

Advertise Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023	L\$178.4832 /US\$1.00	L\$181.0001/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 13 NO. 108 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



U.S. urges Liberians to examine candidates



No summary judgement



Court denies GT Bank Motion for Summary Judgement in CT COM Vs. GT Bank Case

Pay with MoMo!

Dial ***156*3#**

GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN





Continental News

Bio re-elected in Sierra Leone amid poll dispute

Incumbent Julius Maada Bio has been declared the winner of Sierra Leone's presidential election but the opposition has disputed the count. Official figures say that Mr Bio gained 56% of the vote. His main rival, Samura Kamara, trailed far behind with 41%.

place amid tension but President Bio had called on Sierra Leoneans to "keep the peace".

The 59-year-old is due to be sworn in for his second five-year term soon. The rivalry between him and Dr Kamara, 72, was a repeat of the closely fought 2018 election, which went to a second round.

commission insisted that it had mechanisms in place to ensure a fair vote.

The presidential, parliamentary and local council elections came at the end of a campaign marred by several violent incidents.

Last week, the APC alleged that one of its supporters was shot dead by police, which the police denied.

The party has said that another one of its backers was killed when security forces tried to break up the crowd outside its headquarters in Freetown on Sunday.

Members of Mr Bio's party, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), have said they were attacked by opponents during campaigning.

The campaign took place against a backdrop of a troubled economy, the rising cost of living and concerns about national unity.

This was Sierra Leone's fifth election since the civil war ended in 2002.

The 11-year conflict cost an estimated 50,000 lives, but since then the country has had a tradition of largely peaceful, free and credible elections, according to Marcella Samba Sesay, chairperson of the NGO National Elections Watch. BBC



Julius Maada Bio was first elected in 2018

After the first tranche of results were released on Monday, Dr Kamara called the outcome "daylight robbery". International election observers have highlighted problems with transparency in the tallying process. Saturday's vote took

This time Dr Kamara, who was the candidate for the All People's Congress (APC), has alleged that his electoral agents were not allowed to verify the ballot counting. In the run-up to the vote, the APC had made complaints about the electoral commission. However, the

Trafficked for a kidney and now forced into hiding

When a man who'd been sleeping rough walked into a police station near Heathrow Airport, it would lead to the UK's first prosecution of human trafficking for organ removal. The BBC has been given unprecedented access to the Metropolitan Police team that investigated this historic case. Daniel was about to get the fright of his life.

He was sitting in a consulting room at the Royal Free hospital in London, speaking to doctors with his limited English.

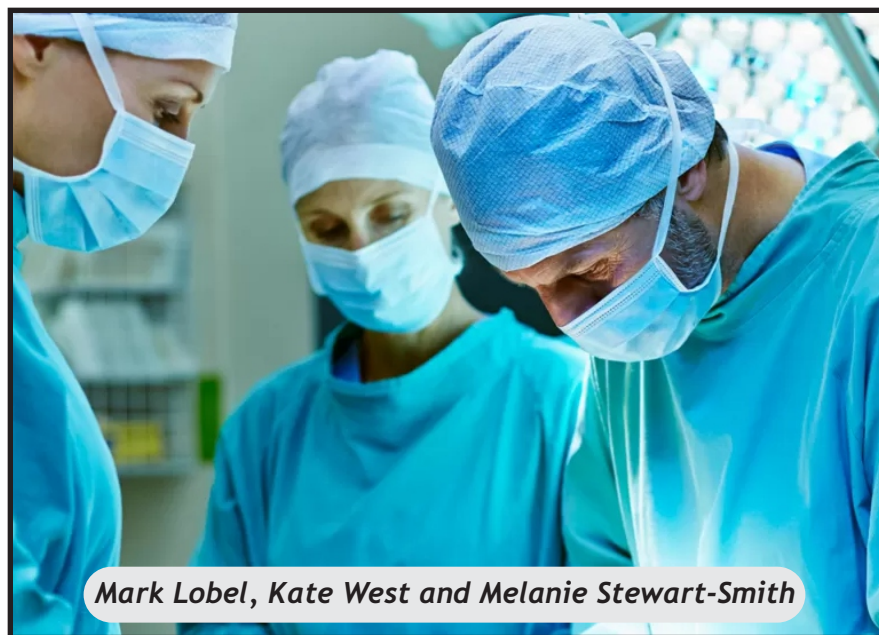
The 21-year-old street trader from Lagos, Nigeria, had come to the UK days earlier for what he had been told was a "life-changing opportunity". He thought he was going to get a better job. But now doctors were talking to him about the risks of the operation and the need for lifelong medical care. It was at that moment, Daniel told investigators, that he realised there was no job opportunity and he had been brought to the UK to give a kidney to a stranger.

"He was going to literally be cut up like a piece of meat, take what they wanted out of him and then stitch him back up," according to Cristina Huddleston, from the anti modern slavery group Justice and Care.

Luckily for Daniel, the doctors had become suspicious that he didn't know what was going on and feared he was being coerced. So they halted the process. Daniel was not free of his traffickers though. Back in the flat he was

staying in, two men came to examine him. It was then he overheard a conversation about sending him back to Nigeria to remove his kidney there.

He fled, and after two nights sleeping rough, he walked into a police station near Heathrow, triggering an investigation that would lead to the UK's first prosecution for human trafficking for organ removal. BBC



Mark Lobel, Kate West and Melanie Stewart-Smith

Wagner's network in Africa faces uncertain future

The failed weekend mutiny in Russia by the Wagner mercenary group is likely to have repercussions for Africa, where it has several thousand fighters based as well as lucrative business interests.

It is unclear whether Wagner's leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, who has been told to relocate to Belarus, will still run his private army from there to allow it to service its security contracts in places like the Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali. On Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov assured CAR and Mali of their crucial security arrangements. Primarily to make money - though as it had tacit approval from the Kremlin, it also bolstered Russia's diplomatic and economic interests.

It was a major boon for Russia, for example, when France withdrew its forces from Mali after Wagner agreed in 2021 to help the new military

operational strategy over the past two to three years has been to expand both its military and economic footprint in Africa," Julia Stanyard, from the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, told the BBC.

The think tank analyst says Wagner has a network of companies associated with it - and they have pursued commercial activities in the countries in which the mercenary group operates. In CAR these allegedly trade in conflict minerals and timber, as well as making beer and vodka.

Wagner's brief foray into Sudan allowed Russian mining firm M Invest, which the US Treasury alleges is owned or controlled by Mr Prigozhin, to set up operations there. Its subsidiary, Meroe Gold, is one of Africa's biggest gold producers.

In Libya, Wagner is not thought to have the numbers of fighters in the country as it did when it backed renegade general Khalifa Haftar's attempt to take the capital, Tripoli, nearly four years ago.

But strategically, Libya creates a gateway for Russia into Africa,



junta in its battle against Islamist militants.

Wagner has just posted a timeline of its operational history on Telegram, confirming its official involvement in Africa began in 2018 when it sent "military instructors" to the CAR and Sudan - and then moving into Libya the following year.

It has been noted that these countries have natural resources of interest to Mr Prigozhin's outfit. The CAR, which has been unstable for decades, is rich in diamonds, gold, oil and uranium.

Wagner has allowed President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, who even has the mercenaries as his bodyguards, to shrug off the influence of former colonial power France as the country tries to gain the upper hand against rebel groups - in return for a slice of the resource pie. "Wagner's

strengthens its presence in the Mediterranean and aligns with the Kremlin's backing of Gen Haftar. Wagner mercenaries still remain around key oil facilities in Haftar strongholds in the east and south of the country - and sources have told the BBC there has not been a noticeable change on the ground since Saturday.

Wagner's interest in Mali may be linked to its rich gold reserves - though there is no evidence as yet of its firms operating there - and it is likely to be more strategic, opening up Russia's sphere of influence in West African countries under pressure from so-called Islamic State and al-Qaeda groups.

Mali could also, according to the large batch of US military documents leaked earlier this year, have been used as a proxy to acquire weapons from Turkey on Wagner's behalf, with one Pentagon dispatch saying junta leader Col Assimi Goïta had confirmed it would do so. BBC

EDITORIAL

The USAID's US\$1.5m grant is a significant effort

THE LAUNCH OF a grant totaling US\$1.5 million by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Liberia under its civil society activity for 18 Liberian Civil Society Organizations to advocate for policy reforms in health, education, and governance is both laudable and a significant intervention in the key sectors named.

THE GRANT ALSO demonstrates the Government of the United States' commitment thru her taxpayers, to, despite public sector mismanagement of several U.S. government-funded projects, continue helping the Government and people of Liberia to mitigate challenges faced in these sectors that have negatively impacted growth and development in the country.

THE PARTNERSHIP WITH Liberian CSOs further strengthens already existing historic ties between the governments and peoples of both countries that dates as far back as the 18th century.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF of mission at the United States Embassy Monrovia, Joel Maybury, who launched the program here on Tuesday, June 27, quotes President Biden as describing civil society as the lifeblood of democracy, because it comprises the collective action of ordinary people to meet citizens' needs.

THE GRANT, ACCORDING to USAID Liberia Civil Society Activity, will enable civil society organizations to advocate for improvement in education and health in six counties namely; Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Margibi, Bong and Grand Bassa.

THIS IS CLEARLY a strategy by the American government to directly partner with ordinary Liberians to improve their own wellbeing rather than going thru bureaucratic and sometimes conflicting or selfish priorities that don't achieve the desired results, as was reported in Kakata, Margibi county recently when U.S. government's funds earmarked for health program was allegedly misappropriated.

WE URGE CIVIL Society Organizations selected for the advocacy to execute their respective duties with utmost dedication and transparency to continuously maintain the trust of the American people, as historic partners in Liberia's forward march.

LIBERIA IS FACED with serious health and education challenges that are squarely governance issues. Well-defined strategies and programs implemented by transparent and accountable institutions could address these hindrances.

