered a war crime and a crime against humanity. It is a harrowing reality that leaves a trail of physical and psychological scars. Liberia, which suffered from a brutal civil war from 1989 to 2003, knows the devastating consequences of sexual violence all too well. The World Health Organization in its 2002 World Report on Sexual Violence estimated that between 61% and 77% of women and girls in Liberia were raped during the war.

Sexual violence experienced during the war still permeates at all levels of society. Sexual violence cases hit a high of 2,708 in 2019, and 2,240 in 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting His Excellency President George Weah to declare rape a national emergency. According to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's annual statistical report on gender-based violence (GBV), some 1,975 cases were reported in 2022, 73.7% of which were rape, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual violations.

The prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence crimes has been remarkably inadequate due to a number of factors ranging from inadequate court infrastructure, inadequate staffing and technical capacity, and high caseloads. In 2020, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights reported that rapists continue to benefit from a deeply entrenched culture of impunity while survivors languish with slim hopes for justice. This culture combined with the trauma endured by survivors has created a climate of fear that perpetuates a vicious cycle of silence that allows the vice to flourish. Low accountability for sexual crimes has profound consequences - it undermines confidence in the justice system, deprives survivors the closure they deserve, and discourages reporting of sexual crimes.

National Efforts and Global Solidarity
Liberia is a party to numerous international human rights treaties and instruments including the UN Resolution 1325, which obligates the Government to address sexual and other forms of gender-based violence. The government, with support from international partners and civil society groups passed the Rape Act (2005) and the Domestic Violence Act (2019), both of which increased the penalties for rape and other sexual offenses. The government also established a specialized court, Court E, to exclusively prosecute cases of sexual violence and developed a national action plan to prevent and respond to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV).

In 2019, the government welcomed the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative against SGBV which uses a transformative, evidence-based approach to address the unequal power dynamics between men and women to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The initiative bolstered the Government of Liberia's capacity to deal with SGBV and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. It has also established more robust institutional frameworks to enhance services provided to survivors. The programme has supported the establishment of the country's first modern Forensic Pathology Laboratory to strengthen adjudication of SGBV cases using solid forensic, scientific evidence.

The Spotlight Initiative also supported construction of two new Women and Children Protection facilities at various police stations to provide survivors services in privacy and dignity. It also supported rehabilitation of four more of such facilities rendering them fully operational. To facilitate prosecution of SGBV cases, the initiative reconstructed and equipped two circuit courts, and provided specialized and regular trainings police officers, judiciary officials and other criminal justice actors.

After declaring rape a national emergency in 2020, President George Manneh Weah appointed a special prosecutor for rape, established a national Sex Offender Registry and a special anti-SGBV presidential taskforce. The Government further allocated US\$2 million for the roll-out of a roadmap (2020-2022) to end SGBV.

The Government of Liberia, with further support from UNDP's Rule of Law programme, which is funded by UNDP, the Embassy of Ireland, and Peace Building Fund is improving access to justice for survivors of GBV. The support prioritizes gender analysis and mainstreaming in the security sector and civil service capacity strengthening, understanding and implementation of institutional gender policies.

Civil society groups have also been instrumental in addressing sexual violence in Liberia working tirelessly to raise awareness about sexual violence, providing frontline support to survivors, and advocating for the rights of women and girls at the grassroots levels. They also play a critical role in holding the government accountable for its response to sexual violence.

Despite these noble efforts, much yet remains to be done. Liberia's judicial system still faces significant challenges in accessing adequate financial resources, specialized personnel, and an effective court network to effectively provide services to the people of Liberia. Overcrowded prison facilities, overloaded court dockets, expensive and lengthy litigation processes, limited support for prosecution and rehabilitation of survivors frustrate their quest for justice. *

The government of Liberia must take deliberate efforts to sustain the gains made so far and continue to actively engage with international partners to leverage international expertise and resources to strengthen its response to sexual violence, promote best practices, and advocate for global norms and standards in addressing this heinous crime.

Ending the Silent Epidemic

To break the cycle of sexual violence, there must be unwavering empowerment of survivors by ensuring their voices are heard, their stories are acknowledged, and their rights are protected. Legal reforms should prioritize survivor-centered justice and increase prosecution of perpetrators.

To this end, UNDP will continue to work with the Government and all other stake holders to reduce the risk of sexual violence, and support survivors as they seek justice. This includes supporting the strengthening of national systems to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence, empowering survivors to access justice, and opening referral pathways to medical, psycho-social and livelihood support services. Without our collective efforts, the relentless work and leadership of government, activists and civil society groups, it would be impossible to combat the scourge of sexual violence, one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

OPINION

By Nick Barigye

Africa Needs More Women in Fintech

KIGALI - The fintech revolution is sweeping across Africa, creating wealth and opportunity from Cairo to Cape Town. But, like the broader tech sector, the fintech industry suffers from a fundamental weakness: too few women.

Africa does have something to boast about on this front: the share of fintech companies founded by women is double the global average. Unfortunately, the figure is still just 3.2%. Moreover, while 30% of tech professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa are women, the share of women in fintech remains well below the industry average.

This does not mean that fintech has not had an impact on women. On the contrary, it has rapidly accelerated financial inclusion for African women, from private individuals seeking to formalize their household finances to small businesses whose owners want to expand. In Rwanda, for example, fintech platforms drove a 27% increase in women's access to financial services from 2012 to 2016. In Kenya, mobile banking has increased overall financial inclusion from only 26% in 2006 to 84% in 2021.

But Africa still has a long way to go. As of 2020, only 37% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa had a bank account, compared with 48% of men.

The problem persists even in Rwanda - a regional leader in gender equality. In 2008, Rwanda became the first country in the world to elect a female-majority parliament, and today it boasts some of the world's highest rates of female participation in politics and the labor force. But, despite the progress on financial inclusion that fintech has enabled, more than three-quarters of the Rwandan women still lack access to a bank account.

The inability to access financial services puts business owners at a significant disadvantage. According to the World Bank, women-owned small and medium-size enterprises in Africa - a significant share of all SMEs - face a \$42 billion credit gap. This limits their ability to expand and create jobs.

