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# The New Dawn

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# Cllr. Scott, others spend night in jail

Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

# 'My mother is innocent'

**-Cllr. Scott's son denounces murder charge**

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# Continental News

## Uganda school massacre arrests raise questions

More than 20 people arrested in Uganda in connection with Friday's school massacre have been accused of collaborating with the rebel group blamed for carrying out the killings. Among those held are the director and headteacher, who have not commented. Officials say there may have

neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. The arrests raise difficult questions about whether locals, and those responsible for the children, had a hand in what happened.

But there is very little clarity. Thirty-seven pupils were among those killed, when, late on Friday, attackers stormed Lhubiriha Secondary School in the

shouting "Allahu Akbar", meaning "God is greatest", and "we have succeeded in destabilising Museveni's country".

According to military intelligence, it is suspected that five ADF militants took part in the attack.

The ADF, which is now linked to the IS group, has not yet said it was behind the attack though it has carried out attacks in Uganda in the past. While blaming "the terrorists of ADF" for what happened, President Museveni has also talked, without elaborating, about "wrangles" over the school.

First Lady Janet Museveni, who also serves as education minister, said there had been a "conflict" between "groups in [the district of] Kasese who wanted to take it over" and the non-governmental organisation (NGO) that built it. She pointed out that auditors from the NGO had been at the school the day before the attack, but said on Saturday that a proper investigation was under way. Ugandan army spokesperson Brig Gen Felix Kulayigye has told the BBC's Newsday programme that along with school officials, two people accused of guiding the attackers "to avoid detection" in Mpondwe have also been detained. BBC



Most of those who died who were students who boarded at the school in western Uganda

been a dispute over the ownership of the school where the 42 people died.

The army say Islamic State-linked militants were behind the attack, but other motives are being investigated.

They belong to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a group created in the 1990s and took up arms against President Yoweri Museveni, alleging persecution of Muslims. It is now largely based in

small town of Mpondwe, close to the border with DR Congo.

The victims, many of them staying in dormitories, were burnt or hacked to death, and some were reportedly shot.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, army commander Maj Gen Dick Olum said the violence was a way for the ADF to distract his soldiers from their pursuit of the militants inside DR Congo.

A neighbour told the BBC she heard one of the attackers

## Rwanda genocide accused seeks asylum in South Africa

Lawyers representing Rwandan genocide suspect Fulgence Kayishema, who had been on the run for 22 years before his arrest last month, have told the Cape Town Magistrates' Court that their client will apply for asylum on political grounds in South Africa.

It could delay his possible extradition to Rwanda for several years and significantly delay his trial on charges of genocide, complicity to genocide and crimes against humanity.

He is accused of directly participating in the killings as well as ordering the massacre on 15 April 1994 of 2,000 ethnic Tutsi people who were hiding in a Catholic Church in western Rwanda.

He was indicted in 2001 by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which has since closed, with his case being transferred to Rwanda for trial. Mr Kayishema, now in his sixties,

was arrested on a grape farm in South Africa's Western Cape province last month.

He also faces 54 charges in South Africa related to fraud and contravening the immigration act.

On Tuesday, lawyer Juan Smuts said Mr Kayishema had abandoned his bail application, which had been due to be heard on Tuesday.

South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority has said Mr

Kayishema's asylum application has no bearing on the court proceedings in South Africa and that more charges will be added when he next appears in court in August.

He remains in custody. About 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists in 100 days in 1994. BBC



Fulgence Kayishema is one of the most wanted suspects in the 1994 Rwanda genocide

## Former Somali Refugee Turns Reclaimed Life Jackets Into Fashion

World Refugee Day, which falls each year on June 20, celebrates the strength, perseverance, and courage of millions of people, who flee from their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

One young former refugee and entrepreneur has sought to turn the refugees' stories into something inspiring that empowers others who have fled their homes. Mohamed Malim, a 27-year-old former Somali refugee turned social entrepreneur, is the director of the fashion apparel brand Epimonia, a small Minnesota-based company that he founded in 2018.

The company collects life jackets that refugees have worn, and the remains of flimsy build-it-yourself rafts from Greek beaches, and turns these pieces of the

refugees with opportunities for education and advancement," said Malim.

Over the weekend, at a small space in Washington D.C., Malim used a pile of life jackets and boat materials to celebrate this year's World Refugee Day.

"It is something that I am very passionate [about]," said Malim. "Something that I am very inspired [about]. It is an ability that God gave me to use my talent to make an impact in the life lives of the refugees through a unique medium: fashion."

A former refugee, Malim was born in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. He was 4 years old when his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1999. "We first settled in Texas and then moved to Minnesota, where my personal journeys inspired me to make a difference in the world, especially for other refugees," he said. "I am really very grateful to be in this position where I can help my fellow refugees achieve their



A pile of life jackets is seen on the island of Lesbos, Greece, Feb. 17, 2020.

refugee journey into something more tangible.

"We take life jackets that refugees have worn crossing the Mediterranean Sea and turn them into fashion pieces to bring awareness of the global refugee crisis, and to support refugees' arts, and designers," Malim told VOA Somali.

The signature of Epimonia's products is a vibrant orange bracelet manufactured out of the scraps of discarded life jackets that refugees used on their trip. Malim says bracelets have been finding their way onto the wrists of young people in the U.S, especially in Minnesota, generating profit that partially goes back to the refugees.

"We support refugees through providing employment, spreading awareness, and donating 50% of our profit to U.S. organizations that support

dreams and materialize their hopes."

During the Washington event where Malim showcased his latest art exhibit, a young Somali-American poet, Elias Yabarow, better known as ALAKKUU, gave a live performance of an original piece reflecting the Story of Deeja, a fictional young Somali girl who risked her life to migrate from Mogadishu to Europe.

"The idea behind the story of Deejah is basically about the migration of young people, and the message elaborates the factors that force these young people to venture out on hazardous journeys to escape unbearable situations in their countries of origin," Yabarow told VOA. "Even though, the story does not feature if Deeja survived or not, this is the story of how a young woman crossed the coast, this is a story of hundred million people who were all in a same boat," said Yabarow. Elias Yabarow is the son of VOA Somali chief Abdi Yabarow, who was not involved in reporting or editing this story.

# 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 where citizens are wallowing 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.

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# COMMENTARY

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.

# OP-ED

By Jennifer Morris,  
John Antonio Briceño

## The Debt-for-Nature Lifeline

**B**ELMOPAN - French President Emmanuel Macron's Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, to be held in Paris this week, is a historic opportunity to deliver deep financial reforms that support development and bolster the fight against climate change. But the summit's focus - climate, development, and debt - appears to be missing something: nature.

Unprecedented biodiversity loss and environmental degradation pose an existential risk to all life on Earth, owing to the depletion of natural resources (including water), disruptions to soil formation and thus food production, longer recovery times from natural disasters, and, potentially, climate and resource conflicts. According to the World Economic Forum, the climate and the environment account for six of the top ten global risks in the decade ahead.

Developing countries did not generate these risks, but they are paying the price: they must fund interventions to help mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises, while also paying to address the loss and damage associated with these interwoven crises.