AS MR. MAYBURY noted during the launch, Civil Society Organizations benefiting from the grant played pivotal roles in shaping and leading outreach and awareness campaigns that were so essential in helping Liberia survive and overcome the worst of Ebola and COVID-19.

WE ENCOURAGE THEM to remain on this path so that expected outcomes from these sectors will be achieved with tangible impacts on the lives of ordinary people they are intended for. Doing so could attract funding for other equally challenged sectors of our public structure.

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 /

+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Diane Coyle

Adam Smith at 300

CAMBRIDGE - This year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Adam Smith, the founding father of modern economics. It comes at a time when the global economy faces several daunting challenges. Inflation rates are the highest since the late 1970s. Productivity growth across the West remains sluggish or stagnant. Low- and middle-income countries are teetering on the brink of a debt crisis. Trade tensions are rising. And market concentration has increased among OECD countries.

Against this backdrop, Smith's tercentenary is an opportunity to reflect on his invaluable insights into the dynamics of economic growth and consider whether they can help us understand the current moment.

At the heart of Smith's theory of economic growth, outlined in the first chapter of his seminal work *The Wealth of Nations*, is the specialization facilitated by the division of labor. By breaking down production into smaller tasks - a process illustrated by Smith's famous example of the pin factory - industrialization enabled enormous gains in productivity.

But this process is not confined to individual firms. Since the division of labor, according to Smith, is "limited by the extent of the market," the market as a whole must expand through exchange. After all, boosting daily widget production from 100 to 10,000 is pointless if no one wants to buy widgets. So, the division of labor is a collective process that involves a continuous process of structural economic change. When there is a larger supply of affordable widgets, the widget-using sectors of the economy can expand production and reduce prices. Meanwhile, the market's increased size would allow upstream suppliers of materials required to produce widgets to reorganize production into more specialized tasks.

As the American economist Allyn Young noted in 1928, this is a dynamic story of increasing returns. The growth process is a virtuous circle of structural change that starts slowly and then accelerates, like an avalanche. The Industrial Revolution and the rapid growth of East Asia's "tiger" economies during the 1980s and 1990s are perfect examples of the process Smith identified. And yet the stagnant growth that has plagued developed economies over the past decade raises the question of whether global progress toward what he described as "universal opulence" has ground to a halt.

Although the division of labor into specialized tasks has often enhanced the skills and expertise of workers, this may not always be the case. The emergence of generative artificial-intelligence models has fueled concerns that employers will use these technologies to deskill human workers and cut costs, prompting calls for regulatory interventions to ensure that AI augments, rather than replaces, human capabilities.

Moreover, while economic growth since the onset of the Industrial Revolution has led to

astonishing advances in health and well-being, it is important to recognize that the institutional frameworks and political choices that enabled this progress were the result of intense social struggles.

Another concern that is often overlooked stems from market size. Smith would likely have been shocked by the extent of specialization in the twenty-first-century economy (and probably also pleased with his foresight). Today, manufacturing relies heavily on complex global production networks. Final products such as automobiles and smartphones comprise thousands of components manufactured in multiple countries. Many of the intermediate links in those supply chains are extraordinarily specialized. The Dutch company ASML, for example, is the only producer of the ultraviolet lithography machines needed to produce advanced chips, most of which are manufactured by the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

But the widespread nature of this phenomenon suggests that the global market for many products can sustain only a few companies capable of achieving economies of scale. This has long been the case for large manufacturers in sectors such as aerospace, but it increasingly applies to smaller markets for intermediate components.

Consequently, Smith's other condition for economic growth - the presence of competition - is not met. Competition helps to ensure that economic growth is socially beneficial, because it prevents firm owners from monopolizing the benefits of specialization and increased exchange. As Smith put it in *The Wealth of Nations*, "In general, if any branch of trade, or any division of labor, be advantageous to the public, the freer and more general the competition, it will always be the more so."

Although the decline of competition has been a growing concern in Western economies over the past few years, the debate has largely focused on high-profile sectors within domestic markets, such as Big Tech. Policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic have responded to concentration in the tech industry with new laws, such as the European Union's Digital Markets Act, and tougher enforcement of existing antitrust laws, such as the US Federal Trade Commission's recent decision to block Microsoft's takeover of Activision.

The deeper policy question, however, is whether the level of specialization in certain markets has reached a tipping point where there is a trade-off between Smith's two prerequisites for growth. Has the division of labor reached its limit - and is the need to enhance competition therefore another reason to diversify supply chains and develop new sources of supply of production?

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

OP-ED

By Richard Haass

A Tale of Two Invasions

NEW YORK - The leader of an authoritarian country with enormous energy reserves builds up his armed forces along the border of a weaker neighbor, one he claims has no right to exist as an independent country. He then proceeds to launch an invasion, with the goal of swallowing his neighbor and erasing it from the map. The world is faced with the immediate but difficult question of what to do in response.

This is what happened in the summer of 1990, when Saddam Hussein marshaled his military forces on Iraq's border with Kuwait and, to the surprise of many, launched an all-out invasion. Within days, Iraqi forces took control of the entire country, which Saddam maintained was a province of Iraq.

Now substitute Russian President Vladimir Putin for Saddam, Russia for Iraq, and Ukraine for Kuwait. Everything written above would approximate what took place in February 2022, when Putin gathered Russia's military along its border with Ukraine, a country whose independence he had rejected in an essay published the previous July, in which he wrote, "I am confident that true sovereignty of Ukraine is possible only in partnership with Russia."

At issue in both crises was the most basic of all norms influencing international politics: that the borders of sovereign countries ought to be respected and not altered by armed force. In both instances, the leader initiating the aggression overestimated his chances of succeeding - and in both instances, much of the world underestimated the threat, thinking it was a bluff until it proved to be anything but.

Diplomacy and economic sanctions fell short of meeting the challenges posed by Iraq and Russia. What was required was military force, and a great deal of it. US leadership also proved essential to reversing aggression in one case and resisting it in the other.

But important differences between the two scenarios highlight just how much the world has changed. Start with Russia. In 1990, bilateral relations between the US and the then-Soviet Union were relatively good, enabling a peaceful end to the Cold War - the sort of outcome that history suggests is anything but automatic. The Soviet Union extended diplomatic support to the US in its effort to resist Iraqi aggression, even though Iraq had long been a close partner.

Today, the Soviet Union is no more, having lost its internal and external empires alike. Russia, its principal successor, has grown angry, resentful, and alienated. It is committing aggression rather than opposing it.

Thirty years ago, the United Nations Security Council condemned Iraqi aggression and authorized not just economic sanctions but also the use of military force against it to liberate Kuwait. Today, the Security Council is sidelined, a result of the permanent veto that Russia holds in the UN's most important body.

China supported or at least did not block international efforts to oppose Iraq's aggression. The US-Chinese relationship was much better then than it is now, reflecting Sino-American cooperation against the Soviet Union in the latter decades of the Cold War.

China was also far weaker, with an economy only a small fraction of the size of America's, and Deng Xiaoping's dictum of hiding capabilities and biding time still animated China's diplomatic strategy. This time around, China declared a no-limits partnership with Russia on the eve of its invasion and has stood by Russia ever since, skirting economic sanctions in the process.

Thirty years ago, the US dispatched half a million soldiers to the Middle East and intervened decisively on Kuwait's behalf. This time, the US, wary of war after its unsuccessful post-9/11 interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, and worried about directly confronting a nuclear-armed Russia, has refrained from direct participation in the conflict, limiting its role to providing arms, ammunition, intelligence, and training.

Last time around, the world rallied against aggression. Not now. For one reason or another, many countries are reluctant to oppose Russia. India buys its arms and oil, as do others.

Moreover, America's ability to rally the world is much diminished, in no small part because respect for the US is much diminished, the result of its internal divisions and widespread global opposition to the US interventions in Iraq in 2003 and in Libya in 2011.

President Joe Biden's administration didn't help itself by insisting on framing the war as one of democracy versus authoritarianism. Much of the world is hardly democratic and may have responded more favorably had the US emphasized the threat to a country's freedom from invasion, which most of the world's governments do support.

What, then, is to be made of these differences? Geopolitics and great-power rivalry, common throughout history, are back, as is armed conflict between countries. The post-Cold War respite, the holiday from history, is over.

The US remains first among equals (or unequals, to be precise), but that is not to be confused with anything resembling hegemony. The advantages America enjoyed in 1990 have faded as others have gained greater power.

Most important, the gap between the world's response to aggression then and now is a sobering warning that the international system has deteriorated. The world has become more divided just when it needs unity more than ever to confront common challenges such as infectious disease, climate change, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Unity is a scarce resource in international relations. The "international community" is mostly notional. Instead, evidence is mounting that the post-Cold War era has given way to a new era defined more by turbulence and fragmentation than order. The new era may not yet have a name, but the reality is there for all to see.

OPINION

By Sofia Monsalve, Michael Fakhri, Elisabetta Recine

A Human-Rights Approach to the Global Food Crisis

EUGENE/BRASÍLIA/HEIDELBERG - When former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro came to power in January 2019, one of his first acts in office was to abolish the National Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSEA), a globally lauded body that had significantly reduced food insecurity. It was a huge step back for the country, which the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had removed from its "hunger map" in 2014.

People immediately mobilized to protest Bolsonaro's decision, including by organizing impressive public meals held on the streets of many cities - a national *banquete*. Gathered around tables laden with healthy food, communities' resistance simultaneously celebrated and reclaimed the right to adequate food and nutrition.

Many also strengthened their political commitment, calling for a process of permanent mobilization over the four years of Bolsonaro's rule through the People's Conference on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security, which meets every four years to monitor policies and develop proposals based on a thorough analysis at local and national levels. Immediately after Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn in as Brazil's president in January, he reinstated CONSEA, which one of us (Recine) heads and which will meet the people's conference later this year to hear proposals.