With flexible, innovative, and targeted solutions, fintech companies can help to close this gap. One reason why women might struggle to access financing is that they lack a financial history or credit record - the basis of traditional assessments of creditworthiness. But fintech companies can avoid this issue by using alternative data sources, such as mobile-phone usage and social-media activity, which have been shown to support accurate assessments of creditworthiness. These approaches must obviously be balanced with robust privacy and encryption solutions, ensuring that trust flows between lender and borrower.

Another common barrier to financial inclusion - particularly in rural areas - is the lack of documentation, such as government-issued IDs or proof of address, required to open traditional bank accounts and access credit. But fintech companies can allow women to access financial services using their mobile phones, making use of digital identity-verification technologies, such as biometric authentication.

Fintech companies can also develop financial products tailored to the needs of people who are typically excluded from the formal financial system. For example, the Ugandan company Ensibuuko, working with commercial and nonprofit organizations, designed an innovative system of digital credit especially for farmers. Given that agriculture is the sector in which most African women are active, such initiatives could go a long way toward closing the gender gap.

But if the fintech industry is to continue to expand and strengthen financial inclusion, it needs not only to serve women, but also to include them. This would benefit the women employed, the industry as a whole, and many of its clients. Women investors are twice as likely to invest in women-owned businesses than their male counterparts are, and women may be better equipped to design and deliver fintech services to women clients.

The fact is that women are more favorably served by institutions in which women hold power. This is true of any industry or service: as a recent Nature article pointed out, the fact that women are missing from policymaking and budgeting decisions related to health care most likely contributes to the underfunding of health issues faced by women. Fintech is no different.

The challenge now will be to support women's participation - and leadership - in the fintech industry. Whether in the boardroom or on the farm, women must help shape the future of African finance.



Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)

P169265



Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 629, Monrovia, Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Assignment Title: Hiring of a CsPro Consultant (Local Hire)

Reference No.: LR-LISGIS-366119-CS-INDV

The World Bank has committed to improving the statistical capacity of low-income countries. The Bank initially targeted for at least one household survey to be conducted every 3 years but in May of 2019 incorporated the regional project in order to strengthen the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

The Liberia component of the project is being implemented by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of LISGIS and line ministries and agencies (MACs) to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics in Liberia. LISGIS is thus seeking the services of a CsPro Consultant to provide implementation support and manage the Agriculture Census data collection process using CAPI (CsPro).

The duration of the assignment is 5 months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at: www.emansion.gov.lr

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services now invites eligible Individual Consultants ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are listed below.

The Consultant must have minimum qualification and experience as follows:

Education:

MSc degree in Statistics, Programming, IT or other computer related studies.

Experience:

- A minimum of 5 years experience working with CSpro, STATA, SPSS, or R;
- Knowledge of setting up an Databases of similar nature;
- Must have experience in conducting surveys or censuses in developing countries using CSpro;
- Past experience working with the FAO or similar organization is an added advantage.
- Knowledge of Agriculture Science or other sciences related to agriculture census will be an added advantage

Skills

Good command of the English Language both written and oral.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 1, 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0900 to 1600 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below via email Only (No Hand Delivery) with subject: "Re: Application- CsPro Consultant"

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia
Attn: Alahaji S.M. Dukuly
Acting Project Coordinator
E-mail: adukulyii@yahoo.com
Cc: mambog2005@gmail.com

Deadline for Submission of expression of interest is midnight on Thursday, 6th July 2023

ECOWAS progressing towards ECOVISA implementation

In an effort to enhance foreign investments, tourism and provide easier access to abundant opportunities within the ECOWAS region, the Authority of ECOWAS Head of State and Government adopted in 2011 the introduction of ECOVISA, a single visa system similar to the Schengen model. The ECOWAS Commission has been tasked with working towards the realization of this visa for Migrants of third countries.

On May 25, 2023, the Directorate of Free Movement of Persons and Migration of the ECOWAS Commission organized the Seventh Heads of Immigration Meeting in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the

comparative analysis of visa regimes in other continents be conducted to ensure the implementation of ECOVISA aligns with global best practices. Additionally, the Heads of Immigration recognized the need for regular engagement to discuss modalities and assess the progress of ECOVISA implementation at different stages.

These recommendations and decisions were based on the report provided by the ECOVISA Experts who gathered in Accra, Ghana on May 22 and 23, 2023. The experts focused on visa design, visa regime, visa costs, and other technical considerations



implementation of ECOVISA, its related cost, design as recommended by Experts in charge of visa issuance and control drawn from Member States and determine the way forward. The Heads of Immigration Meeting serves as a platform for representatives from national immigration services of ECOWAS Member States to foster cooperation and coordination on matters relating to border and migration management in the region. Its primary objective is to enable a unified voice in addressing mobility and migration challenges within the region.

During the Accra meeting, it was recommended that a comprehensive

necessary for the smooth implementation of ECOVISA.

It is important to recall that ECOWAS has been dedicated to a harmonized approach in implementing the Protocol of Free Movement of Persons since its adoption. Member States prioritize creating a secure environment for migrants and removing barriers to facilitate mobility, particularly for community citizens. This requires a collective effort from all stakeholders and key actors involved in migration management within their respective countries.



LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Ministry of Commerce Building
Asylum and Gurley Intersection
Monrovia, Liberia



June 12, 2023

Survey Notice

By directive of the Resident/Assigned Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Montserrado County, the general public is hereby informed that the undersigned Registered Licensed Land Surveyor have being duly authorized to conduct an investigative survey in the case mentioned below on Tuesday 20 June 2023 beginning at 9:00 AM.

IN CASE REF: The Intestate Estate of the Late Thomas Philip Faulkner represented by Nathaniel Mellish of the City of Todee, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia..... PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
Momo T. Denneh, Darleh Wieh, Bernard Nagbe and all others to be identified of the city of Todee, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia.....DEFENDANT

The Said parcel of land is lying and situated at Markai Ward Clan, Tubmanville, Montserrado County, Liberia

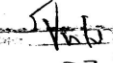
Therefore, all adjoining property owners, disputants and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

10. Cosmo Family
11. Red Power
12. Kamara Family
13. Nyennie Town
14. Mr. H. Johnson
15. Mr. B. Johnson
16. Mr. B. Holder
17. St. Augustine Episcopal Church
18. All those in the area concerned

Signed: 
Albert D. Gleh Jr.
Chairman Investigative Survey Broad
Cell No. 0886-740-519

Cc. Sheriff, Civil Law Court, Mont. Co.
Liberia National Police (LNP)
Hon. Emmanuel Keyemah, General Town Chief
Hon. Esther Bondo, Acting Clan Chief, Dina Gola Chiefdom
Hon. Tony Kandaku, Paramount Chief, Dina Gola Chiefdom
Hon. Nathaniel B. Sackie, Township Commissioner, Tubmanville

FILED BY: 
 12th JUNE 2023
 S.I.S.