Yet these countries are already stretched to their fiscal limits, not least because advanced-economy interest-rate hikes and risk-repricing have driven up debt-servicing costs. As a result, they often lack access to affordable finance.

Efforts to address this systemic problem are underway. A notable example is Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley's Bridgetown Initiative, which aims to create more fiscal space for development, climate mitigation and adaptation, and loss and damage. But more must be done. In fact, the global financial system must be entirely reimagined.

Most immediately, the upcoming summit in Paris must produce a credible reform plan that aligns with the needs of nature. At the same time, multilateral development banks must place nature at the center of their operations. The Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at last December's United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, requires them to ensure that their portfolios are both nature-positive and aligned with the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Special attention should be paid to scaling up proven solutions, such as debt-for-nature swaps. Such swaps - in particular, the "blue bonds" pioneered by The Nature Conservancy - enable a country to refinance its debt under more favorable terms, and allocate the proceeds toward biodiversity protection and climate adaptation. The result is higher spending on conservation or green investment, and a smaller - or, at least, not a larger - debt burden.

In 2021, a \$364 million debt-conversion deal with The Nature Conservancy enabled Belize to reduce its debt by about 12% of GDP, while unlocking an estimated \$180 million in long-term sustainable conservation funding over 20 years. The agreement also included a commitment from Belize to protect 30% of its maritime territory.

Last year, a similar agreement - involving The Nature Conservancy and the Inter-American Development Bank - enabled the Barbadian government to convert \$150 million worth of debt, again in exchange for a commitment to conserve approximately 30% of its maritime territory. And under the world's largest debt-for-nature deal, reached last month, Ecuador is converting \$1.6 billion in debt into \$12 million per year for the conservation of the Galapagos Islands.

Debt-for-nature swaps are no panacea; they do not eliminate the need for grants, concessionary financing and other loans, or private investment. Donor pledges still must be fulfilled: rich countries have yet to meet their 2009 commitment to deliver \$100 billion per year in climate finance to developing countries by 2020.

Rich countries have also failed to mobilize adequate private investment. Scaling up credit enhancement, for example through third-party guarantees, would lower the investment risk (and thus debt issuers' borrowing costs), which would simultaneously enable countries to reduce their debt burdens and help to crowd in private financing for climate and nature investments.

Nonetheless, debt-for-nature swaps can go a long way toward helping low- and middle-income countries address the triple challenge of high debts, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Recognizing this, both the Sustainable Debt Coalition, which was created and endorsed by African finance ministers at last year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), and the V20 group of climate-vulnerable countries have called for greater use of these and other innovative tools.

The good news is that the institutional architecture needed to pursue debt-for-nature swaps at scale and with more actors is already largely in place. What is needed now is shareholder will and executive action to boost development-finance institutions' capacity to provide guarantees for sovereign-debt issuance linked to climate and nature investments.

The Paris summit can kick-start progress by aligning international financial institutions on mechanisms to guarantee debt conversions, and by presenting a package of reforms aimed at increasing such conversions' effectiveness and efficiency before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), which begins on November 30. Financial reforms that do not account for nature will prove unsustainable in the long run.

Debt-for-nature swaps are no longer just a viable economic option; they are now a lifeline for our planet. But if we do not reach for that lifeline now, it may soon be beyond our grasp.

# OPINION

By Esther Duflo, Michael Kremer

## Throwing Good Money After Good

**P**ARIS/CHICAGO - Innovation can have a profound effect on our lives. Thanks to technological advances that reduced the price of solar energy by nearly 90% between 2009 and 2019, the green-energy transition is within reach. Likewise, agricultural innovation has helped to triple the amount of food grown per hectare since 1960, dramatically reducing hunger even as the world's population more than doubled. And mRNA vaccine technology has saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Societies have established various mechanisms to encourage innovation. One is the market system: companies pay for research and development in the hope of selling innovations at a profit, and investors back companies if they think their products or services will sell. The patent system encourages R&D by protecting original inventions from being copied. And government funding supports basic science, which is critical to driving innovation but difficult to patent.

While these mechanisms foster innovation, they are not perfect. In some areas, commercial investment incentives fall far short of what is required, and the needs of the poor too often go unaddressed. Certain innovations, such as emissions-reduction technologies, benefit everyone rather than the customer. This means that their price does not fully reflect their value to society, reducing private companies' incentives to develop them. Other innovations are difficult to patent and too easy to replicate, which limits the potential rewards for developers.

Similarly, there is a need for innovations that improve how governments deliver essential services, such as teaching children math or protecting vulnerable individuals and communities from climate change. But such innovations are often difficult to monetize.

As a result, innovations aimed at serving the poorest segments of society are frequently overlooked. To mobilize investment in projects designed to assist those living in poverty, we helped establish social innovation funds in the United States and France. Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) at the US Agency for International Development, and the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) at the Agence Française de Développement both take a page from venture capital's playbook, but focus on currently underserved areas.

These funds identify innovations that can be scaled up, either by the agencies hosting them or by other governments, NGOs, or private companies. For example, DIV's early, relatively modest investments in targeted instruction in India provided the necessary proof of concept that facilitated the Zambian government's almost-nationwide expansion of the model, with assistance from the US government. It also proved instrumental in securing \$25 million in complementary philanthropic support to help scale this innovation further. Millions of children in a dozen African countries now reap the benefits of these highly effective pedagogical programs.

This approach has been enormously successful. We recently analyzed the impact of the first two years of DIV investments, which included software to support community health workers in delivering basic services, water-treatment dispensers, and affordable glasses for presbyopia. Innovations funded by DIV during this period have affected more than 100 million people and generated at least \$17 of social benefits for every \$1 invested. This represents a social rate of return exceeding 143%, nearly ten times the initial 15% target set at DIV's inception.

Much like venture capital, a handful of "superstar" innovations account for most of the benefits. For both venture-capital and social innovation funds, the majority of innovations have modest impacts or do not pan out, but a few big successes can justify the entire portfolio and drive returns. Nine of the 41 innovations funded by DIV in its first two years reached more than one million people. We were able to put a dollar value on five of them. By 2019, these five innovations generated \$281 million in social benefits, representing a seventeen-fold return on the entire portfolio, including administrative costs.

Given the riskiness of investments in innovation, there is always the fear that a fund could fail to identify the superstars or overcommit to mediocre or failed projects. DIV and FID have four key characteristics that have enabled them to avoid this and generate robust returns on their investments.

First, DIV and FID are open. To identify promising innovations, both funds are agnostic about where success occurs, casting a wide net across sectors and entities. They welcome applications from researchers, private-sector firms, NGOs, and governments. This includes applicants who often struggle to win government contracts, such as those based in low- and middle-income countries.

Second, to maintain discipline in investment decisions, DIV and FID employ a tiered funding approach. Initially, they offer smaller amounts of funding to pilot and test promising new ideas. Innovations that have undergone rigorous impact assessment and proven their cost-effectiveness are then eligible for additional scale-up funding. This model allows for experimentation while ensuring value for money.

Third, DIV and FID rely on rigorous evidence-based criteria to select the innovations most suitable for scaling up. They often use randomized evaluations - the same methodology used to test new vaccines - to assess the potential of promising projects. This enables researchers to measure the effect of these innovations on incomes, health, literacy, and other important indicators.