This spirit of resistance - if replicated elsewhere - could transform food systems worldwide and ease the global hunger crisis that the pandemic, climate shocks, and conflict have exacerbated. As UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, another of us (Fakhri) attributed rising rates of hunger to "systemic violence and structural inequality in food systems," which are "a central feature of a global economy that is supported by relationships of dependence among individuals, countries, international financial institutions, and corporations."

An estimated 258 million people faced acute food insecurity in 2022, the highest number on record since the Global Report on Food Crises began reporting data in 2017. In his introduction to this year's GRFC report, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the current crisis required "fundamental, systemic change."

An approach based on human-rights principles is essential to bringing about this change. In Brazil, the scandalous increase in food insecurity during Bolsonaro's presidency resulted from policies that neglected marginalized people and violated their rights. As a result, the newly reinstated CONSEA is advocating for policies that fight hunger and address its root causes such as structural racism and gender inequalities. We cannot continue supporting unsustainable food systems that concentrate power and wealth in the hands of a few.

The UN's Right to Food Guidelines, adopted by FAO in 2004, outline how to address the structural causes of discrimination and inequality in food systems. These guidelines pioneered the implementation of economic, social, and cultural human rights and have inspired countless national policies and legal reforms. They also sparked the development of a full body of human rights-based norms and policies adopted by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the UN General Assembly, and other UN agencies, including for women, peasants, indigenous peoples, fishers, and other constituencies.

In Brazil, national and international efforts have translated these principles into a suite of domestic policies and programs aimed at overcoming gender and racial discrimination, ensuring decent incomes and social protection, and securing the land and water rights of women, peasants, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, and fishers. These efforts have also resulted in agroecology and food-sovereignty initiatives that actively involve civil-society groups and ordinary citizens, as well as school-meal programs sourced from family farms.

But Brazil is far from being an outlier: other governments are enacting similar reforms. Local, regional, and national food-policy councils are being established globally, and parliamentary alliances are working to enact right-to-food legislation in many countries. Scaling up these efforts will require significantly greater policy coordination among all levels of government. The UN Human Rights Council and the CFS have stressed the need for a coordinated response to the ongoing food crisis. But, at the same time, civil society, indigenous peoples, and academics have warned against the corporate capture of food governance and called for a UN-wide corporate accountability framework.

There is growing momentum for change ahead of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will be commemorated in December. And the right to adequate food and nutrition, in particular, could be at the top of the agenda. In late June, the German government will host the "Policies against Hunger" conference; this year's edition will focus on rights-based approaches to the transformation of food systems. With the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights having proposed a human-rights economy, and with Brazil preparing to assume the G20's rotating presidency in 2024, we may see ambitious proposals to advance the right to food internationally.

Food systems' profound inequality, structural discrimination, and systemic violence have persisted for too long, and ordinary citizens around the world are demanding change. A transformation on this scale requires close collaboration between the diverse mix of people who are engaging in creative forms of resistance, as well as progressive governments that are ready to listen to them and represent their interests. Respect for human rights must form the basis of any effort to reduce acute hunger. It is the only way to create a sustainable and equitable system that provides adequate food for all.

VACANCY!! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

- Answering calls, messages and handling correspondence
- Maintaining diaries while preparing and collating reports (filing),
- Organizing meetings (producing agendas and taking minutes)
- Managing database, prioritizing workloads

REQUIREMENT

SHOULD BE COMPUTER LITERATE (MICROSOFT WORD & EXCEL)
 MUST HAVE A GOOD CONTROL OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (COMPREHENSION)
 MUST BE ABLE TO MULTITASK AND WORK UNDER PRESURE (TIME FLEXIABLE)
 MUST HAVE A CERTIFICATE OR FIRST DEGREE
 MUST AT LEAST HAVE 3 YEARS OR MORE EXPERIENCE

KINDLY SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
info@cerraauto.com

VACANCY!! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!

ACCOUNTANT POSITION

REQUIREMENT

- Fully qualified WITH A BACHELOR IN FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
- Computer literacy is compulsory (proficiency in MS word, Excel, Outlook etc.)
- Ability to correspond & communicate independently with clients,
- A very good command of English, communication skills are essential.
- Ability to multitask & work under pressure.
- Minimum 5 years' experience

KINDLY SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
info@cerraauto.com

VACANCY!! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!

SALES & MARKETING POSITION

BE HUGELY PASSIONATE AND ENTHUSIASTIC. HAVE A GREAT ATTENTION TO DETAILS. CAPABLE OF MEETING MONTHLY/QUATERLY TARGETS. STRONG NEGOTIATION SKILLS & A SELF MOTIVATED ATTITUDE.

REQUIREMENT

- EXCELLENT INTERPERSONAL AND PERSUASIVE SKILLS
- ATTENDING TO ENQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM ONLINE & OFFLINE PLATFORMS AND COVERTING LEADS INTO BUSINESS
- APPLY CREATIVE MARKETING STRATEGIES TO INCREASE SALES OPPORTINUTIES
- PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE IN A SALES & MARKETING RELATED JOB ROLE.
 A DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION WITH A MINIMM 6 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

KINDLY SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
info@cerraauto.com

NewDawn Legislative Report bags master's degree



Ms. Ethel Antoinette Tweh, a Legislative reporter of the NewDawn newspaper assigned to the Liberian Senate, has bagged a master's degree from the Cuttington University School of Professional Studies.

Ms. Tweh earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Personnel Administration from the Cuttington University School of Professional Studies during its commencement on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Before enrolling at Cuttington, she obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Mass Communication from the University of Liberia.

Ethel has been in the employ of Searchlight Communications, owner of the NewDawn newspaper, for 10 years. Over the years, she rose from a cub reporter to a Health Reporter and now a Legislative Reporter at the Liberian Senate.

She also has a certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation from the Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA).

On the occasion marking this great academic achievement, the entire NewDawn family headed by the Publisher, Mr. Othello B. Garblah, expresses warm congratulations to our Legislative Reporter, Ms. Ethel Antoinette Tweh for being studious while also making your contribution to the forward match of this institution.

SALE!! SALE!! SALE!!

Vehicle AUCTION

Cerra Automotive is offering several **USED CARS** for sale through Auction process. Please note that the vehicles are sold on "as is, where is" basis.

ITEM	BID REF. AC-VEHAUC-008 VEHICLE PLATE	DESCRIPTION	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	VEICLE STATUS
1	A64274	2014 NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120586909	FRIDAY JULY 7, 2023 at 16:00 GMT	USED VEHICLE
2	A6189	2014 NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120586482		USED VEHICLE
3	A6960	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120586880		USED VEHICLE
4	A64116	NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120585461		USED VEHICLE
5	A59097	2011 TOYOTA HILUX DOUBLE CABIN - HTFR22G606050357		USED VEHICLE
6	A6188	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120585423		USED VEHICLE
7	A64593	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120387843		USED VEHICLE
9	A54905	2008 TOYOTA HILUX PICKUP - AHTFK22G103037960		NO ENGINE

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Inspection of vehicles by interested partners will take place at CERRA AUTOMOTIVE office located in Congo Town, next to WAEC office, opposite Kailondo Filling Station, Monrovia Liberia. The vehicle can be inspected from Monday June 26 - July 6, 2023. The daily inspection's hours are, Monday to Friday 8:00 AM - 16:00 GMT.
2. Bids must be delivered to CERRA AUTOMOTIVE office in Monrovia in sealed envelope with reference CA-VEHAUC-008 only on or before Friday, July 7, 2023 at the hour of 16:00 GMT. The envelope should contain the bid, the contact information, name, phone number, and address. Late bids will be rejected. CERRA AUTOMOTIVE will take no responsibility for bids not delivered directly to CERRA AUTOMOTIVE office.
3. Cars are sold on "as is" basis. Cerra Automotive will not be liable to the purchasers for any defects on the vehicles after the bidding process is completed.
4. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives at CERRA AUTOMOTIVE office, Friday July 7 at 17:00 GMT. Only bidders who have submitted an offer shall participate in the opening of the bids coming along with their ID cards.
5. Winning bidders will be notified on July 10, 2023 via email/SMS message and will have 3 days to make payment. Failure to make payment will result in the next highest bidder being offered the vehicle(s). It is the responsibility of the winning bidder to process and pay the cost of (transfer of ownership) at the ministry of transport. The final date for payment by successful bidder is July 13, 2023. The vehicle will be picked after payment and change of registration documents.

For further inquiries, please contact the Administrative department at the below email and contact secretary@cerraautomotive-lr.com or +231 777 400 601 / +231 778 752 082

Starts from page 6 USAID Liberia provides

our funder USAID, other USAID implementing partners and donors and our subcontractor partners."

Mr. Terravecchia says USAID anticipates a final draft to be shared with the Ministry within a week, and that besides, CSA, through Bong County based grantees FIND and DELTA, have contributed to the establishment of County Councils in Bong County, looks forward to sharing their learned lessons with civil society organizations in other counties.

He says CSA anticipates that effective County Councils will be one of the key entry points for grantees and civil society in general to engage government in effectuating intent and spirit of the Local Government Act by ensuring that community stakeholders engage to solve tractable priority development issues.

The CSA is in the second year of a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implemented by DAI Global, LLC (DAI) . According to officials, the goal is to advocate for policy reforms, policy implementation, and service delivery improvements through multi-stakeholder coalitions that build feedback loops among the Government of Liberia, CSOs, and citizens.

CSA says the grants provide opportunities for CSOs to build linkages with their peers and constituencies at national and subnational levels. Through these

linkages, CSOs can communicate reform achievements back to their constituencies and engage them in policy dialogue.

In addition, the grants will promote greater collaboration with Liberian traditional leaders and media outlets to communicate reform priorities to citizens across the country.

Meanwhile, the executive director of Integrity Watch Liberia, one of the grant beneficiaries, Herold Adoo, extols USAID Liberia CSA for their continuous support towards the advancement of civil society organizations across the country.