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Cllr. Brumskine discloses u\$20 million loan scheme for women

-As she receives endorsement

The Vice Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine

Liberia, working with other women's auxiliaries for economic empowerment of women nationwide.

Accepting the endorsement, Cllr. Brumskine emphasized the importance of women's representations and vowed to champion the cause of women for economic empowerment and their full participation in the CPP Government.

She said with strong female participation at the highest echelon of government, will motivate women to help pave the way for future generations of women to succeed.

Counsellor Brumskine promised upon the CPP election, that she will advocate for gender equality and ensures that the voices of women are heard and valued in decision-making.

She expressed gratitude to members and the leadership of the Successful Women Organisation for the show of support and solidarity through her endorsement and also their dedication to advancing the cause of women in Liberia.

The CPP Vice Standard Bearer also used the occasion to frown on the proliferation of dangerous drugs, without any hope that the CDC government will stamp it out any time soon.



Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine

has revealed a U\$20 million micro-loan scheme for Liberian business women within the first 100 days of a CPP leadership come October 10.

Counsellor Brumskine assured maximum women participation and representation in all spheres of the country's socio-economic and political life.

The CPP Vice Standard

Counsellor Brumskine expressed delight and honour for her endorsement by the women's group and said it is an inspiration for the younger generation to rise up and join in the CPP political struggle for genuine change in Liberia.

The Successful Women Organization an accomplished women's organization has membership across the 15th political subdivisions of

ULFA rejects 10 weeks instructional period at UL

By Lewis S Teh

The University of Liberia Faculty Association or ULFA, has termed as inadequate and undermining, 10 weeks given to lecturers by the University Administration for academic activities. In a letter addressed to the UL Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Moses Moroe Zinnah, ULFA said the time is limited for the faculty to present lectures and complete course syllabus for the semester. ULFA stressed that the revised zero draft academic calendar for first semester 2022/2023 has the propensity of undermining the quality of learning that the students need to brace themselves for their professional sojourn.

In the letter signed by its Secretary General Eric Patten, the Association has suggested that the UL Administration should run the semester as a vacation school, instead of giving ten weeks for academic activities. This, the Association believes will limit the course carrying capacity of students and increase the lecture hours.

ULFA noted that the University of Liberia could alternatively run a complete semester of 16 weeks (July --

October 2023) to enhance quality at the state-owned University. It also maintains that the reopening of an academic semester without addressing pending critical issues indicates that the UL Administration lacks interest in its faculty growth and welfare.

ULFA named implementation of the promotion and tenure policy exercises that is long overdue, payment of arrears for Part-Time lecturers as key unaddressed issues.

Others include non-payment for data packages for those who taught online for the current and last semester, NASSCORP enrollment and status updates, regularity of retirees' pension payments, adequate instructional materials, human

resource manual, transportation for Sinje faculty, credential audit, among other issues. ULFA noted that all of the issues mentioned are contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on October 1, 2021, in Monrovia. Meanwhile, the ULFA leadership said it is optimistic that Dr. Moses Moroe Zinnah will address each of the issues contained in the communication at least by Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

The Association added that when the issues are addressed, it will enable the leadership to provide clear information to their members during their pending Emergency General Assembly scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2023.



Liberia performs first retina surgery

Liberia is performing retina surgery for the first time here, with about 15 to 20 surgeries done at the Liberia Eye Center at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

Visiting female Indian Medical Doctor Subhadra Jalali performed the retina surgeries at the Liberia Eye Center, an initiative of the LV Prasad Eye Institute's collaborative effort at the JFK Medical Center in Monrovia.

Over the weekend, Dr. Jalali and Liberian-based Indian Medical Doctor Niranjan K. Pehere provided details in an interview with journalists about the ongoing retina surgeries at the Liberia Eye Center.

"These patients, seven of them for the first time in Liberia. Why retina surgery is so critical is that it's the back part of the eye and it is an easy place of the eye," said Dr. Jalali. She said the retina is important and cannot be replaced. If it is damaged, Dr. Jalali explained that they will try

Methodist Church which donated the equipment to them for the retina surgery.

"I think this is just the beginning, we still have a long way to go and we can [say] Liberia has the best part in the eye surgery around the world," she said. She encouraged patients who want surgery for the retina to go to the Liberia Eye Center and do their surgery.

Earlier, Dr. Niranjan K. Pehere, an Ophthalmologist at the Liberia Eye Center at the JFK Medical Center, explained that they started the department in 2017 at JFK.

He said the one area that was lacking in their service was the biomedical retina—the back part of the eye.

"If you compare the eyes to the camera, you know the camera has the lens, and there are a few back-to-back. Similarly, the retina is a very sensitive radio, and that is composed of lighting images in the medical process that send information to the brain," Dr.



to repair it in the patient's eye and when it gets damaged once more, the patient will be blind for life. "So, I am very thankful to the patients who have come here to help them get operated for the first time in Liberia," she said. She noted that many of the patients if not all, will be very appreciative.

"And we will keep following them off and we hope to conduct more surgery in the coming months," Dr. Jalali disclosed.

Additionally, she noted that many of her team members will be traveling and have the privilege to be in Liberia here.

"I [have] been [here] about six days and really enjoying some of the new food that I have never taken before and the loving care of the nursing staff," she noted. Dr. Jalali said she was extremely thankful to her patients at the JFK Eye Center Liberia because they allowed her to partake in the operations of eyes. According to her, the equipment for the retina surgery is very expensive, thanking the

Pehere explained. According to him, several patients in Liberia used to have retina issues because of diabetes, high blood pressure, HIV/AIDS, and so many other problems. "When they required certain injections, we gave those injections in the eyes two years ago and have been very successful in serving people," he noted. But Dr. Pehere said they haven't been on the market performing surgery because they didn't have the space that is required.