Lastly, DIV and FID complement commercial R&D investments. Private companies often invest in innovations that generate social benefits, but typically only if they also expect commercial returns. By contrast, DIV and FID focus on innovations that yield significant social benefits but have limited commercial viability. Social innovation funds can also de-risk underserved populations or geographies, crowding in private investment alongside grant capital. This makes their investments truly "additional": they invest in projects that would otherwise remain unfunded by the private sector.

At a time when aid budgets are under renewed pressure, one way to maximize the impact of spending is through open, tiered, evidence-based social innovation funds like DIV and FID. The evidence suggests that such funds can deliver tremendous returns on investment and avoid throwing good money after bad. By identifying, testing, and rapidly scaling up the most promising innovations, they provide a powerful tool for reducing global poverty and achieving other socially desirable goals.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Running out of Political Strategies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ALP Youth Chair resigns

The chairman of the All Liberian Party (ALP) Youth League Mr. Mark Nemenlah Mentee Massaquoi has resigned, citing alleged betrayal as a reason.

"It is time when silence became a sign of betrayal. Therefore, I write to tender in my resignation from the All Liberian

and Constitution of the ALP which sanction the rights for resignation of membership and its procedures.

According to him, his decision came in the wake of the displayed sign of alleged selfishness and grave unpatriotic inconsistency by Mr. Momo and ALP political leader, Mr.



Mr. Mark Nemenlah Mentee Massaquoi

Party (ALP) to enable me freely and openly join the good-intentioned Liberians in support of JNB-JKOUNG-2023 Rescue Mission!" said Massaquoi in a letter Tuesday, 20 June 2023.

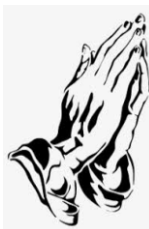
Massaquoi addressed his resignation letter to Mr. JSB Theodore Momo, Jr., ALP National Chairman.

He said his decision is in line with Article 13.1.0(a) and (b) of the By-law

Benoni Wilfred Urey, regarding ALP's support for Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr.

"Since I enrolled into the membership of the ALP in 2019, it has been a pleasure serving and learning other social and political core values under your leadership, and interactions with fellow partisans. Hence, my family and I wish the ALP all the best," he noted.

## Death Announcement



This is to announce the sudden death of Pastor Eddie Tugbeh Noah. This sad event occurred on June 11th, 2023, at the St Joseph Catholic Hospital.

He leaves to mourn his wife Betty Noah, his daughters Tenneh Noah Flomo, Barbara Noah, his son Dominic Noah, brothers, sisters other relatives and friends in and out of Liberia.

He served as the head Pastor of the Church of Christ New Georgia Sign Board branch and worked at the National Identification Registry.

Funeral service will be held on July 1st, 2023, at 9am at the Church of Christ New Georgia Sign Board branch. The remains will be taken to Gbengbar's Town on the RIA highway.

This announcement was brought in by his brother Cletus Noah, sisters Mary Noah Weah, Veronica Noah Gmah and wife Betty Noah unbehalf of the family.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## House to probe violence at Bea Mountain

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has instructed its joint committee on Mines & Energy and Labor to review recent

member of his constituency, who works for Bea Mountain Mining Corporation in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

He said the complaint among other things, alleged

Ministry of Justice and the Liberian National Police also received these complaints nearly two weeks ago. Unfortunately, the law enforcement authorities directly failed to take any action to investigate or make any arrest. In other words, the Police has reneged on its function to investigate these allegations".

Goshua at the same time alleged that the company had met with the Ministers of Justice, Internal Affairs, Labor, and Mines and Energy to seek Government's action but to no avail which he further claims is troubling and undermines all efforts to attract investors to Liberia.

He said what is even more troubling is a sequence of allegations that the Minister of Labor is an instigator of this violence or disruption at Bea Mountain.

"I know of a similar set of allegations against the Minister relating to recent disruptions at ArcelorMittal Liberia and within other concessions", the lawmaker writes.

Meanwhile, Rep. Goshua is calling on Plenary of the House of Representatives to investigate the matter by inviting the Ministers of Justice, Mines, and Energy and Labor, including the Inspector General of Police in order to clarify the allegations. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



violence and potential threats to national security and rule of law at Bea Mountain Mining Corporation in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County and report in one week.

The House took the decision here Tuesday, 20 June, during its regular session following a communication from Grand Bassa County Electoral District#5 Representative, Thomas A. Goshua, in which he cites potential threats to national security and the rule of law at the company.

According to Rep. Goshua, he received a complaint from a

that on June 4, 2023, a group of persons believed to be in the employ of Bea Mountain engaged in violent activities wherein they mobbed and beat up several employees of the company, including expats and the company's lawyer who was nearly killed.

Rep. Goshua added that the violent conduct is ongoing as several expatriates and Liberian workers exposed to those forms of threats are likely to organize themselves in self-defense.

"I have documents in my possession which show that the

## House cites East Construction Ltd

The House of Representatives has cited East Construction Limited, along with its consultant, Kelvin Blama, to appear before its leadership on Monday, 26 June to speak on current road construction and straight adherence to standards of the Ministry of Public Works.

The House leadership took the decision on Monday, 19 June during a meeting with the Ministry of Public Works over a complaint filed by Montserrado County Electoral District# 6 Representative Samuel Enders, about a reported sale of removed asphalt pavements from the ongoing RIA road construction and alleged insults against his persons by East Construction consultant Kelvin Blama.

The House says the company is also cited to provide an update on the status of the ongoing RIA road construction and possible detour routes to avoid congestion.

Expansion and reconstruction of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway (RIA to ELWA Junction Road stretch) in Liberia is under construction by East Construction Ltd.

The 45-kilometer road project commenced since September 2021 and was scheduled for completion

within three years, specifically by 2024 with an estimated cost of US\$116 million.

The Ministry of Public Works will accompany East Construction Ltd before the House's leadership on Monday, 26 June. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



## 15,000 young people endorse Cummings

By Lincoln G. Peters

Over 15,000 young people have endorsed Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine's 2023 presidential ticket.

The group under the banner "Progressive Women and Children" endorsed the opposition Collaboration Political Parties (CPP) ticket Tuesday, 20 June 2023. The program was held at the CPP headquarters in Sinkor and brought together several youths, particularly women and girls.

The group described the Cummings-Brumskine ticket as the liberator of their future that will transform Liberia and fix the country's damaged image and economy. The group said it has long been held in social, economic, and political captivity under the Coalition for Democracy Change (CDC) government and its predecessors. Receiving the

He assured Liberians that he will work harder every day to make sure that their lives are transformed.

"I want to assure you that Liberia will have a brighter future under a Cummings-Brumskine administration. We will make sure that the lives of all are transformed." "Please leave here today and know that we are committed to changing this country," he concluded.

For her part, Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine, the running mate to Mr. Cummings, urged the petitioners to be more serious about their petition by voting for the CPP on 10 October 2023.

Cllr. Brumskine said if the women of Liberia are not serious about what they say in their petition, they will watch their children die from "Drug Crisis." "If you are not serious, you will watch your children die before your own eyes."