The 18 grantees include Public Health Initiative (PHIL), Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPRO), Efficient Research and Development Institute (ERDI), Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS-Liberia) Humanity Above One-Self Foundation (HAOSF), Volunteers United for Development (VUD) Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER) Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), Rural Human Rights Activists Program (RHRAP).

Others include Development Education Leadership Training in Action-Human Rights Foundation (DELTA-HRF) Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) Youth Movement for Collective Action (U-Movement) Institute for Democratic Action & Development (IDAD) Youth Coalition for Education in Liberia (YOCEL) Survivors Aid International Liberia Inc. (SAILDevelopment Education Network (DEN-L) Consortium of Business Development Service Providers of Liberia (CBDSPL). Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Over 800 slum dwellers trained in small business administration

By Lincoln G. Peters

Impact Institute has embarked on a four-day capacity-building training for over 800 women and girls in West Point and New Kru Town, two of Liberia's populated slums.

are given attention and trained, they will help the country speedily recover from poverty to prosperity. "Let me say this to you, small businesses are the bedrock for [a] productive society and [a] strong economy," he said.

participants.

The last segment will begin Thursday, 29 June, and end Friday with the same number of participants.

The first day of the program focused on topics including, building self-esteem and confidence and success in life.

It covered sanitation and healthcare and productive community. The last day of the symposium will address building and sustaining a small business and good governance and citizenship.

Meanwhile, Kaidu Kamara and Precious Baffoe, two of the participants, expressed appreciation and gratitude to Impact Institute and its partners for the organization. They said that they are gratified to form part of the training, describing it as rewarding and eye-opening.

According to them, what they have learned about self-esteem and confidence are things that they have never heard before, especially when it comes to being tolerant and strategic in planning goals and purpose for life.

"We are excited to be in this program today. We want to thank the Impact Institute and their partners for this initiative," the participants said. They added that the training was rewarding and eye-opening.

"Today, we have learned that to keep our environment clean and healthy is not just the government's work, but all of us."



Impact Institute is a group organized to provide basic life-changing information and a good citizenship approach for Liberians.

The training exercise began Tuesday, 27 June 2023.

During an interview in West Point Tuesday, Impact Institute president Dr. Rudy Bropleh described smallholder business as the bedrock for a productive society and stronger economy. He said investing in the potential of Liberians will liberate Liberia to economic reliance and productivity.

Dr. Bropleh explained that when smallholder businesses

"All of the countries that are having better economy today are countries that invest in small business and human capacity," he added. Dr. Bropleh stated that investing in people is important for the community and society's productivity.

"The best way to build the country is the people because they are the country," Dr. Bropleh stressed.

The four days program is designed in two segments. The first two days of the symposium which is ongoing in West Point will climax Wednesday, 27 June 2023 with four hundred

NPP chief scribe heads Identification Registry

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The national secretary general of the National Patriotic Party (NPP)

Andrew Peters has taken office as the new executive director of the National Identification Registry (NIR) replacing John Tiah Nagbe. Mr. Nagbe resigned in compliance with the Code of Conduct for appointed officials to contest for the senate in the pending presidential and legislative elections scheduled for October. Speaking during the formal take over ceremony on Monday, 26th June at the head office of the NIR in Congo Town, Mr. Peters pledged to register about one million Liberians during his administration. He also promised to restore public trust in the entity and make it second to none, rallying employees "I have come for us to work and elevate this institution compared to none; let us work together in the

interest of our country."

He said there were challenges ahead but called for collective efforts among the staff to tackle them.

"There's lot more to be done at the National Identification Registry, but I'm urging you, the employees to roll up your sleeves in the interest of our country", Mr. Peters urged.

According to the new NIR boss, he will apply institutional

development strategies during his leadership to add values to the system, while encouraging Liberians to obtain national identification cards that he described as an important tool. "We are going to be applying the institutional development strategy, which will restore trust by our citizens, and add value to the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Mr. Peters taking over from his predecessor John Tiah Nagbe

USAID Liberia provides US\$1.5m to 18 CSOs

By Lewis S. Teh

The United States Government through USAID Liberia's civil society activity (CSA) has provided a grant totaling US\$1.5 million to 18 Civil Society Organizations here, with each of them expected to receive US\$75,000 to advocate for policy reforms in health, education, and governance sectors.

Making remarks at the official launch of the program on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, in Congo Town, outside Monrovia, the deputy chief of mission at the United States Embassy Monrovia, Joel Maybury, said he was honored to have joined prominent individuals to celebrate the robust partnerships that USAID's Civil Society Activity has developed with 18 local organizations working to improve the lives of Liberians. "President Biden has

factions to end Liberia's brutal civil war, he adds.

Mr. Maybury also narrates that those organizations benefiting from the grant played pivotal roles in shaping and leading the outreach and awareness campaigns that were so essential in helping Liberia survive and overcome the worst of Ebola and COVID-19.

He further reveals that Liberian civil society organizations have also made incredible contributions to society when crises were not looming, citing example, where they played a key role in the passage of the Local Government Act of 2018 and Revenue Sharing Law, two landmark pieces of legislation that decentralize governance powers.

He says every day, civil society advances citizen priorities, addresses unmet needs, and engages constructively with leaders to bring about needed reforms. The U.S. deputy chief of



called civil society the lifeblood of democracy, because it comprises the collective action of ordinary people to meet citizens' needs", Ambassador Maybury said. He notes that civil society keeps citizens informed, while holding government accountable, defending rights, and delivering essential services, adding that all of these contributions create more resilient, equitable, and prosperous societies.

The grants, according to USAID Liberia Civil Society Activity, will enable civil society organizations to advocate for improvement in education and health sectors in six counties: Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Margibi, Bong and Grand Bassa.

Over the years, Liberia's diverse array of civil society organizations has been instrumental in helping Liberia survive many crises. Local organizations - some famously led by women - succeeded in pressuring warlords and warring

mission, says the United States Government is proud to contribute to this impressive record of achievement through USAID's Civil Society Activity, and highlights work of two partners - FIND and DELTA, noting that with USAID funding, they played an important role in the establishment of the Bong County Council, the very first elected County Council in Liberia. The chief of party for the USAID Liberia CSA, Stephen Terravecchia expresses gratitude for those benefiting from the grant and congratulates them for their resilience.

"I understand the process was long and often arduous but we do believe the process resulted in grants whose theories of change are honed and whose expected results are practical and realistic. As CSA's Chief of Party, I look forward to working with each of the grantees and continued collaboration and coordination with the Government of Liberia,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe to name running mate from Bong

By Lincoln G. Peters

The New Dawn newspaper has gathered that presidential hopeful Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe has decided to name Dr. Emmanuel

the Executive Mansion through the ballot after one six-year term of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime.

This paper has reliably gathered that Dr. Urey-

abandoned his initial political quest to contesting as a representative candidate in Bong County Electoral District #3. As part of the arrangement, Cllr. Gongloe is said to have made a commitment to give Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo the chance to run as LPP's standard bearer in the 2029 elections.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo has posted Cllr. Gongloe's photo and a broom on his official Facebook page, asking: "Do you know the importance of the Broom?"

"It's simple and common but it has many qualities. First, it is a symbol of cleanliness and cleanliness is next to Godliness," he went further. He added that the broom is a symbol of strength in unity. "Fellow Liberians are we ready?" his post concluded.

In 2005, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo graduated as valedictorian and student council president of the Salvation Army's Len Millar Junior and then enrolled at Cuttington University, where he graduated in three years instead of four, with a BSC in Biology and a Master's in Public Health from the same institute.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo also earned another Master's in Environment and Resources and a PhD in Environmental Resources both from the University of Wisconsin Madison Nelson Institute in May 2018.



Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe

K. Urey-Yarkpawolo, a son of Bong County, as his running mate. The renowned human rights lawyer is seeking the Liberian presidency on the Liberian People's Party (LPP) ticket. His potential running mate, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo, is the former president of the Salvation Army Polyphonic University College (T-SAP) and an Environmental and Resource specialist.

Gongloe is among several opposition leaders seeking to battle incumbent President George Manneh Weah out of

Yarkpawolo's naming ceremony will take place on 9 July 2023 in the Capital of Bong County, Gbarnga City. Sometimes last week, Cllr. Gongloe and his team approached Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo through the efforts of elders of the county to appeal for him to be his running mate. After a series of consultations with both family and friends, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo is said to have accepted the challenge to go as Cllr. Gongloe's running mate.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo

Red Cross wants urgent action against drugs abuse

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) is calling for urgent and actionable steps to address the widespread consumption of dangerous substances among young people in the country. The Red Cross, via a press release, wants government to put in place stronger measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and prevent the proliferation of dangerous substances in the country, saying "We want urgent and actionable steps taken to address the impact of drug abuse and rebuild the Future of Young People".

"The devastating impact of illicit drugs not only affects individuals but also poses significant social and economic challenges to our communities and nation as a whole", says LNRCS Manager for Resource Mobilization and Asset, William Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery spoke when he proxied for the LNRCS Secretary-General on Monday, June 26, 2023, during

celebration of World Drugs Day in Monrovia. Under the global theme, "People First, stop stigma and Discrimination and strengthen prevention," the LNRCS, in collaboration with the Lion Club of Liberia, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, and Lion International, joined the rest of the world in celebrating the Day. "We stand united in our mission to save the future of our young people and rebuild their minds to create a generation of productive citizens who will support the development and

well-being of our great nation," Mr. Montgomery said.

He noted that the consumption of dangerous substances among the youth has far-reaching consequences, leading to mental health problems and contributing to social issues within the communities.

"It is imperative that we prioritize the well-being and livelihoods of our young population, as they are the potential future leaders of Liberia.