For now, he said they have the necessary space and equipment.

"And then we have additional surgeons from India—when she [Dr. Jalali] came, she performed about 15 to 20 surgeries," he said.

He said performing retina surgery is happening for the first time in Liberia to the best of his knowledge, and it is not available in many parts of Africa as far as he knows. "But for the show, we know that Ghana, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast definitely do that surgery, but those countries are really expensive," he said.

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Weah opens museum to reflect sports history

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has commissioned the first National Museum dubbed: "THE SHOES We Aspire to Fill" at the famous Invincible Sports

"When you look into our history book, you can see my picture, George Weah, former footballer, but it didn't explain details about me, that the younger generation needs to know, and other athletes, like

"You see people have forgotten about our history; our players - those that sacrificed for this country, the national team and its players, but I didn't forget; this is why the museum you see there, every history of this country is there.

"We are proud of those that made the flag; we must also be proud of those that flew the flag, and be proud of those that made history, so our children can learn," he reiterated.

At the same time, he commended Diadora, an Italian Sports Wear Manufacturing Company for ably sponsoring the Liberia National Team, doing the 1996 Africa's Cup of Nations, noting that Diadora was the only Red Shoe that made him proud.

"When I wore the Diadora Red Shoe, I was unstoppable. This is why the Red Shoes you see over there, is a symbol of the National Team, whenever they played, they wore the red shoes and became unbeatable; this is the George Weah 11th."

The Africa's Icon was quick to clarify long-standing speculations and criticisms of him deliberately using or

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Park in Sinkor, Monrovia as testimonies for those who have scored historic marks for Liberia. Speaking on Saturday, 17th June 2023, when he officially cut the ribbon to the National Museum, President Weah said the facility will reflect histories and images of those men and women who have represented Liberia at higher levels, something, he said prompted his decision.

the great Santo Maria, history didn't talk about them, so we built this museum to place all images of great men and women that have represented this country, internationally," he said. President Weah said history has forgotten about those who have made history for Liberia, and the museum was built to symbolize history for the benefit of the younger generation.

Teahjay wants Sinoe development fund audited

By Lewis S Teh

Senator J. Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County says it has been five years and there has been no single developmental project being undertaken by the current leadership of the county. According to Senator Teahjay, the Government of Liberia has been disbursing the sum of US\$ 200,000 for the past five years for development purposes, in addition to US\$86,000 that was inherited, but not a single project has been undertaken by the current county leadership.

resolutions are approved by the county sitting, and those are the foundation for implementation. But Teahjay notes that in Sinoe County, it was a different case, saying not a single project that can be pointed to by the local leadership, something he says draws their attention as members of the legislative caucus, regarding what the local leadership has been doing with the monies that the government has been disbursing to the county.

"Mr. Presiding, I therefore, come here to ask you to join me

not to indict, not to convict but to ask the GAC to go in there and tell the people of Liberia what has been happening to all those funds being allocated to the county."

He says it is against that backdrop that he thought to write the plenary of the senate to seek their approval and mandate the GAC to carry out a comprehensive audit into the county development fund since the local leadership is refusing to provide accountability for money allegedly received all those years.



"Mr. Presiding, as we speak, there are lots of controversies in the county; whenever you talk about accountability, there will be a showery on various radio stations as to why you're calling for audit and accountability, but I think the only way we can find out how those monies have been spent is to seek the indulgence of this body to ask the GAC to conduct an audit", he insists.

He says based on tradition, every sitting in the county, the county administration produces list of projects that will be reviewed with budget attached to each of those projects and subsequently

GOL, UNICEF launch nationwide campaign on violence against children

By Lewis S Teh

The Government of Liberia in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a nationwide campaign to combat violence against children.

UNICEF launched the campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Government of Sweden and the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia in commemoration of the Day of the African Child, which was celebrated at the Executive Pavilion in Monrovia on Friday, June 16, 2023.

The Day is celebrated annually on June 16 to commemorate the Soweto Uprising which took place in South Africa on June 16, 1979.

The uprising was as a result of students protesting against the apartheid government's Afrikaans-only education policy,

address the challenges and risks faced by children online as well.

According to him, the Day of the African Child is a day to reflect on the challenges that children face and to recommit to protecting their rights, noting that it is also a day to celebrate the resilience and determination of children, who continue to fight for a better future.

He stressed that the campaign's core message, "Liberia... Stand Up... End Violence Against Women and Children", encourages every member of society to show love, care, and respect in their homes, communities, and beyond.

Mr. Nabongo intimated that using mass media platforms, including radio, television, and social media, the campaign aims to reach a wide audience and spark meaningful conversations about the importance of ending violence against children.

At the same time, the UNICEF Liberia Executive noted that the institution recognizes the critical



as the protests were met with violence by the police, and hundreds of students were killed.

The Day was also to commemorate the courage and resilience of children across the continent, it was observed under the theme, "The rights of the child in the digital environment".

Speaking on behalf of UNICEF Liberia Officer-In-Charge Mr. Amadou Cisse, the Chief of Education Section at the institution, Mr. Charles Nabongo, stressed the need to give children the free space to express themselves.

Mr. Nabongo noted that the nationwide campaign is meant to create awareness to combat all forms of violence against children, including gender-based violence, through community engagement activities and the use of mass media.

He added that the 2023's theme of the Day, emphasizes the critical need to protect children in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The UNICEF Chief of Education Section indicated that with internet access and usage increasing globally, it is key to

role of stakeholders in ensuring the promotion and protection of children's rights in the digital environment.

He stressed that the campaign highlights the collective responsibility of the State, the private sector, parents, caregivers, civil society organizations, United Nations, National Human Rights Institutions, and child and youth-led organizations to collectively create a safe and nurturing digital space for children to thrive.

Mr. Charles Nabongo has however called on all local and international stakeholders to commit themselves to advocate for policies and take tangible actions that protect and fulfill children's rights.

He stated that UNICEF stands firmly by the Government of Liberia and the institution's (UNICEF) partners, pledging their unwavering commitment to promoting equity for every child, everywhere, including in the digital environment.