She urged them to be serious and stop chanting battlecry that



endorsement, CPP standard bearer and head of the "Fixer Ticket" Mr. Cummings extolled the group for its support and endorsement of his presidential bid.

Cummings said he takes the endorsement very seriously and he will ensure that the youth of Liberia are transformed. He said he will ensure that they are given hope for the future with an understanding to compete in the global market.

"I want to thank you for this endorsement. I also want you to know that I take this very seriously. I want you to know that I am committed," he said. "When we take the oath of office in January next year, we will start the journey of restoring good governance to Liberia, economic growth, and prosperity. And we will look at our women and children," he noted.

The opposition leader said young people represent the future of Liberia while the women are the backbone of the country.

will not benefit them and their children's future.

Rather, Cllr. Brumskine urged women to focus on the restoration of their children's future by voting for the Cummings-Brumskine ticket. She added that the opportunity will be provided to the women and young people to decide on shifting their future for the better.

Reading the petition, the secretary general of the progressive women and children, Princess Tokpah stated that the ANC political leader, Alexander B. Cummings is the emancipator of Liberians from their current state of servitude of poverty.

"The Progressive Women and Children of Liberia is a registered group in Liberia that has a membership of over 15,000," she said.

"We are based in six counties, namely Montserrado County, Margibi, Lofa, Bong, and Grand Cape Mount. We have decided to endorse you because we see our future in you," she stated.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

**'Boakai's packed car can't kick'****-Minister Tweah and Commissioner Nagbe launch an anti-Boakai attack**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah and Maritime Authority chief Eugene Nagbe have launched an anti-Joseph Nyumah Boakai attack,

said that he was packed for twelve years in the garage. Now let me ask if you packed a car for twelve years, it's not a new car, but a used car," said Minister Tweah.

The former Liberian vice

opportunities.

"You put [a] used car in the garage and you packed it and locked it, twelve years that you [were] supposed to be driving it, the car was packed," Tweah continued.

"With that, it has to be understood by Amb. Boakai and team that he can't rescue anything in this country. We have to be brutally honest [with] the Liberian People."

Mr. Tweah and Commissioner Nagbe criticized both Amb. Boakai's 'Rescue Team' and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings' campaign which is branded as the "Fixer."

"What we have to say is that the President is succeeding because of the impact he is [making]," Mr. Tweah noted.

Minister argued that Liberians want to hear the truth, and not what you think they want to hear. He said telling them the truth would make Liberians respect them.

He explained that the government is succeeding not because of politics, but because of the hard decision it took during tough times to stabilize the country's economy and address the bread-and-butter issues.

"When people [were]

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Min. Samuel Tweah

equating him to an old used car that cannot kick.

The two senior administration officials suggested on state broadcaster ELBC Monday, 19 June 2023 that Boakai's car has been packed for approximately eighteen years, and he has nothing to rescue in Liberia.

"The former Vice President

president brands his 2023 campaign as the Rescue Team, but the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) suggests that the Boakai presidential campaign cannot be a rescue mission.

It insists that Boakai and former president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's Unity Party regime squandered its

**Weah hails LFA's U-15 talent development scheme**

By Naneka Hoffman

President George Weah has lauded the Liberia Football Association (LFA) for the just-ended National U-15 Championship and Talent Identification Scheme (TDS).

With support from FIFA, the LFA launched the U-15 championship and TDS on 10 December 2022, in eight counties here.

The program aims to identify young talents throughout the nation who will be used to build the various youth national teams in Liberia. Speaking recently at Jamaica Resort in Thinker's Village, Paynesville, President Weah praised the LFA for setting up the competition and giving the younger players a chance to show off their talents.

President Weah assured government's commitment to supporting such an initiative and admonished players to remain focused and disciplined

if they want to succeed and become the next Liberian to win the Ballon d'Or.

Meanwhile, he used the occasion to inspire the kids by sharing his football career story with them, most of whom were meeting President Weah for the first time.

The chief patron of sports then presented a cash of US\$10,000 to the competition's

organizers and participating teams as a motivational package.

Tebah Football Academy defeated Destiny Football Academy of Grand Bassa 4-2 in penalties on Saturday, June 17, to win the U-15 championship. The game had ended 2-2 after full-time plus extra 20 minutes. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

**Red Cross joins battle against armyworms**

The Liberia National Red Cross Society has deployed some of its dedicated volunteers to support the response team spraying affected towns and villages in Bong County following a caterpillar infestation in at least eight districts.

The Red Cross says the infestation, caused by the Achaea Janata outbreak, has caused fear in the affected areas, contaminating water sources, damaging crops, and invading homes. It has spread over to at least seven counties in Liberia, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"The infestation of armyworms poses significant threats to our communities", the Liberian Red Cross Secretary General has said.

The government through the

various aspects of the intervention efforts. Their presence and dedication have proven invaluable in providing essential support to the affected communities and working along with a team of highly skilled technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Your selflessness and dedication are a testament to the spirit of solidarity that defines the Red Cross and our collective commitment to alleviate human suffering", Mr. Blamoh said of the volunteers.

Through an effective coordinated approach, the government and partners are pooling their resources and expertise to combat the caterpillar infestation and halt the further spread of the armyworms.

"Together, let us persist in our efforts, confident that our coordinated response will bring



Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in coordination with partners on the ground has begun spraying affected areas to stop the spread of the caterpillar infestation.

"I want to acknowledge the government's proactive approach in initiating the spraying of affected towns and villages to prevent further spread of the armyworms", the Red Cross Secretary General Gregory Blamoh acknowledged, further emphasizing that this concerted effort is crucial in containing the infestation and safeguarding the affected communities.

The Liberian Red Cross has not only deployed its professional volunteers but has provided essential protective gear, including facemasks, gloves and gowns to the Ministry of Agriculture to protect the frontline workers and volunteers, who are tirelessly working to mitigate the impact of the infestation.

The Red Cross volunteers are lending their skills, expertise, and compassion to assist in

relief to those affected and restore stability to their lives", the Red Cross Secretary General pointed out.

He said: "As the situation evolves, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and responsive to the needs of the affected population", adding that the Liberian Red Cross is ready to support the government's coordinated effort in any way possible by sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources to effectively combat the outbreak and prevent its further spread.

The caterpillar infestation has also hit Rivercess, Gbarpolu, Nimba, Bomi, Lofa, and Margibi Counties. "We remain committed to serving the affected communities and will continue to support and collaborate with government and partners until the threat posed by the caterpillar infestation is successfully mitigated, ensuring the well-being and resilience of the affected communities", the Red Cross Secretary General assured. Press Release

# Français

## Le Libéria est voué au chaos, si..

Le Président de l'Association nationale du barreau libérien (LNBA) Sylvester Rennie craint que le Libéria ne soit voué au chaos en

développement de ce pays. Les autres nations sont respectées parce qu'elles respectent la loi", a déclaré Rennie.

"Donald Trump a été traduit en justice. Il s'est soumis à la

et cela se manifeste dans les actions des citoyens à travers le pays.

« Les gens peuvent se rendre à un poste de police et le brûler et même lapider les véhicules des gens dans la circulation et le brûler une fois que la personne essaie d'exprimer son mécontentement. Où allons-nous en tant que nation ? Il devons nous faut appliquer nos loi"los », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a averti que le Libéria est sur une route critique et que tous les Libériens doivent se tenir debout pour faire en sorte que l'on fasse les choses comme il le faut.

M. Rennie a dit que, en tant que bâtonnier, il fera en sorte que la LNBA maintienne son intégrité, car c'est la seule institution que les Libériens admirent.

« Le Liberia est à la croisée des chemins. Nous devons aider à corriger la situation, quelles que soient les difficultés ».

Il a déploré que le fait que le Libéria ne respecte pas la Convention internationale et les traités qu'il a signés.

Selon lui, le Libéria a eu plusieurs jugements de la Cour de la Communauté économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, mais il n'a respecté aucun d'entre eux.

raison de la négligence des traités ou des lois nationaux et internationaux.

Au cours du week-end, Me Rennie a accusé le gouvernement de ne pas obéir aux traités internationaux et aux jugements portés contre lui.

"Nous devons respecter les lois. Seules les lois de la nation peuvent promouvoir le

juridiction du tribunal. Par conséquent, qui ne peut pas aller au tribunal ? » il ajouta.

Le président de la LNBA a averti que la loi devrait être la loi. Il a déclaré que si la loi n'est pas respectée ni appliquée, y compris les lois nationales et les traités internationaux, le Libéria est voué au chaos.

Selon lui, l'anarchie s'est complètement emparée du Libéria

## 27 000 Libériens ont été sortis de « l'extrême pauvreté », le ministre des Finances Tweah

Le ministre des Finances, Samuel D. Tweah, a fait valoir que l'administration du président George Manneh Weah a sorti 27 000 Libériens de la pauvreté.

Lors d'une interview à la radio en direct le lundi 19 juin 2023, M. Tweah a déclaré que lorsque le gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) arrivait au pouvoir plus de deux millions de libériens vivaient dans l'extrême pauvreté.

M. Tweah était à la radio ELBC avec le commissaire général de l'Autorité maritime du Libéria Eugene Nage, qui était auparavant ministre de l'Information dans les administrations de M. Weah et de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Selon le ministre Tweah, le profil de pauvreté de la Banque mondiale sur le Libéria, en particulier l'indice du capital humain, a établi que le président Weah a trouvé plus de deux millions de Libériens dans des conditions extrêmement pauvres.

"Au cours des premières années de l'administration de Son Excellence, le président Weah, selon le rapport, vingt mille Libériens sont sortis de la pauvreté", a expliqué Tweah.

« Et la microéconomie a frappé le pays. Le président est entré dans la présidence en croyant qu'il y avait [une] base microéconomique solide, mais ce n'était pas comme ça », a déclaré le ministre Tweah.

Il a dit que la pauvreté diminue

sous l'administration du président Weah.

"Ce rapport provient de la Banque mondiale, pas de moi, Samuel Tweah. Je vous renvoie au dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale, sur l'investissement dans le capital humain, en particulier à la page 20 qui contient un graphique..."», a-t-il noté.

Lorsque le gouvernement

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## 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

## Attaque dans un lycée en Ouganda : traumatisée la population attend le résultat de l'enquête

La police ougandaise a annoncé ce lundi 19 juin qu'au moins 20 personnes ont été arrêtées suite au massacre perpétré en fin de semaine dernière dans une école secondaire près de la frontière congolaise. Le groupe terroriste ADF est suspecté d'avoir attaqué l'établissement, brûlant et massacrant des étudiants, faisant 42 morts. Les autorités affirment que l'enquête se poursuit, mais les familles ne cachent pas leur frustration.

Le directeur et le professeur principal de l'école font partie de la vingtaine de personnes interpellées, selon la police. Les autorités indiquent qu'elles continuent de poursuivre les ADF qui ont kidnappé six étudiants. Des jeunes qui leur serviraient à porter de la nourriture volée. Le porte-parole de l'armée a en tout cas assuré lundi soir que la zone de l'attaque était sécurisée et calme. Il n'empêche, la population reste traumatisée. De nombreux élèves préfèrent rester chez eux plutôt que de retourner dans les écoles de la région. La presse locale cite

par exemple cet établissement de plus de 600 jeunes se retrouvant avec seulement une trentaine d'élèves.

Dans l'attente de l'identification des victimes

Dans le même temps, les cérémonies mortuaires se poursuivent. Lundi, la police a indiqué que 23 corps avaient été rendus aux familles. Deux n'ont pas encore été réclamés. Six blessés sont toujours pris en charge à l'hôpital de Bwera, proche de l'école attaquée, mais deux ont été transférés à près de 500 km, jusqu'à Kampala, la capitale.

Une vingtaine de dépouilles n'ont donc pas encore été rendues aux familles. Certaines victimes, brûlées, ne sont pas reconnaissables et des tests ADN sont en cours. Le défenseur des droits de l'homme Wilson Bwambale vit à Kajwenge, village comptant 12 des 42 victimes. Il explique que cinq familles n'ont toujours pas pu enterrer leurs enfants. « C'est un traumatisme. Des mères ne font que pleurer. Chez nous, il faut des rituels et des cérémonies traditionnelles pour pouvoir faire son deuil. Sans les corps, c'est impossible », raconte-t-il

## 27 000 Libériens ont été sortis de « l'extrême

du CDC a pris le pouvoir, le président Weah et son programme pro-pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement s'étaient engagés à sortir environ un million de libériens de la pauvreté.}}

Le ministre Tweah a soutenu que le président Weah n'avait pas plongé deux millions de Libériens dans l'extrême pauvreté.

Il a dit que c'est l'administration de l'ex-présidente Sirleaf qui mis les deux millions de personnes extrêmement pauvres au président Weah.

« L'administration précédente de la présidente Sirleaf n'a pas sorti ces deux millions de personnes de la pauvreté, elle les a plutôt transmises au président Weah », a déclaré le ministre Tweah.

« Malgré tous les flux économiques, les milliards de dollars et les investissements, deux millions de Libériens étaient extrêmement pauvres sous l'administration précédente. Alors maintenant, notre objectif est de les sortir de la pauvreté », a-t-il poursuivi.

Utilisant le rapport de la Banque mondiale pour étayer son argumentation, le ministre Tweah a dit que le président Weah avait pris le contrôle du pays alors que la pauvreté augmentait.

Commentant la stabilité microéconomique à travers le pays, il a déclaré que le président Weah était entré dans une tempête microéconomique et ne savait pas qu'il y avait un effondrement.

Le ministre des Finances a déclaré que lorsque le président Weah a pris le pouvoir dans le pays, il y a eu un effondrement microéconomique qui a porté l'inflation à 30 %.

« À cause de ces choses, les gens ont dit que nous n'étions pas en mesure de diriger le pays au cours de nos premières années lorsque l'ONU a quitté le pays, parce que nous avions du mal à payer les salaires et d'autres choses.

« Mais aujourd'hui, nous avons stabilisé toutes ces choses et l'économie du pays est stable grâce à l'aide de l'équipe économique », a déclaré M. Tweah.

Il s'est vanté qu'aujourd'hui, les Libériens ont des emplois et beaucoup sont sortis de la pauvreté.