Liberia deposits ratified Hong Kong Convention

Liberia has taken a major leap towards ensuring that the environment is protected in the operations of the global ship recycling industry by depositing the country's ratified Hong Kong Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

A press release from the Liberia Maritime Authority, says this milestone decision paves the way for the treaty to come into full force in two years after attaining the required threshold of member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The instrument was deposited with IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, by Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe on June 26, 2023, in London.

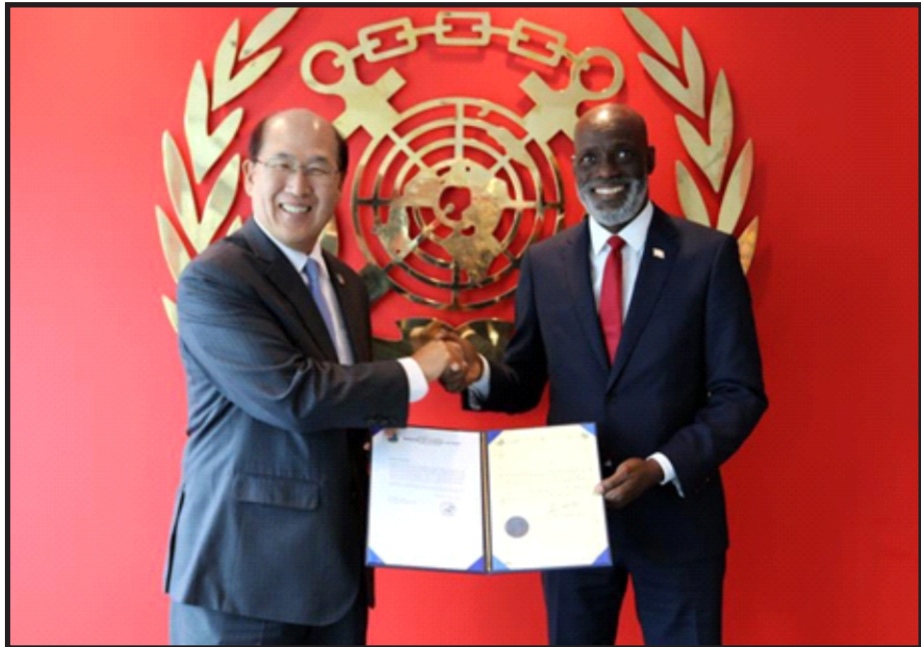
The Hong Kong Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any unnecessary risks to human

Sound Recycling of Ships, thus attaining the required threshold for this critically important international convention to finally come into force", he said.

He emphasized that as a major flag state, "the coming into force of this convention will enable our national regulatory framework to work for the benefit of the maritime industry and open opportunities for additional investments into responsible ship recycling, globally and in Liberia. Today is indeed a great and historic day for world shipping."

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim lauded Liberia and other member states for their accessions to the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

"I congratulate Liberia and other member states who have ratified this instrument for depositing their instruments of accession this June, triggering within 24 months the entry into force of the Hong Kong



health, safety and to the environment.

The Hong Kong Convention will enter into force 24 months after required criteria are met, including ratification by not less than 15 States, not less than 40% of the world's merchant shipping by gross tonnage; and ship recycling capacity of not less than 3% of the gross tonnage of the combined merchant shipping of those States mentioned above.

LiMA says the deposit of this important instrument by Liberia means these conditions have now been met, and the Hong Kong Convention comes into force on 26 June 2025.

In remarks, Commissioner Nagbe said: "As a preeminent partner in global maritime affairs, Liberia takes its vested responsibility to ensuring safe and environmentally responsible practices throughout the industry by the enactment and adherence to laws and regulations to help guide maritime activities."

"It is therefore with great pride that we have deposited the ratified Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally

Convention, and the global regime for safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. This is a momentous day for IMO, and it is indeed a historical development for the international shipping industry, for the marine environment, and especially for workers and local communities in ship recycling countries globally," the IMO Secretary General Lim stated.

He added that given Liberia's position as a prominent flag state, the country's ratification/accession to the Hong Kong Convention "will provide a major advancement to Liberia's regulatory framework and would enable the tonnage criteria to be met."

"I invite other Member States, who have not yet become a party to the Hong Kong Convention, to do so as soon as possible," he added.

Mr. Lim: "I take this opportunity to also thank the Government of Norway for their continued support to the IMO-implemented project on Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling in Bangladesh (SENSREC), which has helped to make this accession possible. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to Liberia."

Français

Le parti au pouvoir banalise « la mission de sauvetage » de l'opposition

Le président de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) Morlu a qualifié de fausse la « mission de sauvetage » de Joseph Nyumah Boakai, leader de l'opposition.

Galvanisant les militants de la Coalition au pouvoir pour la

substantiel », a déclaré M. Morlu dimanche 25 juin 2023.

« Mais je vous exhorte à les rejeter s'ils viennent vous persuader », a poursuivi Morlu.

La CDC procédait dimanche à la préparation d'un programme prévu le 15 juillet 2023 dont l'objectif est d'apprécier ses partisans pour leur participation à

souffrir les gens ordinaires.

Morlu s'est dit confiant d'une victoire écrasante de la majorité au pouvoir au premier tour de l'élection présidentielle du 10 octobre 2023.

Il a fait valoir que le Libéria est sur la bonne trajectoire de changement sous la direction du président George Manneh Weah.

Le président du CDC a décrit le président Weah comme un cadeau pour les Libériens et la nation dans son ensemble.

Il a exhorté les citoyens à soutenir le président sortant pour maintenir la croissance et le développement du Libéria.

Il a supplié ses partisans de ne pas lâcher le président sortant Weah, se vantant que celui-ci a fait beaucoup plus au cours de son court mandat en tant que président que tous les autres régimes précédents.

Dimanche, des milliers de citoyens, pour la plupart des partisans de la CDC, ont défié les fortes pluies dans les circonscriptions électorales 1 et 2 du comté de Montserrado, pour se rassembler en vue du programme de « remerciement » prévu le 15 juillet.

Les partisans ont organisé des réunions séparées pour assurer une victoire du président Weah au premier tour de l'élection présidentielle prévue en octobre 2023.

l'exercice d'inscription biométrique des électeurs (BVR).

Au cours de la rencontre, le président Morlu a mis en garde les citoyens contre la mission de sauvetage, accusant l'opposition de faire le faux. « On ne les voit que lors de la période électorale », a-t-il ajouté.

Morlu a fustigé le Parti de l'unité (UP) de Boakai, l'accusant de n'avoir rien fait au cours de ses 12 années de règne. Selon lui, l'UP a truqué les élections et a fait

réélection du président George Manneh Weah, M. Morlu a dit que la mission de sauvetage n'a pour but que de tromper le peuple.

« Ils disent qu'ils sont venus sauver le Libéria. De quoi veulent-ils sauver le Libéria ? Est-ce le progrès ou le développement sans précédent ? Cette ... soi-disant mission de sauvetage est sans fondement, insensée, fautive et n'a aucun raisonnement

La prolifération des drogues illicites est une urgence nationale, selon l'opposant Boakai

L'ancien vice-président libérien Joseph Nyuma Boakai a déclaré que la prolifération de la drogue à travers le pays est une menace pour la sécurité nationale, d'où la nécessité des mesures immédiates pour y mettre fin.

M. Boakai, qui brigue la présidence pour la deuxième fois en octobre, a juré de faire la guerre au trafic de drogue s'il est élu président de la République du Libéria.

« Je considère la drogue comme une menace pour notre sécurité nationale. C'est pour moi une urgence nationale. Les statistiques ne peuvent pas être plus frappantes », a déclaré l'homme de 78 ans lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le lundi 26 juin 2023, Journée internationale contre l'abus de drogues.

Boakai a déclaré que l'exposition croissante des Libériens, en particulier les jeunes, à la toxicomanie grâce à un accès facile à des substances interdites, aura d'énormes implications

sanitaires, sociales, économiques et sécuritaires pour le pays si l'on ne prend pas des mesures immédiates.

« On estime que 2 jeunes sur 10 au Libéria sont des consommateurs de stupéfiants. Selon certaines estimations, environ 13% de la population est touchée par la toxicomanie », a déclaré Boakai.

Il a dit que la corrélation entre la toxicomanie et les crimes est

tout aussi inquiétante, et que la police signale une augmentation des crimes liés à la drogue.

Selon lui, le Libéria gagne rapidement en notoriété en tant que pays de transbordement de stupéfiants illicites, un pays qui apparaît honteusement comme un « narco-État ».

Selon lui, la faible capacité

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Stupéfiants : Les gouvernants feraient la sourde oreille en dépit de l'appel des parents

Les parents ont beau pleuré et se sont plaints de la prolifération de substances dangereuses dans le pays qui tue beaucoup de jeunes au Libéria, rien ne change. Leurs cris et pleurs semblent tomber dans l'oreille d'un sourd. Les autorités font très peu, voire rien du tout, pour atténuer le problème.

Le Libéria est envahi par des stupéfiants, dont la marijuana, l'héroïne, la cocaïne et le « Kush », qui sont consommés principalement par les jeunes. Parmi ces stupéfiants, « Kush » serait le plus meurtrier

, des rapports faisant état de décès qui surviennent presque tous les deux jours dans une communauté ou une autre.

Le problème de la drogue s'est intensifiée sous l'administration actuelle qui a enregistré les deux plus grosses saisies de cocaïne évaluée à 100 millions de dollars et à près de 50 millions de dollars.

Le Kush, le plus meurtrier, serait importé de la Sierra Leone voisine. Il est vendu dans des ghettos à travers le Libéria. Les forces de sécurité, dont notamment l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) ont du mal à appréhender rapidement les trafiquants.

Les seuls suspects appréhendés et accusés d'avoir importé les deux plus gros lots de cocaïne saisis au port de Monrovia l'année dernière ont été récemment libérés par le tribunal pénal « E » après que les jurés ont prononcé un verdict de non-culpabilité.