Mr. Nabongo believes that together, they will strive to create a world where children can thrive and realize their full potential.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

La CEDEAO vers la mise en œuvre de l'ECOVISA

Dans le but de renforcer les investissements étrangers, le tourisme et faciliter l'accès aux opportunités abondantes au sein de la région de la CEDEAO, l'Autorité des chefs

organisé la septième réunion des chefs de l'immigration à Accra, au Ghana. Le but de cette réunion était de discuter de la mise en œuvre de l'ECOVISA, de son coût, de la conception recommandée par les experts en charge de la délivrance et du contrôle des visas

Lors de la réunion d'Accra, il a été recommandé qu'une analyse comparative complète des régimes de visas dans d'autres continents soit menée pour permettre que la mise en œuvre d'ECOVISA s'aligne sur les meilleures pratiques mondiales. En outre, les chefs de l'immigration ont reconnu la nécessité d'un engagement régulier pour discuter des modalités et évaluer les progrès de la mise en œuvre d'ECOVISA à différentes étapes. Ces recommandations et décisions étaient basées sur le rapport fourni par les experts ECOVISA qui se sont réunis à Accra, au Ghana, les 22 et 23 mai 2023. Les experts se sont concentrés sur la conception des visas, le régime des visas, les coûts des visas et d'autres considérations techniques nécessaires à la bonne mise en œuvre. D'ECOVISA. Il est important de rappeler que la CEDEAO s'est consacrée à une approche harmonisée dans la mise en œuvre du Protocole sur la libre circulation des personnes depuis son adoption. Les États membres accordent la priorité à la création d'un environnement sûr pour les migrants et à la suppression des obstacles afin de faciliter la mobilité, en particulier pour les citoyens de la communauté.

d'État et de gouvernement de la CEDEAO a adopté en 2011 l'introduction de l'ECOVISA, un système de visa unique similaire au modèle Schengen. La Commission de la CEDEAO a été chargée d'œuvrer à la réalisation de ce visa pour les Migrants des pays tiers.

Le 25 mai 2023, la Direction de la libre circulation des personnes et de la migration de la Commission de la CEDEAO a

issus des États membres et de déterminer la voie à suivre. La réunion des chefs de l'immigration sert de plate-forme aux représentants des services nationaux d'immigration des États membres de la CEDEAO pour favoriser la coopération et la coordination sur les questions relatives à la gestion des frontières et des migrations dans la région. Son objectif principal est de permettre une voix unifiée pour relever les défis de la mobilité et de la migration dans la région.

La population de Bong se mobilise pour soutenir Cummings

Des milliers de citoyens du comté de Bong se sont rendus en masse au stade David Kuyon à Gbarnga, le samedi 17 juin, pour soutenir la candidature de M. Alexander B. Cummings à la prochaine présidentielle prévue le 10 octobre 2023.

La cérémonie riche en couleurs a été organisée par l'ancien sénateur du comté de Bong Henry W. Yallah et d'autres candidats aux

sénatoriales et aux législatives. Un mouvement politique de foi chrétienne, « Kingdom Legislators Inc. » y a participé. Il a promis son soutien indéfectible et sa loyauté à l'élection de M. Cummings en tant que candidat le plus approprié pour remplacer le président George Weah.

Le Kingdom Legislators Inc, créé en mars 2021, compte plus de 5 000 pasteurs répartis dans six comtés, dont Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Margibi et Montserrado,

selon son porte-parole, le pasteur Dominion O. Roberts.

Le pasteur Roberts a déclaré que les chrétiens de tout le pays ont la responsabilité de fournir des conseils moraux, des prières et d'aider les Libériens à élire de bons dirigeants et qu'après des évaluations minutieuses des principaux candidats à la présidence, M. Cummings s'est

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Éditorial

Le projet d'électrification des bidonvilles à Monrovia est salubre

La compagnie d'électricité du Liberia (LEC) a lancé un programme ambitieux d'électrification de quatre communautés dans la banlieue de Monrovia. Le projet d'électrification des communautés de Gap (G-CEP) vise à étendre l'électricité dans les bidonvilles et à réduire le vol d'électricité. Voilà un projet vraiment salubre.

Le directeur exécutif de l'ingénierie et des connexions majeures (PEMC) de la LEC Dele I. Shobayo a déclaré que le projet est un effort pour surmonter la pauvreté énergétique, tout en décentralisant l'électricité pour favoriser le développement socio-économique et améliorer les moyens de subsistance des résidents.

Il s'agit d'un programme noble qui devrait être applaudi par tous les Libériens bien intentionnés, car il vise à améliorer la vie des citoyens en stimulant les activités économiques locales et en assurant la sécurité.

Il y a des dizaines de communautés à Monrovia et dans les environs et à travers le pays qui sont sans électricité. Les citoyens sont soumis à l'obscurité, les entreprises locales sont étranglées et les élèves ne peuvent pas étudier la nuit en raison du manque d'électricité.

Le G-CEP qui relie respectivement 72nd communauté à Paynesville, Lonestar Cell Number One, Jacob Town et Iron Factory est sur le point de faire sourire les habitants.

La LEC est certes confrontée à un sérieux défi de capacité, mais nous espérons que cette initiative sera étendue à d'autres bidonvilles où les citoyens s'effondrent dans l'obscurité. Cela ne devrait pas être fait de manière sélective.

Outre les avantages économiques et sociaux, l'électricité est la sécurité, car elle éloigne les criminels et autres qui envisagent de commettre d'autres actes douteux sous le couvert de l'obscurité.

Pendant près de 20 ans depuis la fin du conflit armé au Libéria, le manque d'électricité est resté un obstacle sérieux non seulement à la relance de l'économie, mais aussi à la promotion de la sécurité et au maintien d'une société sûre.

Immédiatement après 20 heures, les principales rues de Monrovia sont désertes principalement en raison de l'insécurité exacerbée par le manque d'électricité qui permet aux crimes de se développer facilement. C'est pourquoi nous pensons que le G-CEP est un changeur de jeu qui devrait être applaudi par les citoyens.

Par conséquent, nous appelons le gouvernement, en particulier les décideurs politiques de la LEC, à envisager d'étendre le programme à d'autres bidonvilles afin que les citoyens puissent bénéficier d'opportunités similaires.