## Référendum au Mali : y a-t-il eu vote à Aguelhok et dans la région de Kidal ?



Dimanche, les autorités maliennes de transition organisaient un référendum pour tenter de faire adopter leur projet de nouvelle Constitution. Jugé illégitime par de nombreux partis d'opposition, ils appelaient à voter « non » ou à boycotter le scrutin. Ce référendum a été rejeté également par les groupes armés du Nord, signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015, contrôlant la région de Kidal. Le scrutin référendaire s'est-il tenu dans la région de Kidal et notamment dans la ville d'Aguelhok ?

Au soir du référendum, dimanche, la télévision d'État ORTM diffuse des images du vote à Aguelhok, région de Kidal. Des images floues filmées avec un téléphone portable - pourtant interdits dans les bureaux de vote -, où l'on voit une urne posée au sol au milieu de quelques hommes assis sur des nattes et accueillant une personne filmée avec son bulletin de vote en main.

« Les Maliens ont voté partout avec la même ferveur », « les opérations référendaires se sont déroulées sans incident à Tessalit et Aguelhok », commentent avec enthousiasme les journalistes en

plateau. Mascarade électorale

Mais, ces images ont suscité la colère de nombreux élus et notables d'Aguelhok, qui démentent la tenue du vote et dénoncent une « mascarade électorale ». Jointes par RFI, plusieurs notabilités locales expliquent que les groupes armés signataires de l'accord de paix ayant donné pour consigne de ne pas organiser le vote, l'Autorité indépendante de gestion des élections (Aige) a contourné la difficulté en remplaçant à la dernière minute, le jour même du scrutin, les membres de sa délégation locale par de nouvelles personnes acquises aux autorités de transition.

Et cela en dehors du cadre inclusif légal qui avait présidé, ces dernières semaines, à la nomination et à l'installation des représentants de l'Aige dans les régions et communes du Mali. « Ces nominations ne sont pas légales, les personnes désignées n'ont d'ailleurs pas prêté serment », précise l'une des sources expertes des questions électorales sollicitées par RFI.

Cet événement a suscité la colère des populations et même une manifestation de jeunes habitants d'Aguelhok qui ont encerclé la maison où se déroulait le « vote » ou le « simulacre de vote », selon les positions. D'après les témoignages, c'est la présence des casques bleus de la Minusma qui a permis à la situation de ne pas dégénérer. Détail cocasse : alors que les autorités maliennes de transition viennent d'exiger le départ de la mission onusienne du pays, certaines sources locales estiment que la Minusma, qui a facilité la logistique pour l'organisation du référendum, s'est montrée à Aguelhok complice des faits dénoncés.

## Somalie : les difficultés de la «deuxième phase» de la guerre contre les shebabs

Alors que les opérations militaires contre les jihadistes shebabs ont connu quelques revers dernièrement, le chef de l'armée somalienne a été limogé lundi 20 juin par le président Hassan Cheikh Mohamoud. Ce remplacement surprise survient sur fond de fortes tensions politiques dans la région qui était, depuis un an, l'épicentre des combats contre le groupe terroriste.

Malgré un effort sans précédent de l'État somalien depuis un an, les shebabs ne désarment pas. Après avoir mené le 26 mai un raid extrêmement meurtrier contre des soldats ougandais de la Mission de Transition de l'Union africaine en Somalie (Atmis) ils ont multiplié les opérations, jusqu'en territoire kényan. Trois soldats ont ainsi été tués dimanche et dix autres ont été blessés quand leur convoi a été touché par un engin explosif, dans le comté de Lamu, quelques jours après la mort de huit soldats dans une attaque similaire, dans le comté de Garissa. Dans les États du centre de la Somalie, le Hirshabelle et le Galmudug, les shebabs ont certes été réduits à se replier hors des villes en 2022, au terme d'une offensive des



forces armées somaliennes appuyée par l'Atmis. Mais un autre problème a surgi, ces derniers jours : samedi 17 juin, le populaire gouverneur de la région de Hiran, Ali Jeyte Osman, a été limogé par le président de l'État fédéral du Hirshabelle dont il dépendait. Un journaliste somalien explique que le gouverneur était depuis des mois en conflit avec l'administration sur la question de la collecte des impôts et qu'il accusait l'État du Hirshabelle d'affaiblir ainsi ses forces engagées dans la lutte antiterroriste, en privant ses forces de ressources importantes.

L'homme s'était fait connaître en 2022 pour ses succès militaires dans cet ancien fief des shebabs, en s'appuyant sur des miliciens locaux, les « Ma'awisley », lesquels ont joué un rôle crucial sur le terrain.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# 2023: Liberia and the politics of endorsements

By S.Karweaye

The clock ticks furiously, but fatefully towards the 2023 presidential and legislative elections that would prove crucial for the future of Liberia. There are many Liberians who believe with all their hearts that when the ballot box opens to voters in October 2023, it will be to conduct a referendum on the direction the country will take in the next six years and maybe beyond.

In a country where the deepest reservations are often saved for those who provide leadership, the relationship between Liberians, their leaders, and the process that throws them up remains a terribly luckless one. The scars are etched deep into the psyche of the country. Key national institutions continue to flounder. The political process remains afflicted by cancerous apathy and inertia. Corruption continues to run riot. A floundering economy has retched up a people deeply scarred by poverty. In the last 17 years, being listed among the top poorest countries in the world has come to add insult to injury.

In 2017, a seismic shift in Liberia's politics saw the Unity Party (UP) shunted out of power. The Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) which snatched power in the historic election has gone on to post more than five years of insipid leadership marked by incompetence, nonchalance, and debilitating dereliction of duty.

Since 2005 when Liberia began her post-conflict democratic experiment, general elections, especially presidential elections, have attracted special interests which are most times publicly displayed in the form of endorsements. Although this is not only applicable to Liberia, the act has become a common style of politicking among political jobbers, especially for the offices of the President and the national legislature. The objective is to create an impression of a groundswell of public support against the realities at the polls. The intention is to make people believe that the person being endorsed is the right candidate and as such has the support of the endorsers and the more endorsements, the greater the chances of winning.

One would wonder if the endorsements are truly a determinant of the outcome of the elections or the vote of the majority of people who are not affiliated with any group or individuals. Prior to the 2017 general election, the incumbent Vice President then, Joseph Boakai of the Unity Party had several endorsements against his political opponent in the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC), Senator George Weah, but the outcome of the election didn't favor Mr. Boakai despite the endorsements.

The then Vice President Boakai's endorsements were released like a torrential rain with several groups and individuals who lent their support to his candidacy, insisting that he was the best man for the job and should be allowed to continue where Madam Ellen Sirleaf left off. The deluge of support started with an endorsement by his party, the Unity Party followed by nineteen senators' endorsement. However, despite the many endorsements, Mr. Boakai failed to win the 2017 presidential election.

Just like the 2017 and other previous elections, ahead of the 2023 general election, the two political parties that are leading Liberia to the abyss have begun to enjoy such endorsement, and if you were looking for reasons why Liberia has, despite its acclaimed potential, remained a dwarf in the comity of nations, you will find two events that took place on April 28, 2023, and June 13, 2023, at the headquarters of the two political parties that have been in charge of Liberia's post-conflict reconstruction for the past 17 years, the former ruling Unity Party (UP) and the current Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC).

Despite allegations of massive budget fraud hanging on his neck, the political leader of the Movement for Democratic Reconstruction (MDR), Senator Jeremiah Koung was on April 28, selected by Mr. Boakai as his running mate in the pending 2023 presidential election after his political godfather and US sanctioner, Senator Prince Johnson broke away from the Coalition of Democratic Change and endorsed Mr. Joseph Boakai of the Unity Party.

To match or counter Prince Johnson's endorsement of Mr. Boakai, fifty-six lawmakers conspiring senators and representatives walked into the CDC's headquarters on Tuesday, June 13 to endorse the second term bid of President George Weah of the CDC. Led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Bhofal Chamber and Senate Pro-Temp Albert Chie, the group showed solidarity assuring Mr. Weah that 99% of them were behind him. However, they didn't tell us how they arrived at the decision to support Mr. Weah. They did not speak of any agenda that they would be selling to the President or the generality of Liberians would be benefiting from renewing President Weah's mandate.

These two events are worse because those who took the lead are mostly individuals who have contributed to the worst of Liberia in the past seventeen years. No doubt, an endorsement is a tradition in legal democracy. Endorsement is a symbolic recognition of candidature by individuals or organizations. It's symbolic more or less but also strengthens the faith of the candidate by depending on



their support.

In developed countries, every group or individual endorses a candidate based on its interest while also backing the endorsement with funding as well as ensuring that the candidate gets the votes of their members. If you see the context and how they do it in America, you will see those who are in charge of gun rights. Those who are in charge of labor rights, and women's rights among others will give you an endorsement, and it's not an empty endorsement; they will also add funds for you to push the election because they have a lot to gain if you are in power.

Unfortunately, Liberia's style of endorsement is characterized by deceit and the desire for incentives from the candidates (Pay to Play). Dishonest and greedy individuals are endorsing candidates to secure monetary or other political favors but, in the process, jeopardize the interest of the Liberian people. So, the endorsement by our political elites themselves is meaningless in the Liberia context. It seems Liberians are copying the American style of endorsement without following the process used in developed countries.

Endorsing a candidate does not determine who wins. How many votes do they individually endorse cast apart from their own personal votes? What leverage do they have in the political realm? How can they themselves help somebody in

securing votes? Can the current legislators canvass for votes on the basis of the impact they have had on their constituents? The 54th national legislature is a failure. When somebody who is a member of the government endorses the government, you know it is the government endorsing the government.

Recalling the 2017 general election, the ex-vice president Mr. Boakai was deceived by those nineteen Senators and other groups who endorsed him. We saw such cases where people said they endorsed Mr. Boakai and in the end, he couldn't win those areas where he was endorsed. For example, Albert Tugbe Chie, who endorsed the Unity Party's Boakai in 2017 is the current Pro Tempore of the Senate under the CDC-led government. He is currently a ranking member of the CDC and recently endorsed Mr. Weah's 2nd presidential bid. That goes to show you that endorsement doesn't really matter in comparison with what will really happen at the poll.

Another example is the Unity Party's vice Standard Bearer and Mr. Boakai's running mate in 2017, Emmanuel James Nuquay. Mr. Nuquay at the time was the speaker of the House of Representatives and was elected as representative of District # 5, Margibi County on the UP's ticket in 2005. After Mr. Boakai was defeated by Mr. Weah, Mr. Nuquay was appointed by Mr. Weah in 2018 as Director General of the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA). In 2020, Mr. Nuquay resigned from the Unity Party, rejoining the People's Unification Party (PUP), a party he founded. He also resigned as Director General of the LCAA. The same year, he ran for the Liberian under the PUP banner, winning the Margibi seat. Mr. Nuquay and his PUP endorsed incumbent President George Manneh Weah's re-election bid.

It is even more ludicrous in the case of Senator Prince Johnson's endorsement of Mr. Boakai. Senator Johnson took more than 8 percent of votes in the first round of the 2017 presidential election and was a firm critic of Mr. Boakai until President Weah and he fell off. His party, Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) accused George Weah's government of planning to assassinate him. According to Senator Johnson, President Weah's inability to keep his end of the deal that brought them together during the 2017 run-off election is the cause of the MDR's disassociation from the ruling party. The Senator's biggest complaint was Weah's failure to appoint more people from vote-rich Nimba County to high government positions.

For all that is apparent to Liberians, nothing is more important to Senator Johnson than the prospects for the Nimba people acquiring top government jobs. If the interest of the entire Nimba county was truly paramount to Senator Johnson, his endorsement and support would naturally have gone to the presidential candidate of Nimba descent, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe or Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe. So you see Prince Johnson's endorsement is mainly self-serving (Pay to play).

The average rational voter, who follows their press conferences and dance-drama, is convinced they are not acting in people's common interests. Similarly, any principled politician with a decent following will try to avoid a public strategic alliance with them. With hindsight, one can understand why Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe decided to move forward without his party, the Liberian People's Party (LPP) pursuing endorsement or alliances.

The signs are clear and the handwriting is scrawled large on the wall. Our inability to pick honest, integrity, and competent Liberians to lead our governance system is the mistake we made in 2005, 2011, and 2017. Liberians must choose wisely when they cast their votes in 2023. Eccentric endorsements are perfect guides in making informed choices for our voters and they offer crucial clues about how birds of a feather flock together. I rest my case.

# Cllr. Scott, others spend night in jail

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Liberian Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and three of her family members spent a night in jail Tuesday, 20 June 2023 following multiple police charges regarding her daughter Charloe Musu's murder.

two separate incidents of alleged armed robbery attacks at her home in Brewerville.

Cllr. Scott lamented that the government did not lift a finger to prevent the third incident in which her daughter Charloe was killed.

Following the incident,

Cllr. Scott appeared very ill, and she almost fell to the ground while disembarking a vehicle at the LNP headquarters.

Police declared Cllr. Scott and her three family members as suspects and detained them in police custody.

According to information gathered by this paper, the LNP has kept Cllr. Scott and the three others behind bars to be formally charged and forwarded to court today, Wednesday, 21 June 2023.

This paper has gathered that police will hold an elaborate press conference before heading to court with the accused.

Meanwhile, Cllr. Scott's lawyers have filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus before Criminal Court "C" against the Government of Liberia. The writ seeks to compel the government to ensure that the accused are brought before a judge.

Her lawyers complained to the court that their client was requested by police to appear, and upon her appearance, they had her arrested and detained without a formal charge.

Cllr. Scott's lawyers contend that such conduct is sufficient to trigger a writ of Habeas Corpus.

The presiding Judge of Criminal Court "C" A. Blamo Dixon has ordered the living bodies of Cllr. Scott and the three others detained to appear before the court along with the respondent to make a determination in the matter.

# 'My mother is innocent'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Mr. Nyowo Scott, the son of Liberia's former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott has denounced multiple charges levied against the stateswoman which include murder, saying she is 'innocent.' "My mother is innocent. My family is innocent. All that my mother has ever done is to give service to Liberia and the Liberian people," Mr. Scott told journalists outside the Liberia National Police (LNP) headquarters Tuesday, 20 June 2023.

Police in Monrovia have charged Cllr. Scott and some of her family members with murder, criminal conspiracy, and [providing] false information to law enforcement officers about the brutal murder of her daughter, Charloe Musu.

Following months of police investigation into Charloe's murder, police on Tuesday arrested and formally charged Cllr. Scott, Rebecca Youdeh Wisner, Gertrude Newton, and Alice Johnson.

Charloe's death in February this year shocked the country and heightened security fears.

She was murdered at Cllr. Scott's residence after the former Chief Justice reported to police authorities two separate incidents of alleged armed robbery attacks at her home in Brewerville.

death of Charloe Musu. He described as funny, the police charge that his mother provided false information to law enforcement.

"Look Liberia, you know who is responsible for this. But the talk in the town is man can't talk all. But, in the time to come we will talk," Mr. Scott stated.

"Now we are here but you know what, we are taking this to the next step. We are going to fight back."

Mr. Scott vowed to explain all that has happened very soon and the world will know as they proceed to the next stage of the case. Mr. Scott explained that in their household, people have different political opinions and belong to different parties.

Yet, he said his mother has never stopped anyone from supporting what and whom they believe.

He asserted that he was supporting President George Manneh Weah when he was challenging former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, citing his Facebook post as evidence.

"Anybody who [says] something about CDC [Coalition for Democratic Change], they have [a] problem with me. You can now go on my Facebook page and you will see what I am telling you. Is this



Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

The Liberia National Police (LN) charged Cllr. Scott and some of her family members with murder, criminal conspiracy, and [providing] false information to law enforcement officers about Charloe's brutal murder.

Cllr. Scott, Rebecca Youdeh Wisner, Gertrude Newton, and Alice Johnson's charges followed months of police investigation into Charloe's murder. Charloe's death in February this year shocked the country and heightened security fears.

She was murdered at Cllr. Scott's residence after the former Chief Justice reported to police authorities

U.S.-based Liberian former head of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Cllr. Jerome Verdier alleged that Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee had ordered Monrovia City Police Officer Varlee Telleh to carry out the attack. Both Koijee and Telleh have denied playing a role in the attacks and the murder of Charloe.

Cllr. Scott on Tuesday appeared at the LNP headquarters along with Rebecca Youdeh Wisner, Gertrude Newton, and Alice Johnson. Cllr. Scott was escorted by her legal team to the LNP to receive her charges.

# Starts from page 7 'Boakai's packed car can't kick'

protesting here and everywhere, we took the hard decision. Now we have stabilized the state, we have addressed the bread and butter issues so Amb. Boakai has nothing to rescue," said Tweah.

He continued that Boakai didn't rescue the price of rice in 2014-15 when it was US\$16. He added that Boakai didn't intervene to stabilize the cost of electricity, and the CDC government has brought it from 35 cents to 14 cents.

He said it is already being rescued, pondering as to what is there to be rescued.

For his part, Liberia Maritime Authority

Commissioner-General Mr. Eugene Lenn Nagbe said President Weah is rescuing Liberia from Amb. Boakai's 40 years of failure.

He described Amb. Boakai's rescue ticket is a ticket that is full of deception, lies, and pretense.

Talking about Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings' 'Fixer Ticket,' Commissioner Nagbe wondered what Mr. Cummings and his team want to fix.

He wondered what Cummings that didn't do he wanted to fix now, even

though he made millions while working with Coca-Cola.

"I just don't know how to call him, Mr. Cummings, a millionaire because Mr. Urey says he is not a millionaire," said Mr. Nagbe.

"Okay, let me say this, the alleged multi-millionaire, when he had all his money, didn't come back to help the Liberian people. It was President Weah who came back and was paying people's school fees and buying [a] bus for the University," Nagbe explained.



Cllr. Scott lamented that the government did not lift a finger to prevent the third incident in which her daughter Charloe was killed.

Following the incident, U.S.-based Liberian former head of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Cllr. Jerome Verdier alleged that Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee had ordered Monrovia City Police Officer Varlee Telleh to carry out the attack. Both Koijee and Telleh have denied playing a role in the attacks and the murder of Charloe.

Following the charges Tuesday, Mr. Scott lamented that he was devastated by the proceeding of the case because this has tarnished his mother's good reputation. "So many people have come to her for help that she [is] giving back to this country. Now, here we are. That is the way to say thank you right? All because of politics," Mr. Scott said.

"Yes, my mother has been charged with the crimes of murder, criminal conspiracy, and false information to the police officer," he continued. Nyowo vowed to fight the Government of Liberia legally through the court, saying his mother is innocent in the

how we are [repaid]?" he lamented.

He explained that everyone followed the case when his family was attacked on 23 February 2023.

"I am a son of the soil, born in Liberia, Duala, and grown up in Sinkor. In our household, we have at least ten to eleven people living in our house." "We are three from our mother, but she always brought in family to help them, give them education to change their lives," Scott noted. According to him, it's the same thing his mother was doing for Charloe Musu when this unfortunate situation happened.

"Charloe was murdered, and the murderer is out there, and nobody is saying nothing. We have people that we trusted in our system, in our government they are letting us down." "I love Liberia. What is this? Politics. Find the murderers. What are we doing? We went through this whole thing and nothing good," he stated. He accused local broadcaster Freedom FM of being the voice of the police charges against his mother.

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## LACC nominees' confirmation on hold

By Ethel A. Tweh

Senate President Pro-tempore Albert Chie has seized a motion for the confirmation consideration of nominees of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) due to legal, procedural, and

Alexandra Kormah Zoe, Chairperson, Mr. Ernest R. Hughes, Vice Chairperson, and Mr. Randolph E. Tebbs, Commissioner, Monitoring and Investigation.

Others include Miatta Jeh, Commissioner, Monitoring and Investigation, Atty. Samuel F

constitutional right to appoint.

Meanwhile, Senators Abraham Dillon, James Biney, Jonathan Kaipay, and Conmany Weseh among others, raised concerns about the timing of President Weah's decision.

They noted that it was not politically prudent to confirm nominees at tenure positions when the country is just four months away from the October 10, 2023, presidential and legislative elections.

However, some senators of the ruling party including Numene Bartekwa, Augustine Chea, Simeon Taylor, and Gbleh-bo Brown said it was more convenient for the Pro-tempore to continue the confirmation proceedings of the nominees.

The senators said once the Senate enacted a new law creating the current Commission, it gives rise to the nomination of the new Commissioners of the LACC.

Following the heated debate on the floor, Pro-tempore Chie said the agenda item is expected to be re-introduced by next Tuesday.



Sen. Pro-tempore Albert Chie

political natures.

On Tuesday, 20 June 2023, President George Manneh Weah sent an official communication to the Senate submitting the names of nominees of the LACC to be confirmed. The communication was read and put on the floor for further legislative actions.

Dakana, Commissioner, Monitoring and Investigation, Cllr. Oretha Snyder Davis, Commissioner, Prosecution, and Cllr. David A.B. Wilson.

After reading the communication, several senators, many of whom are from the opposition bloc, stressed that the Senate has the confirmation power, despite the President's

The nominees are Cllr.

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