Mais la décision du tribunal et la libération ultérieure des suspects, tous ressortissants étrangers, dont un Libanais, ont été accueillies par le public avec déception. Même l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia qui a alerté les autorités libériennes a émis des réserves sur la libération des suspects.

Néanmoins, le commerce de la drogue continue de prospérer dans tout le pays, car les passeurs exploitent les frontières poreuses du Libéria et sont, dans certains cas, aidés par des agents de l'immigration déviants.

Le gouvernement au plus haut niveau est resté manifestement silencieux sur la situation de la drogue dans le pays, au point que beaucoup se demandent s'il s'agit d'une simple complaisance ou d'une complicité.

Les parents, impuissants face à la situation, continuent de réclamer l'intervention du gouvernement, car ils perdent des enfants au profit de trafiquants qui exploitent des ghettos à travers Monrovia.

Le président George Weah a annoncé l'année dernière un programme ambitieux pour réhabiliter les jeunes toxicomanes que le gouvernement qualifie de « jeunes à risque ». Le président a également annoncé un budget estimé à 13 millions de dollars pour la construction d'un centre de réadaptation pour les « jeunes à risque ». Il a, à cet égard, reçu des promesses de la part des partenaires.

Mais si l'on en croit les révélations récentes du ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports D. Zogar Wilson, la déclaration du gouvernement n'est rien d'autre qu'un simple plaidoyer pour lutter contre les drogues qui détruisent la prochaine génération du Libéria, car le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, selon le ministre Wilson, n'a pas débloqué un centime pour ce programme de réhabilitation très médiatisé. Nous nous demandons combien de jeunes Libériens devraient perdre la vie avant que le problème de la drogue ne soit traité comme une urgence nationale.

Français

La prolifération des drogues illicites est une

d'application de la loi du pays, la porosité des frontières et la proximité des principales routes de transit de la drogue contribuent au trafic vers et à travers le Libéria.

Le porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité (UP) a rappelé la récente saisie de 100 millions de dollars américains de drogue et la saga des procès qui s'en est suivie.

Il a également rappelé le départ mystérieux et inexplicable du pays de tous ceux qui ont été jugés et "acquittés" pour trafic de drogue.

Pour Boakai, ce sont des indications que le pays s'est rapidement exposé au trafic de stupéfiants au cours des dernières années.

Il a souligné également la vulnérabilité du peuple du Libéria à l'impact du trafic à grande échelle des substances nocives produites par des entreprises criminelles internationales.

"De manière claire, cela révèle l'échec du leadership national, du système de justice faible et pénal et éveille de manière cruciale les soupçons sur la complicité probable de certains hauts gradés dans cette affaire", a-t-il affirmé.

Boakai a déclaré qu'il est désormais évident que l'administration Weah est incapable, réticente, complice et indifférente par rapport à cette crise.

"Ils ne le voient pas comme la plupart des Libériens le voient - UNE URGENCE NATIONALE. C'est pourquoi un changement de

leadership national est et devrait être maintenant », a-t-il déclaré.

Le chef de l'opposition a exhorté les Libériens à voir leurs votes comme une opportunité d'inverser une tendance dangereuse en sauvant leurs enfants et en assurant leur avenir.

Selon Boakai, les toxicomanes sont sujets aux maladies mentales et à de fortes tendances suicidaires, et peuvent également mourir prématurément en raison d'une surdose de drogue.

Il a également affirmé que la dépendance à la drogue conduit souvent à des crimes, qui mettent en péril à la fois les usagers et la société car ces jeunes sont stigmatisés et confrontés à un isolement social sévère.

Boakai a promis de déclarer la guerre de manière globale au trafic et à la consommation de drogue s'il est élu président du Libéria lors des prochaines élections présidentielle et législatives du 10 octobre.

« Je promets de déclarer la guerre au trafic et à la consommation de drogue si je suis élu, c'est pourquoi la décision que vous prendrez le 10 octobre sera l'une des plus importantes de votre vie », a déclaré Amb. Boakai.

Il a imploré les Libériens de rester vigilants et de savoir que l'aide est en route pour sauver leurs jeunes et la société du "kush" et des affres de cette épidémie.

Le trafic et la consommation de drogues en Afrique de l'Ouest augmentent à grande vitesse

Le nouveau rapport mondial de l'ONUDC sur les drogues 2023 Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre vient d'être publié à Niamey, au Niger. 863 kg de cocaïne, 36 tonnes de cannabis et 23 tonnes de résine de cannabis ont été saisis sur les six premiers mois de 2023. En 2030, la consommation de la drogue va augmenter de 45%. Le nouveau rapport mondial montre que le phénomène du trafic et de la consommation de la drogue est préoccupant. Malgré le manque de données fiables, l'Afrique de l'Ouest et les pays du Sahel sont gravement touchés. Selon le représentant régional de l'Office des Nations unies contre la drogue et le crime, ONUDC, de 13 kg de cocaïne saisis en 2015, l'Afrique de l'Ouest est passée à 863 kg de cocaïne saisis en 2023, soit une augmentation de plus de 500 %.

En ce qui concerne la résine de cocaïne, selon le docteur Amado Philips, l'Afrique du Nord est la plaque tournante

du trafic. Cette drogue est la plus consommée en Afrique et au Maghreb. Quelque 300 tonnes de cocaïne transitent chaque année en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Sahel. En 2030, selon le rapport, la consommation de drogue va augmenter de 45 %. Une véritable pandémie comparée au Covid-19. Le tramadol est la principale cause de décès par overdose chez les jeunes. Les troubles liés à l'usage de la drogue ont également augmenté de 45 %. La jeunesse particulièrement touchée

La consommation de cannabis et d'opioïdes en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Afrique centrale est supérieure aux moyennes mondiales. Près de 10 % des 15/64 ans ont consommé du cannabis sur le continent en 2021 contre une moyenne de près de 4,5 % au niveau mondial. Ce sont en très grande majorité des hommes et particulièrement en Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre. La consommation de cocaïne, décrite comme « assez répandue » en Afrique de l'Ouest et australe, semble quant à elle en hausse.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Diane Coyle

Tricentenaire de la naissance d'Adam Smith

CAMBRIDGE - Nous fêtons cette année le tricentenaire de la naissance d'Adam Smith, le père fondateur de l'économie moderne. Cet anniversaire arrive à un moment où l'économie mondiale fait face à plusieurs défis considérables. Les taux d'inflation sont au plus haut depuis la fin des années 1970. La croissance de la productivité en Occident reste lente ou stagnante. Les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire sont au bord d'une crise de la dette. Les tensions commerciales augmentent. En outre, la concentration du marché a augmenté parmi les pays de l'OCDE.

Dans ce contexte, le tricentenaire d'Adam Smith est une occasion de réfléchir à ses idées très pertinentes sur la dynamique de la croissance économique et de déterminer si elles peuvent nous aider à comprendre l'époque actuelle.

La spécialisation encouragée par la division du travail est au cœur de la théorie de la croissance économique de Smith, présentée dans le premier chapitre de son œuvre fondamentale *La Richesse des nations*. En décomposant la production en tâches plus petites - un processus illustré par l'exemple fameux de la manufacture d'épingles de Smith - l'industrialisation a permis d'énormes gains de productivité.

Mais ce processus ne se limite pas aux entreprises individuelles. Selon Smith, comme la division du travail est « limitée par la taille du marché », le marché dans son ensemble doit se développer par le biais des échanges. Après tout, stimuler la production quotidienne de bidules de 100 à 10 000 est inutile si personne ne veut acheter des bidules. Ainsi la division du travail est un processus collectif qui implique un processus continu de changement économique structurel. Lorsqu'il y a un plus grand nombre de bidules à un prix abordable, les secteurs de l'économie qui utilisent des bidules peuvent augmenter la production et faire baisser les prix. Pendant ce temps, la taille accrue du marché peut permettre aux fournisseurs en amont de matériaux nécessaires à la production de bidules de réorganiser la production en tâches plus spécialisées.

Comme l'a fait remarquer l'économiste américain Allyn Young en 1928, il s'agit d'une histoire dynamique de rendements croissants. Le processus de croissance est un cercle vertueux de changements structurels qui commence lentement puis s'accélère, comme une avalanche. La Révolution industrielle et la croissance rapide des économies Quatre Dragons en Extrême-Orient dans les années 1980 et 1990 sont de parfaits exemples du processus mentionné par Smith. Pourtant, la stagnation qui a frappé les économies développées au cours de la dernière décennie pose la question de savoir si les progrès mondiaux vers ce qu'il a décrit par le terme « opulence universelle » sont au point mort.

Bien que la division du travail en tâches spécialisées ait souvent amélioré les compétences et l'expertise des travailleurs, cela n'a pas été le cas pour tout le monde. L'émergence de modèles génératifs d'intelligence artificielle suscite la crainte que les employeurs n'utilisent ces technologies pour réduire la main-d'œuvre humaine et les coûts, ce qui suscite des appels à des interventions réglementaires pour s'assurer que l'IA augmente, plutôt qu'elle ne remplace les capacités humaines.

En outre, alors que la croissance économique depuis le début de la Révolution industrielle a conduit à des progrès étonnants en matière de santé et de bien-être, il est important de reconnaître que les cadres institutionnels et les choix politiques qui ont permis ce progrès ont été le résultat de luttes sociales intenses.

Une autre préoccupation souvent négligée provient de la taille du marché. Smith aurait probablement été choqué par l'ampleur de la spécialisation dans l'économie du XXI^e siècle (et probablement heureux d'avoir su aussi bien prédire l'avenir). Aujourd'hui, le secteur secondaire repose largement sur des réseaux de production mondiaux complexes. Des produits finis comme les automobiles et les smartphones comprennent des milliers de composants fabriqués dans plusieurs pays. La plupart des maillons intermédiaires de ces chaînes d'approvisionnement sont extraordinairement spécialisés. La société néerlandaise ASML, par exemple, est le seul producteur de machines de lithographie ultraviolette nécessaires à la production de puces avancées, dont la plupart sont fabriquées par Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

Mais la nature répandue de ce phénomène suggère que le marché mondial de nombreux produits ne peut faire fonctionner que quelques entreprises capables de réaliser des économies d'échelle. C'est le cas depuis longtemps pour de grands industriels dans des secteurs tels que l'aérospatiale, mais cela s'applique de plus en plus aux marchés plus réduits des composants intermédiaires.