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 aversé 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

La population de Bong se

avéré être le meilleur et le plus approprié.

Les pasteurs ont parlé du bilan sans tache et enviable de Cummings chez Coca-Cola, ainsi que de ses vastes relations commerciales et de sa compréhension du monde de l'entreprise, ce qui, selon eux, fait de lui le plus apte à relancer l'économie libérienne en difficulté et dont il a cruellement besoin pour créer des emplois.

L'ancien sénateur du comté de Bong, Yallah, a défendu le caractère, l'intégrité et le record du monde enviable de M. Cummings et a appelé ses parents et citoyens du comté de Bong à soutenir le porte-drapeau et le vice-porteur de la CPP.

Il a déclaré que les comtés de Bong et de Grand Bassa « constituent un seul peuple » et a rejeté les affirmations selon lesquelles le comté de Bong aurait un parrain politique, fidèle à un parti politique ou à un individu spécifique. Le comté de Bong est riche en votes et aurait la troisième plus grande population électorale, avec 13 circonscriptions électorales.

Cummings était accompagné à la cérémonie par des piliers de la CPP, dont Me Brumskine qui a supplié les citoyens du comté de Bong de ne pas réélire le président

Weah en raison de la détérioration des conditions économiques dans le pays et du besoin urgent d'un véritable changement.

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a exprimé sa gratitude aux habitants du comté de Bong pour la participation massive et leur démonstration de soutien et de solidarité pour sa candidature.

Cummings a adressé des remerciements au sénateur Yallah, à la structure du comté de CPP Bong, ainsi qu'aux législateurs pour la confiance qui lui a été accordée et leur promesse de soutien à son élection en tant que prochain président du Libéria.

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a exprimé sa confiance explicite qu'avec la démonstration massive de soutien et de solidarité à Bong, Grand Bassa, Maryland et dans d'autres parties du Libéria, et avec Dieu, il est certain de sa victoire.

Il a promis aux Libériens qu'avec Me Brumskine en tant que vice-présidente, qu'il décrit comme une source d'inspiration pour les jeunes, « nous gagnerons et aurons pour mandat de changer le Libéria au profit de tous les Libériens ».

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a déclaré que tous les Libériens, quels que soient leurs affiliations politiques ou religieuses, leur appartenance ethnique, leur statut ou leur croyance, bénéficieront des ressources du pays et auront les mêmes droits et

Gazoduc Nigéria-Maroc : De nouveaux accords signés avec des pays de la Cedeao



L'Onhym et la NNPC ont signé, ce vendredi à Abuja, des Mémoires d'entente (MoU) avec la Guinée, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Libéria et le Bénin dans le cadre de la réalisation du Gazoduc Maroc-Nigeria.

Une délégation de l'Office national des hydrocarbures et des mines (ONHYM) conduite par la directrice générale, Amina Benkhadra, a eu des entretiens, vendredi à Abuja, avec le directeur général de la Compagnie pétrolière nationale du Nigeria (NNPC) qui ont porté sur le projet de Gazoduc Nigeria-Maroc.

Lors de cette réunion, qui s'est déroulée en présence de l'ambassadeur de SM le Roi au Nigeria, Moha Ou Ali Tagma, les deux parties se sont félicitées du bon avancement du projet et ont réaffirmé leur volonté de poursuivre leur collaboration exemplaire pour la réalisation de ce projet structurant et intégrateur.

La directrice générale de l'Onhym a également pris part à la réunion du Comité de pilotage du Gazoduc, organisée par la Communauté

économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'ouest (Cedeao). Au cours de cette réunion, Benkhadra, au nom de l'Onhym, et Maalam Mele Kyari, PDG de la NNPC, ont procédé à la signature des Mémoires d'entente (MoU) avec la Guinée, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Libéria et le Bénin dans le cadre de la réalisation du Gazoduc Maroc-Nigeria.

Ces mémorandums d'entente, à l'instar des MoUs signés avec la Cedeao le 15 septembre 2022 et ceux signés avec la Mauritanie et le Sénégal, la Gambie, la Guinée Bissau, la Guinée, la Sierra Leone et le Ghana confirment l'engagement des parties concernant la réalisation de ce projet stratégique. Une fois achevé, fournira du gaz à l'ensemble des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et permettra également une nouvelle voie d'exportation vers l'Europe.

Ce gazoduc longera la côte ouest-africaine depuis le Nigeria, en passant par le Bénin, le Togo, le Ghana, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Libéria, la Sierra Leone, la Guinée, la Guinée Bissau, la Gambie, le Sénégal et la Mauritanie jusqu'au Maroc, et sera connecté au Gazoduc Maghreb Europe et au réseau gazier européen.

Le Gazoduc Nigeria-Maroc permettra aussi d'alimenter en gaz le Niger, le Burkina Faso et le Mali. Les MoU signés avec tous les pays membres de la CEDEAO et avec la Mauritanie sont également destinés à fusionner le projet de Gazoduc Nigeria-Maroc avec les projets des Gazoducs devant desservir les pays membres de la Communauté.

Au cours de cette réunion, les participants ont également examiné les modalités et arrangements d'ordre juridique, financier et institutionnels concernant le projet

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

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

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

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



notre manière ! »

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

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

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Substance abuse

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Standard Bearer of the opposition Alternative National Congress/Collaborating Political Parties (ANC/CPP) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, recently picked Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine of Grand Bassa County as his running mate for the October 10, 2023 Presidential and General Elections. She is the daughter of the late erudite Liberian lawyer, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine. The Cummings-Brumskine Ticket is being debate in many quarters whether it is a winning or losing ticket.

Some Monrovia residents have been providing their own assessment of the Cummings-Brumskine Ticket and what strength it brings to the October elections just three months away. Read their views as compiled below.



Mohammad A. Dukuly

“If you look at the potential of the ticket, in politics we look at the political capital - the strength of the ticket in terms of numbers. So, there are a lot of things going into that ticket. Well, the youthful energy Charlyne, from a youthful background and gender sensitive nature of the ticket, it balances the gender. But in terms of the political capital, they don't have the political capital. The last election Mr. Cummings contested, he didn't win a district as a party. So, coming back to this

election in 2023, we don't see faith that Cummings can be more of a better candidate in terms of percent and a module value. Charlyne has not been tried and tested in politics. If you have not been tried and tested, we can measure you by that; besides, she has not been involved and doesn't have any public service experience. So, when you don't have public service experience and then going as running mate, it will be more of a challenge for her. So, she is not coming with anything extra besides the gender sensitivity and she manages her own law firm but it is not a basic requirement to say she can be a good vice president.”

“Alexander B. Cummings' ticket is very disappointing and Mr. Cummings had never thought of bringing Charlyne as his running mate but due to his selfishness and greediness, he was just forced. As I learnt that there was an agreement. For me, the only thing I think Charlyne has is the legacy of her late father, which is her last name Brumskine. Besides, I don't see anything else because in Grand Bassa County, the people believe in Nyonblee, so the only thing because she is Brumskine's daughter and the Bassa people still love Brumskine. But her political career in Grand Bassa County is not even strong because her late father turned the party over to Senator



Titus Siakor

Nyonblee Lawrence, so it means that he trusted Nyonblee than her. Besides that, she has not been too active in Liberian politics and her name is not famous in Liberian politics, so for her going as running mate to Cummings, I don't think that is a winning ticket because even outside Grand Bassa, nobody knows

Charlyne to be a politician and her name is not famous so that ticket is disappointing, because he (Cummings) doesn't want to work with his friends that he met there. He just want come in politics and become president, which is not possible. He has to start from somewhere.”

[This] is one of the best things that Mr. Cummings ever did and he is a very sincere politician. That is the reason he decided to take a female. He should have taken a man but he is looking in a process where he has to have more female participation into the democracy, which females are fighting for huge participation. So since Mr. Cummings selected Charlyne Brumskine, especially a daughter of the late Cllr. Brumskine from Grand Bassa County, I think it is a plus. She has a lot to bring to the table. She is



Razzak Kanneh

a very brilliant young lady and she will be motivating other young females, letting them to know that they too can become vice standard bearers and important persons in the society. She will move around the country; she has very clean hands in the politics and I think she has lots to bring to the table: transparency, accountability and so forth.”

“Mr. Cummings bringing Charlyne as his running mate, I think that he has no power as a candidate. He's already lost hope so, he has nothing else but to look for another defeated candidate so that they can work together because if he came to build this country, he should have collaborated with other political parties that are working here continually as an opposition force that will be able to defeat

Tamba Edward

this regime and make President Weah a one-term President. Actually for me, I think that Charlyne has nothing to bring to the table because if you understand Grand Bassa, her late father left other person's hands in front her as face of Bassa so, if she was a political personality at that time, Cllr. Brumskine could had lifted her hands and told the people of Grand Bassa this is the person I'm leaving you with before he passed off. So, this is just a defeat trick for Cummings.”

Lansana Sombai

“The reason Alexander B. Cummings chose Charlyne because he doesn't have any option but to choose Charlyne for the fact that he said that he can't go as vice president to anyone so, who you think can go to him as a running mate, so he was not forced to choose Charlyne Brumskine because she was the only person for him to choose. In life, you have to start from somewhere before you become successful. President Weah served as senator and made three years before contesting for presidency but look at Mr. Cummings, who doesn't want to go as running mate to anyone but just want to become President. And how many percent he has, if you want to run as president, you should look as your percent first. Mr. Cummings in 2017 came 4th place in the election.

Now, we the Unity Party people want to help him to be come at least vice president, so the Liberian people will look at him but can you imagine, Mr. Cummings is campaigning in his county where he is not able to speak his own dialect. Someone have to be his interpreter to the people so, you think it is everyday someone will be there to interpret? And his running mate can't speak her own dialect so, she doesn't have anything to bring to the table. First of all, she doesn't speak her own dialect and secondly, know the interaction with the people, tradition plays a lot in politics so, if you are going to your people, you should be able to speak your dialect, so that ticket is a losing team.”

27,000 Liberians lifted out of 'extreme poverty'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., says President George Manneh Weah's administration has lifted 27,000 Liberians out of poverty. His claim has been met with mixed reactions with critics of the Weah

poor conditions. "The first years of His Excellency, President Weah's administration, according to the report, twenty [thousand] Liberians came out of poverty," Tweah argued. "And microeconomics hit the country. The President

put two million Liberians into extreme poverty.

He noted that the previous administration of ex-President Sirleaf passed the two million extremely poor people on to President Weah. "The previous administration of President Sirleaf didn't take those two million people out of poverty, rather, they passed [them] to President Weah," said Minister Tweah.

"Despite all the economic flow, billions of dollars, and investment, two million Liberians were extremely poor during the previous administration. So now, our goal is to bring them out of poverty," he continued.

Using the World Bank Report to push his argument, Minister Tweah suggested that President Weah took over the country when poverty was increasing. Commenting on the microeconomic stability across the country, he said President Weah walked into a microeconomic storm and didn't know that there was a collapse.

The Finance Minister said when President Weah took over the country, there was a microeconomic collapse that took inflation to 30%. "Because of those things, people said that we were not able to run the country in our first years when [the] UN left the country, because we were struggling to pay salaries and other things." "But today, we have stabilized all of those things and the economy of the country is stable through the help of the economic team," said Mr. Tweah.

He boasted that today, Liberians are having jobs and many are taken out of poverty.



Min. Samuel Tweah

administration disputing his arguments with alternative data. However, during a live radio interview Monday, 19 June 2023, Mr. Tweah said the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government inherited a population of two million people who were in extreme poverty from the previous administration.

Mr. Tweah was hosted on state broadcaster ELBC along with Liberia's Maritime Authority Commissioner-General, Eugene Nage, who formerly served as Information Minister both in Mr. Weah and former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's administrations.

According to Minister Tweah, the World Bank's Poverty Profile on Liberia, particularly the Human Capital Index established that President Weah inherited two million Liberians living in extremely

walked [into] the presidency believing that there was [a] solid microeconomic foundation, but it was not like that," Minister Tweah stated.

He suggested that poverty is going down under President Weah's administration if you carefully look at the trends before the 2017 elections and the 2023 elections. "This report is from [the] World Bank, not me Samuel Tweah. I will refer you to [the] latest World Bank Report, investing in Human Capital, particularly Page 20 which has a graph...," he noted.

When the CDC government took over, Minister Tweah said President Weah and his Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development pledged to lift about a million of those people out of poverty.

Minister Tweah argued that President Weah didn't

Starts from page 7

Weah opens museum

mismanaging 50,000 United States Dollars received from Diadora Sports Wear for the Lone Star of Liberia, saying "I didn't use any money given to me by Diadora, all these are rumors."

President Weah recalled that in 1996 when the National Team made her first official appearance at the African Cup of Nations in South Africa, the Lone Star bought a jersey with colors Blue- White- Black and Brown, and he as Technical Director at the time thought it was dishonest for the country to play in black jerseys, when the national colors are Red, White, and Blue, so he immediately contacted Diadora to provide the

National Team jersey with logo of the company to spotlight and Diadora provided the jersey along with US\$50,000, which was equally distributed among the players as per diem.

For his part, the Minister of State without Portfolio, Trokon Kpui said the museum showcases real antiquities that date back history of the country and will serve as a unique tourist attraction to younger generations to reflect soccer legacies of President George Weah and other famous athletes that will serve as model for the young ones, who aim to follow the same path.

Also speaking a

representative from Diadora said the museum will also serve as a reminder of the contributions of many patriots from Liberia, as well as the celebration of the memory of the greatest King George Weah, for his immense contribution towards the nation.

"We are excited about Liberia, and we like to say thank you to George Weah for being a good partner to Diadora, and this museum will provide the legacies and good footpath to the younger generation, to be inspired by George Weah", the Diadora representative said. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Boakai's endorsement suffers blow

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The President-General for the National Federation of Motorcyclists and Tricycles Association of Liberia (NAFOMTAL) Harris Kollie has distanced the Federation from a recent endorsement of the Presidential bid of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai by over 230,000 cyclists in Paynesville.

Speaking in Monrovia on Monday, June 19, Mr. Kollie said such endorsement, if left unchallenged, could hamper the wellbeing of majority of young people who are riding motorbikes and tricycles to sustain their livelihoods.

He said as President-General of NAFOMTAL that represents more than 250,000 motorcyclists across the country, he has to clarify immediately because the endorsement by John F. Kenyor of the Unity Party Standard Bearer under the National Federation is false and misleading.

Mr. Kollie stressed that they will not sit as a Federation and watch Mr. John F. Kenyor, who he described as a fugitive, and UP Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh gamble the wellbeing of motorcyclists.

He said the statement by some members of the Association led by Mr.

from US\$50 to US\$25 for motorbikes, can never be overly emphasized, noting that President Weah and the CDC-led government have done much for cyclists in a short period than any previous government.

Commending the President for his unwavering support to motorcyclists and tricyclists, he disclosed that the good leadership of President Weah will never go unnoticed, while pledging the Federation's support instead, to the Weah Presidency.

Mr. Kollie added that it is under the good leadership of President Weah that negotiations are underway for the first time in history, for the construction of a state of the art headquarters worth US\$250,000 shortly for cyclists.

He condemned the endorsement of the UP's Rescue Mission Ticket, noting that such pronouncement was made without any consultation and or consensus by the generality of motorcyclists across the country.

On Thursday, June 15, 2023, over 230,000 motorcyclists and tricycle operators endorsed the Presidential bid of Ambassador Boakai at a ceremony in



Former VP Boakai

NAFOMTAL Pres. Harris Kollie

Paynesville, outside Monrovia, according to a press release issued by the office of the former Vice President.

The release said the President-General of the Unions, Mr. John A.F. Kenyor, introduced officials of the Unions and coordinators from all 15 counties to the UP Standard Bearer.

It detailed that Mr. Kenyor told Mr. Boakai that the battle is not his, but rather the Federation of Tricycle and Motorcycle Unions of Liberia, pledging the Unions' commitment to making sure that the UP Standard Bearer is elected come October, as President of Liberia.

"The President-General told the crowd that the decision is about the nation and not about individuals", the release reads. Editing by Jonathan Browne

He emphasized that motorcyclists are always reminded of how some of their colleagues were brutalized and sanctioned during the 12 years rule of the UP-led government, so they will in no way endorse such ticket to again face marginalization and hardship.

According to him, motorcyclists acknowledge the magnanimity of President George Manneh Weah over the years, evidenced by lifting of sanctions imposed on them, removal of "No-go-zone" restriction in some parts of Monrovia, including reduction of tariffs of transport licenses of tricycles (Keke) and motorbikes from US\$150 to US\$50 for tricycles, and

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Liberia doomed for chaos, if..

-LNBA president warns government

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) president Cllr. Sylvester Rennie says Liberia is doomed for chaos due to the neglect of domestic and

the jurisdiction of the court. Therefore, who can't go to Court?" he added. The LNBA president cautioned that the law should be the law. He said if the law is not respected nor enforced, including domestic

dissatisfaction.

"Where are we going as a nation? We must ensure that we enforce our law," he said. He warned that Liberia is on a critical road and all Liberians have to stand to ensure that the right things are done, as failure to do so, history will judge them.

As president of the Bar, Cllr. Rennie assured Liberians that the LNBA will uphold its integrity, adding that it's the only institution that Liberians are looking up to. "Liberia is at a crossroads. We must help to correct the situation, irrespective of difficulties."

He lamented that Liberia is part of the International Convention where treaties are signed, and Liberia is yet to respect and domesticate those treaties. According to him, Liberia has had several judgments from the Economic Community of West African Court, but Liberia again is yet to enforce judgments from the court.

He disclosed that at the last meeting, they attended on ECOWAS' unconstitutional overthrow of the government, they were informed that Liberia is yet to appoint a competent authority to receive the court's ruling or judgment against the country.



LNBA Pres. Cllr. Rennie

international treaties or laws. Over the weekend, Cllr. Rennie accused the government of not obeying international treaties and judgments brought against it. "We have to respect laws. It's only the laws of the nation that can promote and develop that country. Other nations are respected because they respect the law," said Cllr. Rennie.

"Donald Trump was taken to court. He submitted himself to

laws and international treaties, Liberia is doomed for chaos. According to him, lawlessness has completely taken over Liberia and it's demonstrated in citizens' actions across the country.

Cllr. Rennie noted that people can move to a police station and burn it down and even hit people's vehicles in traffic and burn it once the person tries to express their

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