Par conséquent, l'autre condition de la croissance économique de Smith - la présence de la concurrence - n'est pas remplie. La concurrence contribue à garantir que la croissance économique est socialement bénéfique, car elle empêche les propriétaires d'entreprises de monopoliser les avantages de la spécialisation et de la multiplication des échanges. Comme le dit Smith dans *La Richesse des nations*, « en général, si une branche du commerce ou une division du travail est avantageuse pour le public, plus la concurrence est libre et générale, plus cette tendance va augmenter à l'avenir ».

Bien que le déclin de la concurrence ait été une préoccupation croissante dans les économies occidentales au cours des dernières années, le débat a porté essentiellement sur les secteurs les plus importants au sein des marchés nationaux, comme les grandes entreprises technologiques. Les responsables politiques sur les deux rives de l'Atlantique ont réagi à la concentration dans l'industrie de la technologie par de nouvelles lois, comme le Règlement sur les marchés numériques de l'Union européenne et une application plus stricte des lois antitrust existantes, comme la décision récente de la Federal Trade Commission américaine de bloquer la prise de contrôle d'Activision par Microsoft.

La question politique plus profonde est toutefois de savoir si le niveau de spécialisation sur certains marchés a atteint un point de non-retour où se situe un compromis entre les deux conditions préalables à la croissance selon Smith. La division du travail a-t-elle atteint ses limites - et le besoin de renforcer la concurrence est-il donc une autre raison de diversifier les chaînes d'approvisionnement et de développer de nouvelles lignes de production ?

Diane Coyle, professeur de politiques publiques à l'Université de Cambridge. Elle a publié dernièrement *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Weah's Presidency: The Verdict!

By S.Karweaye

As the end of George Weah's presidency come to an end, the review of his administration performance was celebrated with much pomp and pageantry. Appearing on the Liberia Broadcasting Service's (LBS) Bumper show, Minister Samuel D. Tweah and the Commissioner General of the Liberia Maritime Authority celebrated with much pomp and pageantry. To an onlooker or a visitor to the country, the review of the Weah administration's performance by these government officials was right on course and almost believable. The paradox is that the same people who set the examinations sat for them and graded themselves.

Sadly, contrary to the Weah's administration celebration of success, the grand economic figures that were reeled out mean nothing to the ordinary person. The President, proudly sending Minister Tweah and Commissioner Nagbe into the LBS studio has asked they score him and that we score him as well. That is what exactly will be covered by this article; not from the perspective of the government, but from the angle of the perceived 'beneficiaries' of the various schemes and policies that have been enacted since Mr Weah came to office in 2018.

Considering the macro-economic issues which have been celebrated by the current government, the fact is several notable aspects of the economy that the government claims to have improved only impacted a few beneficiaries. The government claims credit for GDP growth of about 4.2%. It also beats its chest on the renovation of roads, and hospitals. The government also touts its award of several infrastructure contracts, especially roads. Finally, the Weah government is very smugly proud of its so-called claim of getting 27,000 Liberians out of poverty in Mr. Weah's first year in office.

In the area of providing safety and security for citizens, Minister Tweah and Commissioner Nagbe made a conscious decision to ignore that aspect of the discussion. The Weah government had all, but capitulated to all manners of security challenges in all parts of the country, from the ritualistic killings to Liberia being the hub of illegal drug trafficking, inter-ethnic clashes, explosive land disputes all over the country, armed robbery, to all other strains of dissidence. And, of course, the government's pretense at, and overlooking serial human rights violations and repeated extra judicial killings of innocent citizens, rape, and sexual abuse by government agents.

In the five years since the election of President George Weah, despite poverty declining from 64 percent to 42 percent between 2007 and 2014, poverty in Liberia remains widespread. According to World Bank's third edition of the annual Liberia Economic Update with the theme: "Investing in Human Capital for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and the World Bank's Poverty & Equity Brief, more than half of the population of Liberia (51% or 2.3 million) lives below the national poverty line, and the driving forces were the Ebola outbreak, the collapse of iron ore and rubber prices, the drawdown of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces, and the COVID-19 pandemic. While 44% of the population lived under the extreme international poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

Minister Tweah has cited the World Bank's report on Liberia to pinpoint the challenges Weah's administration government encountered when he ascended to the presidency, and joyfully boasted of GDP growth of about 4.8 percent. Worthy of note is the fact that a GDP growth rate of 4.8% is insufficient to reduce poverty in the country. On the LBS Bumper show, Minister Tweah declared President Weah took 27,000. How did Mr. Weah take 27, 000 Liberians out of poverty in the first year of his administration? Tweah's statement seems to be wrong - especially about how poverty is measured.

The first is income or monetary measure of poverty, which economists refer to as the 'headcount index'. It measures the proportion of the poor population based on a minimum personal income - for example, \$1.90 per day. This minimum amount is deemed adequate to maintain an acceptable living standard, given the cost of living in a given country. Based on this measure, did the Weah administration transfer cash to 27,000 Liberians during that period? How did 27,000 Liberians exceed the income threshold and escape poverty?

The other measure of poverty is known as the multidimensional poverty measure. It measures poverty by income, and by the access people have to health, education, and living standard indicators. These include sanitation,

drinking water, electricity, and housing. This is the measure the World Bank appears to be applying. By this measure, 51%, or 2.3 million people, live in multidimensional poverty. Most of them are located in rural Liberia.

One reason for the World Bank's assertion that 2.3 million Liberians have been driven into poverty is the increasing price of food. According to the World Bank, Liberians are highly vulnerable to rising food prices. Rising food prices exacerbate poverty because it reduces the real purchasing power of households, and shifts expenditures away from essential items such as health, education, and housing. An average Liberian household spends about 67% of its income on food, one of the highest in the world. Countries like US, UK, Canada, and Australia spend 6.4%, 8.2%, 9.1%, and 9.8%. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) classifies Liberia's level of hunger as "serious" with a score of 32.4 in 2022 indicating a further worsening from 2021. This exacerbates poverty for many households at risk of food insecurity.

As previously stated, food prices have been rising in Liberia and pushing more people into poverty for a few reasons. First, the depreciation in the value of Liberia has resulted in steep increases in the prices of imported food items, such as rice, sugar, milk, beverages, and frozen food. The Liberia dollar has



depreciated during the past year.

Second, because of Liberia's rapid population growth, the food supply in the country may be lagging in demand. Liberia's population has been growing by about 2.1 per annum, while agriculture value added has been growing at 1.8%. This means that agricultural output is barely keeping pace with consumption. Supply shortfalls have been exacerbated by insecurity and poor infrastructure. and climate change.

The truth is Liberia's poverty profile is grim and embarrassing for a country endowed with humongous human and natural resources. Liberia is a nation rich with natural resources including iron ore, gold, diamonds, natural rubber, vast forest for logging and timber harvesting, and vast agricultural land for ensuring food security, because these revenues are not properly accounted for and managed terribly, they benefit only a few who have access to the funds at the detriment of the citizenry according to Transparency International.

Inequality is on the rise as attested to by a survey conducted by the Ministry and partners that revealed over 366,584 children across the country are living in the streets in dehumanizing Conditions which is a recipe for s agitations and unrest in Liberia until the system guarantees economic justice and equality to the people. Poverty amid plenty was unacceptable in Liberia. Sadly, Liberia, as at the end of 2022 ranked 142nd out of 180 countries in the world. Ridiculously, Liberia remains further down the table, joining the list of countries significantly declining on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2022. At this pace, the only thing obvious is the fact that the nation is nowhere close to being taken off the corruption list.

The debt stock of the nation keeps soaring and has currently doubled what it was in 2017. According to the annual public debt and management 2022 report on the Ministry of Finance and development planning website, the public debt grew by 21.56 percent to US\$2.03 billion at the end of December 2022, compared to US\$1.67 billion at the end of June 2021. The external component of the total debt stock constituted about US\$1.13 billion (55.85 %) while domestic debt constituted about US\$896.68 million (44.15%).

What must the Liberian government show for its massive external and internal borrowings? Is it the erratic power supply or deplorably roads, hospitals, high salaries, and incentives for top government officials, an insignificant fraction of the population? Government borrowing ought to inject needed cash into the social sector of government by funding critical priority areas such as health, basic education, water, and roads. Can we proudly say we have seen considerable improvement in these sectors?

Incidentally, after boasting about Weah's achievements- Minister Tweah acknowledged the government's failure to considerably reduce poverty as envisioned in the administration's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. This indicates that either Mr. Tweah is not reading from the same script 27, 000 Liberians were taken out of poverty or Tweah and others that authored Weah's brandished 'achievements' live on another planet. It may also be that the government has been caught up in its web of lies because however, carefully managed a lie is a truth that will always come out in the end.

Under Mr. Weah, unemployment in Liberia has grown. Most of the youth simply have no hope in what the future holds for them. The truth is that most of the crimes being experienced in the country in its various form including armed robbery to stealing phones is a direct offshoot of idleness and unemployment among restless youths.

What is clear though is that not only is President Weah and his officials determined that Mr. Weah has passed his five years in office with flying colors, but they have also declared that Weah is the most successful president in the history of Liberia and he will win his second term whether we like it or not. His surrogate voices like Samuel Tweah and Eugee Nagbe have already announced the results of the next presidential elections that we all hope will take place in 2023! In light of all these, it is clear that when Weah loses the 2023 presidential elections, he will pull a Laurent Gbagbo stunt, dig in and declare that he has not lost, with his surrogates unleashing violence on anyone perceived to be in disagreement. The next four months will be therefore a period of great challenge to Liberia during which round-the-clock vigilance must be the watchword of all those that care for our nation and its people.

We all need to be proactive in insisting that the next elections be free, fair, and credible. The foregoing litany of failures and underperformance f the Weah-led government in social, political, and economic spheres will fill more pages than this column can take and he and his cronies won't want to exit power easily.

Things have never been as bad as we have it now and no rhetoric from the president and his top officials can mask the frustration of the Liberian people. The few people who praise the performance of this government or the direction it is headed are those who have benefitted inordinately from the skewed opportunities at the expense of the majority. Some of the major sectors of the country's economy which would make a difference now and for future generations (security, electric power, healthcare, employment, and education) are being toyed with for political gains.

We keep hearing Weah's officials' and his supporters saying the president is trying and doing his best. It is not the President's duty to 'try'. After all, he made promises during his campaign that he ought to fulfill. It is his constitutional duty to protect the lives and property of the citizens and it is our right as citizens to hold our leaders accountable.

Rather than engage in petty arguments and gloating over marginal improvements in figures as compared to previous administrations, this administration needs to demonstrate its plans to not only halt the slide but leave a secure future for the next generation. Instead of taking all criticisms in bad faith, a government that genuinely has the interest of the people at heart should prove critics wrong by improving performance and being accountable to citizens.

In the end, it was a genuinely shameful spectacle for Mr. Tweah and Mr. Nagbe to sing and dance around in the LBS studio and utter lies and deceptions that do not have a basis in reality to the Liberian people and claim achievements that few people can see or even feel. Weah tenure as president depicts a massive failure. Are you better off now than you were five years ago? Are you more secure than you were five years ago? Can you pay school fees without breaking the bank? Are more people in jobs than they were a few years ago? Are Liberians better united today than before Mr. Weah's election? Do you even feed better than you did five years ago? The verdict is up to you. I rest my case.

U.S. urges Liberians to examine candidates

By Lewis S. Teh

The United States Deputy Chief of Mission in Liberia Mr. He held a Press Stakeout with scores of journalists following the launch of the grant.

that the Liberian National Elections Commission (NEC) will give a space to different candidates to express themselves openly.

He said the media play a crucial role in these processes, urging them to do their best to explain things to the people.

Maybury was quizzed about when will the United States government impose further sanctions on Liberians officials that are caught in corrupt practices. In response, the Deputy Chief of Mission said the issue about sanctioning officials has absolutely no time frame. Instead, he said whenever it occurs, they impose sanctions.

"There is no timeline or definition, but it [does] occur certainly. It won't affect the election, but if it [does] occur before the election, sanctions will be imposed," he explained.

According to Mr. Maybury, the fact that corruption hasn't occurred doesn't mean the United States government isn't interested in following up on fighting corruption. He noted that it also doesn't mean that civil society organizations here can't continue to monitor and to call out corruption or report instances they believe are corrupt practices.

"This act of sanctioning is an ongoing activity not just here in Liberia, but across the world. The United States government under the Biden administration is trying to implement, so you don't halt the activity because it's Christmas or election," he said.

Like other international partners, he said the U.S. is here as friends to Liberia to monitor and not to interfere with the Liberian main election. "This election is a homemade cake; Americans are not making your election. We're not providing your candidates, but we hope that the people of Liberia will examine the position of the different candidates," he said.

The U.S. Embassy official expressed his government's hope that those in charge of running this election will take their jobs so seriously and do it with great credibility. He cautioned that to develop the country isn't only the public, but the institutions responsible.

At the same time, Mr. Maybury said the United States government hopes

No summary judgement

Judges at the Commercial Court at the Temple of Justice have denied the Guaranty Trust (GT) Bank its motion for summary judgement into the case involving the Bank and CT Com Liberia Limited.

The court has been hearing the case for nearly three months after CT. COM sued the bank for unlawfully freezing its account. They had been instructed to freeze an account belonging to Christopher Onanuga but CT COM claimed that the Bank, instead went on and froze the account CT Com, one of Liberia's leading media companies.

The Company, through its CEO, Mr. Christopher Hayes Onanuga sued GT Bank, demanding a damage fee of US\$7 million. The company claimed that the bank's

Limited has presented all of its evidence, its witnesses have testified and have been fully examined by lawyers of both parties. However, GT Bank, instead of presenting its witnesses, shocked the court when it filed a motion for summary judgement on Monday, June 26.

Meanwhile, with the denial of such a motion, legal pundits say it puts the bank in a tight position to either proceed with the trial as it is or run to the Supreme Court for interpretation. This, pundits say, will prolong the case.

However, the court's latest ruling showed that the case has substance and is certain that it will be heard until a ruling is made.

With the current status, the big questions now are how deep is the GT Bank's crisis with CT COM Liberia



alleged action subjected it to all forms of hardships and humiliation that led it to a near collapse.

At the trial, CT COM Liberia

Limited? How far is the bank prepared to go with this legal battle and how much does such a case take from the daily activities of the bank.

Starts from page 6

NPP chief scribe heads

system. By doing this, more Liberians will understand why it is important to have a National Identification Card, which registered you as citizen of the country," Mr. Peters said.

He called for respect and dignity among the workforce, while commending President George Weah, along with the board of directors of the National Identification Registry for reposing confidence in him to serve as Executive Director of the NIR, while committing himself to living up to the task and ensuring the institution is transformed. "We are going to do our jobs accordingly so that every Liberian is registered to obtain a citizen status, at least a million is our threshold and we are going to do it." He maintained. The NIR is tasked with the duty of ensuring that Liberians are registered as citizens under the law. Mr. Peters vowed to enforce this regulation across the country for everyone to obtain a national identification card.

Meanwhile, after congratulating

Mr. Andrew Peters on his new role as executive director of the NIR, the chairman of the board of directors of the entity and Minister of Internal Affairs, Varney K. Sirleaf, acknowledged that it had been a difficult time for the institution but assured his commitment to ensuring the numerous challenges facing the entity are addressed. Minister Sirleaf disclosed that before Mr. Peters' official take over, the board of directors met to help mitigate some of the challenges facing the institution so that more Liberians are registered. Rivercess County Senator Wellington Geevon Smith, who graced the ceremony, expressed conviction that his kinsman, Mr. Andrew Peters, will succeed at the NIR despite the challenges, and promised to lobby with his colleagues at the 54th Legislature to increase the budget of the NIR, noting that the Registry is an important entity that needs to be fully supported and equipped. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Starts from back page

Lawmakers pass non-bailable

where the offense is a capital offense or is determined by law to be a grave offense. The Senate's version of the law provides that the cultivation, manufacture, importation, export, trafficking and sale of controlled drugs and substances is a first degree felony, a grave offense, and therefore is not billable.

The Conference Committee also indicated that properties, real and personal, used in the process of committing any of these offenses shall escheat to the Republic. At the same time, the Conference Committee reported that proceeds from the sale of properties escheated to the Republic shall be appropriated to relevant state agencies and for rehabilitation

purposes. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will go toward the drug enforcement agencies, twenty-five percent for drug prevention and rehabilitation programs, and fifty percent to the general revenue of the Republic.

These appropriations to the drug enforcement agencies and to drug prevention and rehabilitation programs shall be in addition to any appropriation which shall be made annually by the Legislature in the National Budget.

The Conference Committee also indicated that the use or consumption of controlled drugs and substance is a second degree

felony and is billable consistent with the constitutional right to bail for the commission of the crime.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Senate through the office of the Secretary of Senate has accordingly informed the House of Representatives on its action. At the House, the body suggested the consumers are deemed to be victims of the cultivators, manufacturers, importers, exporters, traffickers and sellers. The law also provides that where the convict of any of these crimes is not a Liberian, after serving his/her sentence, he/she shall be deported from Liberia.

Lawmakers pass non-bailable drug law

By Ethel A. Tweh & Bridgett Milton

The Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a drug law making the cultivation, manufacture, importation, export,

the commission of the crime. On Tuesday, 27 June 2023, the Plenary of the Liberian Senate adopted a conference committee report seeking to enact into law an Act to Amend Chapter 14 of the New Penal Law of Liberia. The instrument

the bill from the House of Representatives and the Senate to make it more robust.

It also sought to meet international standards under the laws of the country in the control of illicit drugs and substances across the country. The House of Representatives similarly passed the drug law making the offense non-bailable.

The plenary of the House of Representatives took the decision Tuesday, 27 June 27, following a report from the legislative Conference Committee on the Drugs Law of Liberia.

According to the report, the committee recommended that amendment of Chapter 14, offenses involving danger to the person.

The conference committee added that part five, Regulation of Drugs, Public Health law, Liberian Code Revised are repealed.

In its harmonization of the two versions of the bill, the Liberian Senate took into consideration that the right to bail is a fundamental constitutional right. It took into consideration that such right should be denied only



trafficking and sale of controlled drugs and substances not bailable.

The lawmakers consider these act listed as a first degree felony, a grave offense under Liberian laws.

However, the law makes the use or consumption of controlled drugs and substances a second degree felony and is bailable consistent with the constitutional right to bail for

is under the title "Offense Involving Danger to the Person."

The Senate added Subchapter 'E' under the title: Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2014," now "Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2023." Headed by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Varney G. Sherman, the Conference Committee was intended to harmonize the two versions of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Pay with MoMo!

Dial ***156*3#**

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

JOB VACANCY

The NEW DAWN has vacancy for an experience graphic designer/newspaper layout person.

Applicant must be prepared to work in a news environment especially newspaper, and be able to execute assigned tasks independently.

Interested person may address application to the NEW DAWN Office on U.N. Drive, behind the Ministry Public Works right opposite the National Investment Commission.

The Management
Searchlight Communications, Incorporated.

The New Dawn PRESS

TRULY INDEPENDENT

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia