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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Continental News

Gunfire Shatters Eid Prayer for Peace by Fed-Up Sudanese

Hundreds gathered in the Sudanese capital Khartoum Wednesday to pray for peace on the first day of the Eid al-Adha Muslim holiday, but for Sudanese "youth and all those able to defend" to take up arms with the military. His appeal echoed one from the defense ministry last month, and has been widely rejected by civilians.



People flee as smoke billows on the first day of the Eid al-Adha Muslim holiday in Wad Hamid

gunfire shattered the brief respite, residents said.

Witnesses in the capital's twin city of Omdurman late Wednesday reported airstrikes and anti-aircraft fire, despite separate unilateral truces announced by the warring generals for the holiday. "The country can't take any more of this," Khartoum resident Kazem Abdel Baqi told AFP earlier in the day.

Nearly 2,800 people have been killed and more than 2.8 million displaced in the war between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy-turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"We pray to God to make our country safe and secure," Baqi said, rejecting Burhan's call to arms, after the early morning prayer that rang in the three-day festival, normally a highlight of the year for Sudanese.

In neat rows in an empty courtyard, men in white and women in brightly colored outfits gathered to pray, embracing and wishing each other well in a rare moment of respite from more than 10 weeks of relentless gunshots, airstrikes and artillery fire that have reduced civilians' homes to rubble. In both Khartoum and the western region of Darfur, where most of the violence has occurred, bodies have been left to rot in the streets.

Similar prayer gatherings took place outside Khartoum, including

in Jazira region where many have fled from the capital. With millions trapped in the embattled capital still rationing electricity and water in the oppressive heat, families struggled to conjure up holiday cheer. Omar Ibrahim, who lives with his three children in Khartoum's Shambat district, said the rituals of Eid have become an "unattainable dream." "Will the guns be silent for Eid?" asked Ibrahim.

Multiple ceasefires announced by both sides have been systematically violated, as well as others mediated by the United States and Saudi Arabia. The United Nations mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) welcomed the latest unilateral truce announcements.

"May Eid al-Adha be a reminder that the violence must stop," it said in a statement, reminding warring parties that "accountability for crimes committed during wartime will be pursued."

In past years, those Sudanese Muslims who could afford it would slaughter an animal for Eid, but now a record 25 million people in Sudan need humanitarian aid, the U.N. says. The RSF and the army battled for control of Khartoum on multiple fronts this week, with paramilitaries seizing the capital's main police base and attacking military bases across the city.

In his Eid address urging the youth to defend Sudan, Burhan called the RSF "an existential threat" to the state. VOA

Fires detected as fighting rages in Sudan's Darfur region

Evidence has emerged of significant damage in another part of the West Darfur region in Sudan, as fighting continues between the Sudanese armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Nasa data from 27 June shows what appear to be a number of fires concentrated in the area of Murnei, about 80km (50 miles) south of the regional capital of El Geneina, which itself suffered extensive damage in mid-May.

We found satellite images showing the damage in Murnei occurred between 26 June and 28 June, with an image from yesterday showing smoke still visible at one location. The heat signatures earlier in the week were picked up by Nasa's Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS).

It's not clear exactly which buildings might be burning, as there's little information coming out of that area.

It is the latest to suffer destruction from the conflict in the wider Darfur area, which has

seen particularly intense fighting in recent weeks. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled across the border into Chad, since the fighting began. BBC



Smoke over some parts of Murnei as seen in a satellite image

UK government to appeal Rwanda ruling in Supreme Court

"Phoney humanitarianism" is holding back plans to tackle small boat crossings, the Home Secretary has said.

Suella Braverman told MPs the abuse of the UK asylum system was "lining the pockets of people smugglers" and "turning our seas into graveyards". It follows a Court of Appeal decision which ruled government plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda were unlawful.

The charity which brought the challenge welcomed the ruling, but the government says it will appeal.

A spokesperson for Asylum Aid said the decision taken by the court on Thursday was a "vindication of the importance of the rule of law and basic fairness". The plan to send people who arrive in the UK illegally to Rwanda was first unveiled in April 2022 in an attempt to deter crossings on the English Channel on small boats. It has been subject to several legal challenges,

"abuse" of the asylum system was "unfair" on local communities, taxpayers and "those who play by the rules". She added that it "incentivises mass flows of economic migration into Europe, lining the pockets of people smugglers and turning our seas into graveyards, all in the name of a phoney humanitarianism".

Shadow Secretary Yvette Cooper said the government's Rwanda scheme was "completely unravelling" and described it as "unworkable, unethical and extortionately expensive." "This is their chaos, their Tory chaos, their boats chaos and their broken asylum system," she said. The Rwandan government insisted it was "one of the safest countries in the world" and had been recognised for its "exemplary treatment of refugees". The case was brought by Asylum Aid, which argued the policy was unlawful, as well as 10 people from countries including Syria, Iraq and Albania, who arrived in the UK in small boats.

The High Court had backed the government's policy at an earlier



NEWS Braverman "disappointed" with Rwanda ruling

including the latest at the Court of Appeal where judges ruled that Rwanda had not provided enough safeguards to prove it is a "safe third country".

Two out of the three judges found that there was a risk that asylum seekers sent to Rwanda could then be forced back to the country from where they were originally fleeing. This means the UK government's immigration policy contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects against torture. However Ms Braverman said this did not mean that Rwanda itself was not safe. Addressing the Commons, the Home Secretary said she respected the judgement, but added that it was "disappointing" and that the government would be challenging it.

hearing, but that decision was scrutinised by Appeal Court judges Lord Chief Justice Lord Burnett, Sir Geoffrey Vos and Lord Justice Underhill in this latest stage of the process.

While Lord Burnett sided with the UK government, the others concluded that the assurances from the Rwandan government were not "sufficient to ensure that there is no real risk that asylum seekers relocated under the Rwanda policy will be wrongly returned to countries where they face persecution or other inhumane treatment".

They said that sending asylum seekers to Rwanda will be unlawful "unless and until the deficiencies in [its government's] asylum processes are corrected". The judges stressed that they all agreed that the Rwandan government's assurances of the policy had been made "in good faith". BBC

Ms Braverman said that the

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

Would AI-Enabled Communism Work?

BOSTON - Friedrich von Hayek is best known for his influential 1944 polemic *The Road to Serfdom*. But his most celebrated work in economics is "The Use of Knowledge in Society," a rather short article on how society uses and acquires dispersed information about economic fundamentals such as preferences, priorities, and productivity.

The article develops a powerful critique of central planning, arguing that no centralized authority can adequately collect and process "the dispersed bits of incomplete and frequently contradictory knowledge which all the separate individuals possess." Without knowing each individual's preferences among millions of products, let alone their ideas about where to use their talents most productively and creatively, central planners are bound to fail.

By contrast, market economies can process and aggregate such information both efficiently and effectively. Price signals seamlessly convey data about market participants' priorities and preferences. When tin becomes scarcer, its price rises, and Hayek explains, all that "users of tin need to know is that some of the tin they used to consume is now more profitably employed elsewhere and that, in consequence, they must economize tin."

Nor is this just about processing existing data. The market system, Hayek argues, is also better at discovering - or even producing - new, relevant signals: "the 'data' from which the economic calculus starts are never for the whole society 'given' to a single mind which could work out the implications and can never be so given."

Although Hayek is celebrated for offering a knowledge-based (or "computational") critique of central planning, his arguments are best understood as a call for decentralization more broadly. He notes that, "If we can agree that the economic problem of society is mainly one of rapid adaptation to changes ... the ultimate decisions must be left to the people who are familiar with these circumstances." Ultimately, Hayek concludes, "We must solve it by some form of decentralization" - namely, through the market economy and the price system.

For decades, Hayek's arguments provided the basis for rejecting all kinds of regulation. If any regulation of economic activity (such as measures governing the release of new products) or of prices (such as caps or controls) interferes with the functioning of the price system, they will hamper the decentralized process of adaptation to an ever-changing world.

But now, artificial intelligence - especially generative AI models that encode, process, and deploy (via hundreds of billions of parameters) massive amounts of pre-existing information - raises two challenges for Hayek's argument.

First, given AI's ability to absorb, organize, and interpret data on a massive scale, one might wonder if it could render central planning more efficient than today's market systems. Such is the hope behind "AI

socialism" (or "fully automated luxury communism"): AI will give central planners the means to determine optimal and (supposedly) benevolent economic allocations.

But while AI socialism is an interesting thought experiment, it offers only a superficial critique of Hayek. Even if an AI could do all the computations and data collection that the market economy already does (a very big if), the concentration of power in the hands of a central authority would be a major cause for concern.

The famine that killed five million Ukrainians in the early 1930s was not the result of Stalin failing to compute the right allocations. On the contrary, he had sufficient information, and he used it extract as much grain as possible from the region (owing to larger political motivations and possibly a desire to devastate Ukraine).

Moreover, Hayek's criticism of central planning goes beyond crunching the existing numbers. As we have seen, it is primarily focused on adaptation to change, and thus emphasizes the creation of information as much as its use.

"The sort of knowledge with which I have been concerned," Hayek writes, "is knowledge of the kind which by its nature cannot enter into statistics." The implication is that not even an all-powerful large language model (LLM) could deal with the true nature of dispersed information.

But AI also poses a second, deeper challenge to Hayek's arguments. In the age of generative AIs like ChatGPT-4, should we even presume that markets will facilitate the decentralized use of information? The technology's development is being led by Alphabet (Google) and Microsoft, two massive corporations that are very much in the business of centralizing information. Even if other companies can compete with this duopoly, LLMs, by their nature, may require high degrees of centralization. It is all too easy to imagine a scenario in which a large share of humanity gets its information from the same model.

Of course, Google or Microsoft's control of information is not the same as that of the Communist Party of China. But, as Simon Johnson and I argue in our new book, *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle over Technology and Prosperity*, even seemingly benign forms of centralization bring myriad economic and political costs, depending on who is ultimately in control. In the United States, these costs include rising monopolization of the tech sector, because control of data creates entry barriers, and the development of business models based on constant online engagement and individualized digital ads, which breed emotional outrage, extremism, and echo chambers online, with damaging effects for democratic participation.

Decentralization therefore is still desirable. But to foster it in the age of AI, we may need to turn Hayek's argument on its head - or at least on its side - by embracing regulation, rather than focusing solely on its potential costs.

OP-ED

By Kenneth Rogoff

Rethinking Climate Finance for the Developing World

CAMBRIDGE - Speaking to the Financial Times at the June 22-23 Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, Kenyan President William Ruto called for the establishment of a "global green bank" that would assist developing countries in mitigating the effects of climate change without further exacerbating their already-unsustainable debt levels. This thoughtful and important proposal is one that rich countries must consider if they are serious about tackling climate change, fostering peace, and promoting prosperity in Africa and the rest of the developing world.

Until recently, developing economies' only bargaining chips were their abundant natural resources and cheap labor. But climate change has enhanced low-income countries' bargaining power and altered the dynamics of North-South relations. Developing countries are no longer willing to be bullied into taking on massive debt to finance green development, especially when cheaper alternatives are available.

Affluent countries' ongoing efforts to persuade low-income countries to assign a higher value to the global commons than they themselves have done are doomed to fail. Although incentives have aligned in some cases, aided by the falling costs of solar and wind energy, developing economies often find it far more cost-effective to follow in the footsteps of advanced economies and rely on fossil-fuel technologies.

The war in Ukraine has laid bare the developed world's hypocrisy. For years, developed countries have advised developing economies against using fossil fuels, routinely denying them development loans for gas and oil projects, particularly when intended for domestic consumption. But since the Russian invasion, European leaders have been pressing African countries to ramp up gas production so that it could be converted to liquefied natural gas and shipped to Europe. Germany has even reopened its coal-fired power plants. Moreover, European households and businesses have been granted the same kind of massive energy-consumption subsidies for which African countries were lambasted in, for example, the International Energy Agency's 2022 annual report.

While European governments view these actions as a justified response to extraordinary circumstances, developing countries where electricity rationing is the norm - even during peacetime - find this hard to swallow. The United States, for its part, is not doing much better. When gasoline prices soared following the outbreak of the Ukraine war, US President Joe Biden similarly assured American consumers that he would do everything in his power to bring prices back down. Biden even pleaded with Saudi Arabia to pump more oil, despite his administration's previously adversarial approach toward the country and its leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Besides Ruto's proposal for a green bank, other observers have suggested alternative approaches to providing developing countries with the financing they need to complete the clean-energy transition. For example, one proposal advocated by several prominent commentators calls for reducing foreign investors' exposure to exchange-rate risk in developing economies.

But this proposal is misguided. Given that a large part of exchange-rate risk is rooted in sovereign risk, it cannot be eliminated through financial engineering alone. The main threat to exchange rates, after all, is the strong incentive for cash-strapped governments to inflate away debt. Subsidizing a huge increase in debt in developing countries is not a solution to global warming but a recipe for another debt crisis. Climate financing for low-income countries must prioritize grants over loans.

While the Bretton Woods institutions serve an important purpose, their financial and governance structures, as well as their existing resources, are inadequate. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank primarily provide loans, not the outright grants that developing countries need. Moreover, these institutions' governance mechanisms are designed to favor the interests of wealthy lender countries. To persuade developing economies to join the fight against climate change, they must be given a greater role in formulating global policy. The proposed funding must also be massive.

Another solution I have advocated in recent years is the establishment of a World Carbon Bank to support technology transfers, provide unbiased country reports on issues related to global warming (for example, monitoring carbon-credit schemes), and facilitate large-scale aid financing. In a recent paper, I proposed funding this new institution through ten-year irrevocable bond donations. But aviation and transport taxes, as proposed by Ruto, are an alternative that might be explored.

To be effective, the World Carbon Bank would need to focus exclusively on the green transition. Ideally, it should be structured in a way that gives it significant independence, which is one reason why a bond endowment from rich countries represents an attractive financing option.

While agencies such as the US International Development Finance Corporation have initiated some climate projects, their scale falls short of what is needed to address global warming. In general, developed economies have not come close to meeting their existing climate-financing commitments, and they do not appear particularly enthusiastic about facilitating additional transfers. Moreover, the prospect of former US President Donald Trump - a climate-change denier - retaking the White House in 2024 raises concerns about the feasibility of any meaningful solution. (Then again, it is worth noting that prior to 1972, few would have foreseen the fervent anti-communist Richard Nixon's visit to China.)

For far too long, rich countries have lectured developing economies about climate change while failing to heed their own advice. Hopefully, innovative proposals such as Ruto's global green bank idea could foster a more constructive, equitable debate.

OPINION

By Yu Yongding

China's Response to Decoupling

BEIJING - Before Deng Xiaoping launched China's reform and opening up, the People's Republic was working to establish a self-sufficient economy. But after decades of integration into the global economy, autarky certainly is no longer an option.

While China's participation in global value chains boosted the economy's efficiency and technological capabilities, it also caused its industrial system to become more fragmented and vulnerable to external shocks.

In recent years, the United States has expanded the scope of sanctions on Chinese firms, such as by placing 603 Chinese persons on its so-called Entity List, blacklisting them on national-security grounds. These entities' suppliers can no longer sell them US technology without a difficult-to-obtain permit.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan says that these measures do not amount to a "technology blockade." But that claim is dubious. While national security is a legitimate concern for any country, it is difficult, or impossible, to decide whether many supply chains - or segments of supply chains - have security implications or not. The concept of national security can be easily abused to violate World Trade Organization provisions. Furthermore, should politicians who may face protectionist pressure by domestic incumbents really be entrusted with making such distinctions?

China has responded to Western antagonism by embracing a new development strategy. In 2020, after decades of "great international circulation" - a strategy of pursuing economic growth and development through export-oriented production - China announced that it would adopt a "dual-circulation" strategy. This means that, while China will continue to engage with global markets and supply chains, it will rely on domestic markets rather than external demand to drive economic growth.

More recently, the Chinese government proclaimed that China should build a comprehensive, advanced, and secure industrial system. Re-emphasizing the importance of comprehensiveness is a reaction to the new geopolitical reality. While China cannot and should not produce everything - autarky is impossible for a modern economy - it should be able to quickly launch or increase production of critical goods, as needed. In other words, China must increase its industrial system's adaptability. The more adaptable the system is, the less comprehensive it needs to be - and the less efficiency it must sacrifice - to deliver the same level of security.

Even if the geopolitical situation deteriorates further, China cannot disengage fully from global supply chains - at least not without paying a heavy price. But the same is true of the West, which may be tempted by the idea of forcing China out. Just as Chinese industry would suffer massively from the economy's isolation, so would Western businesses.

The Institute of World Economics and Politics, a Chinese government think tank, reports that China ranked among the world's top three exporters (by volume) in 2,400 of 4,000 categories of intermediate goods traded globally between 2017 and 2020. China also ranked at least third in 800 of 1,001 categories of intermediate goods with a high degree of centrality to finished goods.

According to a 2020 report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, approximately 20% of global trade in intermediate goods for manufacturing came from China. If China's intermediate-goods exports declined by two percentage points, total global exports would decrease by approximately \$50 billion, with Europe, the US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan (China) most heavily affected.

It is obvious that the Biden Administration is still committed to hampering China's economic and technological development, even at the cost of US economic and commercial interests. The result will be a Pyrrhic victory for the US, at best.

While the US can slow China's technical progress, it is too late to stop it. In fact, China has established a very comprehensive and adaptable modern economy featuring a formidable manufacturing sector. According to the UN's industrial classification, China is the only country with all manufacturing goods at all levels of sections, subsections, groups, subgroups, classes, and subclasses of industry. Given China's manufacturing capacity, market scale, and abundant human resources, no sanctions will prevent China from eventually making its own high-tech products, such as chips.

In a recent speech, US Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen struck a more positive note. She pointed out that, like an economy, America's relationship with China "is just an aggregate of choices that people make," and that the relationship's trajectory "is not preordained, and it is not destined to be costly." Rather, it will be determined by countless choices, including "when to cooperate, when to compete, and when to recognize that even amid our competition, we have a shared interest in peace and prosperity." Those are wise words. I couldn't agree more.

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Momentum builds for revenue sharing-nationwide awareness on New Fiscal Decentralization Law

Monrovia, Liberia; June 29, 2023: The UNDP Liberia Decentralization Support Programme (LDSP) in partnership with the Governance Commission, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Liberia Revenue Authority has completed four policy dialogues across the country intended to raise awareness on the Revenue Sharing Act (RSA), which is set to improve service delivery and enhance local government administration in Liberia.

"The Revenue Sharing Act is pivotal to Liberia's inclusive development. Once implemented, it will open revenue streams in counties and districts that will jump-start local development and bring government services closer to people," said the Governance Commission Chairman, Atty. Garrison Yealue, Jr.

governments, spur local economic development, and improve service delivery.

Similar awareness-creation events were conducted last year specifically targeting local government officials who are direct implementers of the Revenue Sharing Act. These interventions seek to build the consciousness of citizens and local government authorities alike for smooth implementation and enforcement as well as national ownership.

As a result of the dialogues, CSOs are increasingly calling on the government to begin implementing the law. CSOs have always played the watchdog role on issues of social accountability at the subnational level.

It can be recalled that a CSO from



The dialogues highlighted key concepts and principles of the revenue-sharing law and clarified the necessity and operationalization of the proposed Equalization Fund. The Fund is a resource envelope intended to provide basic services and infrastructure for marginalized and deprived communities that have experienced perennial inequitable development.

The dialogues were also aimed at strengthening broad citizens' awareness and participation in local governance by increasing their understanding of the roles of the Local Government Fiscal Board as enshrined both in the Revenue Sharing and Local Government Acts. Held in Ganta, Gbarnga, Kakata, and Buchanan cities, the dialogues brought together over 140 participants from marginalized sections of society including women, youth, CSOs, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The Revenue Sharing Act was developed in line with section 4.1 of the Local Government Act (LGA) which calls for the establishment of adequate, identifiable, and reliable sources of own revenue through a revenue-sharing formula for the support of local governments.

The Act, therefore, seeks to empower the administration of local

Bong County took the Government to the Supreme Court of Liberia in 2022 to demand the establishment of County Councils which subsequently led to the setting up of County Councils in all 15 counties in accordance with chapter 2.2 of the LGA.

Accordingly, it is expected that participants of the policy dialogues - especially CSOs, will demand the implementation of the Revenue Sharing Act which has widely been accepted as a game-changer for decentralization.

A total of 300 persons have benefited from awareness-raising efforts on the Revenue Sharing Act since 2022 and are expected to transfer the knowledge acquired to their respective constituencies.

More awareness will be carried out when the Revenue Sharing Act Regulation (RSAR) is finalized and approved for implementation.

The RSAR is an administrative and operational guideline that is intended to facilitate the implementation of the Revenue Sharing Act and strengthen accountability over the usage of funds transferred to local governments through revenue sharing.

The policy dialogues were funded by Sweden and Irish Aid through the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSP).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Senate concurs with House on \$65m loan agreement

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has voted to concur with the House of Representatives on the ratification of a loan agreement between the

on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget was debated last Tuesday over the source and purpose of the loan.

After the debate, the plenary mandated the committee to report back on

eyebrows over the speedy passage of the agreement at the House of Representatives.

However, during the voting on Thursday in the chambers of the Liberian Senate, 16 senators voted for the passage of the instrument while eight senators voted against it.

The senators who voted yes include Saah Joseph, Milton Teahjay, Augustine Chea, Cllr. Varney Sherman, Simeon Taylor, Henrique Tokpa and Marshall Dennis. Others are Senators Morris Saytuma, Edwin Snowe, Jim Tornalah, J. Emmanuel Nuquay, Francis Paye, Willington Geevon Smith, Conmany Wesseh, Daniel Naetah and J. Gbeh-bo Brown.

Senators who voted against the loan agreement are Darius Dillon, Nyoublee Karngar-Lawrence, James Biney, Boto Kanneh, Prince Johnson, Jeremiah Koung, Prince Moye and Johnathan Boy Charles Sogbie.

Meanwhile, Senate Pro-tempore Albert Chie has instructed the Secretary of the Liberian Senate to communicate the body's decision on the ratification of the financial instrument to the Executive through the office of the President.

the purpose of the loan on Thursday, 29 June 2023. The 65 million United States Dollars Loan agreement has been at a center of discussion.

The concern focused on the timing of the instrument. Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has raised



Liberian Government and the International Development Association (IDA).

The loan agreement titled "Resilient Recovery Stand Alone Development Policy Financing," is in the tone of 65 million United States Dollars. It can be recalled that a report from the Senate's Committee

NTAL, EI urge government to invest 20% Budget in public education

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) and delegates of the Education International (EI) have urged the Government of Liberia to invest 20% of the National Budget into education for the growth of the country.

The two institutions made the call after relaunching a "Go Public! Fund Education" campaign here in Liberia.

"We like to send this as a crucial call to national government to invest 20% of our national budget into education; we believe this will strengthen the education sector of Liberia." At the close of a two-day stakeholders' dialogue held with executives of the NTAL and EI delegation, Madam Mary W. Mulbah-Nyumah, NTAL national president, appealed for 20% of the national budget toward the education sector.

misinform our engagements whenever we are carrying on our mandate of advocacy," she said. In furtherance, the Secretary General of NTAL, Mr. Dominic D. M. Suah, Sr., said the idea of privatization has been translated into educational practices in many ways.

According to him, privatization takes different trends and poses serious threats in the strive for academic excellence, especially in Liberia. Mr. Suah explained that the NTAL and EI invited stakeholders to review the state of education in Liberia and evaluate progress made in relation to the provision of public education as provided in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"We are to inform [the] government to take ownership of public education by investing at least 20% of the National Budget and 6% of the Gross Domestic



According to her, informing the Government of Liberia to apportion 20% of the National Budget to education is an honest appeal in ensuring that the education sector of the country is transformed.

The NTAL national president emphasized that the campaign is not intended to go against the government in any way.

Instead, she explained that it buttresses the government's effort in providing quality public education throughout the length and breadth of Liberia. "When you advocate, people misinterpret you, saying that you're going against the government. So, let this be clear that we are not against the government; we're just playing our role," said Madam Mulbah-Nyumah.

"We all made the government but sometimes those who are fortunate to occupy national positions

Product (GDP) into education," Suah said.

He further mentioned that the campaign is a global response against privatization and commercialization of education.

Mr. Suah said its main objective is to strengthen public education, which enhances the growth of a country.

The NTAL new Secretary General said it has been noticed that manute portion of the budget has been given to education.

He averred that the campaign launched is meant to detest the government's decision of contributing that little amount to education.

"If our public schools must be up to standard for the growth of our kids, there should be adequate investment into the public schools," he said. For his part, EI Regional Director for

Liberia is better under President Weah

-CDC Youth League

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Despite criticisms of hardship engulfing the country under President Weah characterized by corruption, suspicious deaths and protests, the youth league of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) says Liberians are living better life under the CDC-led government. Addressing a news conference at the ruling party headquarters in Congo Town on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 when the CDC overwhelmingly congratulated President Julius Maada Bio for his re-election on a first-round victory, Youth League Chair, Emmanuel Johnson said living conditions of Liberians have improved under President Weah compare to neighboring countries.

Chairman Johnson argued that this is evidenced by the retail price of a 25kg bag of rice being sold for US\$15 in Liberia, compared to US\$25.00 in Sierra Leone under President Maada Bio, and yet Sierra Leoneans overwhelmingly re-elected their President, which speaks volumes. According to

him, if conditions in neighboring Sierra Leone are so difficult with increase in prices of basic commodities, like rice and gasoline, compared to Liberia that has witnessed sudden drop in prices, it means that President Weah is doing a job here and deserves reelection.

He is optimistic that come October 10, President Weah will receive overwhelming victory, noting that victory will not be for the CDC, but the Liberian people's in the first round that will see the President retain the mantle authority to continue his developmental agenda for

Liberia.

"The way Bio was re-elected in Sierra Leone, President Weah will be re-elected in October", Johnson says and adds "Liberia will not only experience a first-round victory, but the people's victory."

He says it will also be a massive victory for the young people, who are determined and attracted to the unprecedented developments of President Weah.

Johnson continues that the Liberian people are resolved to sustaining what he terms

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Mother of accident victim pleads for help

By Naneka Hoffman

A single mother has launched an SOS appeal for financial assistance to save her

breadwinner for the home and assistance being provided by the driver of the container truck involved in the accident cannot underwrite the medical

Bushrod Island, smashing her foot.

She said the bike rider attempted overtaking the container truck when it hooked



daughter from losing one of her feet after her involvement in an accident.

According to her, doctors at JFK Hospital in Monrovia are requesting over US\$700 for medical bill or else, they will be constrained to take her daughter off the bed and put her on the bare floor, adding she has up to two weeks to pay the money.

Speaking in tears during an exclusive interview with The NEW DAWN on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, Mother Lisa Ballah said her daughter is

bill. She appealed to government, philanthropists and Montserrado County district#17 Representative Abu Kamara, for assistance to get her daughter treated.

Mother Ballah narrated that on April 22, 2023 at 2: 00 pm her 24-year-old daughter Catherine Ballah, was involved in an accident when a commercial motorbike she had boarded while returning from buying second-handed clothes to sell hooked on a container truck near Duala Market on

on the truck and she fell instantly with her foot going under the truck.

She continued that her daughter lost consciousness and was taken to the JFK Hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia, noting that if not for God's intervention and doctors at JFK, her daughter could have died.

She added that when her daughter was taken to the hospital, she didn't have a dime for doctors to start

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MOE threatens to revoke Methodist school's permit

-after imposing LRD250,000 fine

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

The Ministry of Education has threatened to revoke the operational license of George V. Gibson United Methodist High School in Kakata, Margibi County following a fine of about 250,000 Liberian Dollars for breach of the ministry's policy.

The ministry fined the school for violating the "Teachers Code of conduct"

and breaching the 2022/2023 Academic Calendar.

The school was mandated to pay the fine into government's account and report the official receipt of payment to the office of the County Education Officer within 72 working hours (Tuesday, June 27, to Friday, June 30) to avoid its operational license being revoked. According to a communication dated June 27, 2023 written to the Principal of the George V. Gibson United

Methodist High School, Abraham O. Karr, copy of which is obtained thru the office of Margibi County Education Officer Stephen Toe, the school is fined for concluding academic activities before the stipulated time provided by the ministry.

The MOE in the communication further explains that the school had issued the list of 12th graders for clearance (preliminarily)

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IDAD ends national level inception discussion with CSOs, CBOs

By Naneka Hoffman

The Institute for Democratic Action and Development (IDAD) Executive Director Mr. Joseph Cheayan says it has held a national level meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs)/community-based organizations (CBOs), government ministries, agencies, commissions, and legislators.

Speaking in Monrovia Wednesday, 28 June 2023, he said the meeting was aimed at implementing the existing laws, policies guidelines on education, land rights, decentralization and sexual gender-based violence in schools.

Mr. Cheayan noted that the essence of the one-day stakeholders meeting was to enhance policy/ legislation reform, implementation, and strengthen Liberian CSOs/CBOs capacities.

decentralization, sexual and gender-based violence in schools.

Making remarks, House Committee Chairman on Good Governance Representative Larry P. Younquoi explained that there's a need for policy reforms on these existing laws and policies.

Representative Younquoi mentioned that it is important for CSOs to hold the government accountable in the implementation of the reform processes of various legislations/policies.

Mr. Younquoi commended IDAD and USAID for the worthy initiative, and pledged his committee's commitment to support the project implementation in the two counties.

For his part, Cllr. Alben Greaves who represented the Minister of Justice, urged CSOs/CBOs to network in key project areas and build synergies to enhance the project implementation in the counties.



According to Mr. Cheayan, the project is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by DAI Global LLC.

He disclosed that IDAD will be examining several laws including the 2022 Revenue Sharing Law, and the Land Rights Law.

He said the Educational Reform Law, the Local Government Act which was passed in 2018, will provide technical support to CSOs.

He noted that it will enhance their advocacies and strengthen their knowledge on the implementations of these laws.

For his part, Atty. Stephen B. Lavalla said the legal specialist of IDAD is to present on the project targets and key legislations/policies.

He indicated that there is a need for policy reforms on the existing laws, policies, guidelines on education,

According to him, the Ministry of Justice stands prepared to support CSOs/CBOs in fostering their project activities in the fifteen counties.

Meanwhile, the National Level Meeting was also intended to share with stakeholders the strategies, methodologies, and approaches of the project implementation to solicit their inputs through recommendations that could strengthen the implementation of the project. The Meeting was graced by Representatives from USAID Civil Society Activity, the Law Reform Commission, Ministries of Justice, Gender, Children and Social Protection.

Others included the National Commission on Disability, the National CSOs Anti-corruption Coalition, Accountability Lab-Liberia, the National Teachers Association, the National Commission on Higher Education, and the Center for Transparency and Accountability.

Français

Quel est le poids du duo Gongloe-Urey pour cette présidentielle ?

L'avocat Taiwan Saye Gongloe est sur le point de nommer un universitaire libérien, le Dr Emmanuel K. Urey-Yarkpawolo, originaire du comté de Bong, comme son colistier, mais des observateurs attentifs se

ressources environnementales. Les observateurs estiment qu'ils sont à la fois intellectuellement et académiquement aptes, mais leurs messages de campagne risquent de ne résonner suffisamment parmi les citoyens ordinaires, en particulier les

Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) par les urnes en octobre après un mandat de six ans.

Il est devenu de plus en plus clair que la cérémonie de nomination du Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo aura lieu le 9 juillet 2023 à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, au centre du Libéria.

Récemment, le juriste Gongloe et son équipe ont approché le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo grâce aux efforts des anciens du comté pour lui demander d'être son colistier.

Il aurait accepté le défi, après des consultations avec des membres de sa famille et des amis. Le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo a ainsi abandonné son projet de candidature à l'élection législative dans la circonscription électorale n° 3 du comté de Bong pour briguer la vice-présidence du Libéria.

Pendant ce temps, Gongloe se serait engagé à donner au Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo la chance de se présenter comme porteur drapeau du LPP aux élections de 2029, dans le cadre de l'arrangement. Le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo a fait un post sur sa page Facebook. Il s'agissait de la photo de Gongloe avec un balai en main. « Connaissez-vous l'importance du balai ? C'est simple et commun mais il a beaucoup de qualités. Premièrement, c'est un

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demandent si le duo Gongloe-Urey pourrait attirer l'attention des électeurs et devenir un ticket gagnant.

Gongloe, un avocat renommé des droits de l'homme, est en lice pour la présidence sur la liste du Parti du peuple libérien (LPP).

Son futur colistier, le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo, est l'ancien président du Salvation Army Polyphonic University College (T-SAP) et un spécialiste des

jeunes du ghetto, qui sont attirés par la rhétorique plutôt que par les vrais problèmes auxquels la nation est confrontée.

La politique libérienne n'est pas largement axée sur les problèmes, mais la personnalité et la popularité inspirent la jeune population du pays pour déterminer qui sera élu.

Gongloe fait partie de plusieurs dirigeants de l'opposition qui cherchent à chasser le président sortant George Manneh Weah et sa

Le pouvoir législatif adopte une loi plus stricte sur les drogues

Les membres du pouvoir législatif ont voté en faveur de l'adoption de plusieurs amendements de la loi libérienne sur la drogue, rendant impossible la libération sous caution des auteurs des délits relatifs à la drogue.

La nouvelle loi prévoit des peines plus sévères pour les délits liés à la drogue et rend extrêmement difficile la libération sous caution des personnes accusées de délits liés à la drogue.

Selon la nouvelle loi, les trafiquants de drogue, les cultivateurs et les fabricants ne sont pas éligibles à une libération sous caution tant que leur procès n'est pas terminé et, s'ils sont reconnus coupables, ils seraient condamnés à la réclusion à perpétuité.

Il s'agit d'un changement important par rapport à la loi précédente, qui permettait aux personnes accusées d'infractions liées à la drogue d'être libérées sous caution et condamnées à

environ 10 ans de prison.

La décision des législateurs fait partie des efforts du gouvernement pour lutter contre les crimes liés à la drogue, qui deviennent un problème majeur dans les villes du pays.

De nombreux experts pensent que la nouvelle loi contribuera à réduire la consommation de drogue et la criminalité liée à la drogue au

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Éditorial

La subvention de 18 organisations de la société civile libériennes par l'USAID est louable

La subvention de 18 organisations de la société civile libériennes par l'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international (USAID) à hauteur de 1,5 million de dollars pour des réformes politiques dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation et de la gouvernance est aussi louable qu'importante.

Elle démontre également l'engagement du gouvernement des États-Unis, par l'intermédiaire de ses contribuables, à continuer à aider le gouvernement et le peuple du Libéria à atténuer les défis rencontrés dans ces secteurs qui ont eu un impact négatif sur la croissance et le développement du pays, malgré la mauvaise gestion de plusieurs projets du secteur public financés par le gouvernement américain.

Le partenariat avec les OSC libériennes renforce encore les liens historiques déjà existants entre les gouvernements et les peuples des deux pays qui remontent au 18ème siècle.

Le chef de mission adjoint à l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, Joel Maybury, qui a lancé le programme ici le mardi 27 juin, cite le président Biden comme décrivant la société civile comme le moteur de la démocratie, car elle comprend l'action collective des gens ordinaires pour répondre aux besoins des citoyens.

La subvention, selon USAID Liberia Civil Society Activity, permettra aux organisations de la société civile de plaider en faveur de l'amélioration de l'éducation et de la santé dans six comtés, à savoir ; Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Margibi, Bong et Grand Bassa.

Il s'agit clairement d'une stratégie du gouvernement américain visant à s'associer directement aux Libériens ordinaires pour améliorer leur propre bien-être plutôt que de passer par des priorités bureaucratiques et parfois conflictuelles ou égoïstes qui n'atteignent pas les résultats souhaités, comme cela a été rapporté récemment à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, lorsque les fonds du gouvernement américain destinés au programme de santé auraient été détournés.

Nous exhortons les organisations de la société civile sélectionnées pour le plaidoyer à exécuter leurs tâches respectives avec le plus grand dévouement et la plus grande transparence pour maintenir en permanence la confiance du peuple américain, en tant que partenaires historiques dans la marche en avant du Libéria.

Le Libéria est confronté à de graves problèmes de santé et d'éducation qui sont carrément des problèmes de gouvernance. Des stratégies et des programmes bien définis mis en œuvre par des institutions transparentes et responsables pourraient remédier à ces obstacles.

Comme M. Maybury l'a noté lors du lancement, les organisations de la société civile bénéficiant de la subvention ont joué un rôle central dans l'élaboration et la conduite de campagnes de sensibilisation qui étaient si essentielles pour aider le Libéria à survivre et à surmonter Ebola et le COVID-19.

Nous les encourageons à rester sur cette voie afin que les résultats attendus de ces secteurs soient atteints et aient des impacts tangibles sur le bien être des gens ordinaires auxquels ils sont destinés. Cela pourrait attirer des fonds pour d'autres secteurs tout aussi défavorisés de notre structure publique.

Français

Quel est le poids du duo Gongloe

symbole de propreté et la propreté est proche de la piété. Le balai est un symbole de force dans l'unité. Chers compatriotes libériens, sommes-nous prêts », a-t-il écrit.

Le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo a obtenu un BSC en biologie et

une maîtrise en santé publique à l'Université Cuttington. Le Dr Urey-Yarkpawolo a également obtenu une autre maîtrise en ressources environnementales et un doctorat en ressources environnementales à l'Université du Wisconsin Madison Nelson Institute en mai 2018.

Le pouvoir législatif adopte une

Libéria car elle envoie un message fort aux trafiquants de drogue que le gouvernement est sérieux en ce qui concerne la lutte contre la drogue.

Cependant, d'aucuns sont d'avis que même si la loi est bonne, elle ne réduirait pas l'importation ou la vente de drogues illicites si l'on ne procède pas à une campagne de sensibilisation, à des programmes de conseil et de réadaptation et à la création davantage d'opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes Libériens.

Le problème de la toxicomanie n'est pas nouveau, mais la tendance est devenue inquiétante, le taux de prévalence étant très élevé chez les jeunes Libériens. Cette tendance est due à la montée du crime organisé qui a facilité la production, le trafic et la vente de drogues.

Selon de nombreux rapports, le Libéria a l'un des taux de consommation de drogue les plus élevés d'Afrique de l'Ouest, le cannabis et l'héroïne étant les plus couramment consommés, et les hommes sont plus susceptibles de consommer de la drogue que femmes.

Les conséquences des abus, selon les rapports, sont importantes et de grande envergure et comprennent des activités criminelles, la dégradation des valeurs sociales et le déclin de la qualité de vie des individus et des communautés, ce qui peut avoir un impact significatif sur la productivité de la main-d'œuvre d'une nation.

Les amendements législatifs interviennent après que le comité mixte de la Conférence qui a été mis en place pour harmoniser les différences entre la Chambre et le Sénat,

les versions antérieures de la loi proposaient que le trafic, la culture, la fabrication, l'importation, l'exportation et la vente de drogues illicites devraient être un crime au premier degré, ce qui ferait du crime des infractions dont les accusés ne peuvent bénéficier d'une libération sous caution.

Le comité a ajouté que la peine pour de tels crimes est la réclusion à perpétuité sur déclaration de culpabilité, les biens, réels et personnels, utilisés dans la commission de ces crimes étant échappés à

l'État.

Le produit de la vente des propriétés, selon le Comité, serait affecté à 25% aux agences de lutte contre la drogue, 25% supplémentaires alloués aux programmes de prévention et de réhabilitation de la toxicomanie et les 50% restants alloués aux recettes générales.

Cependant, le Comité fait de l'usage ou de la consommation de drogues illicites contrôlées un crime au deuxième degré ayant reconnu le droit constitutionnel à la libération sous caution. Le montant de la caution, a noté le comité, sera égal au double de la valeur des drogues illicites et sera couvert en espèces, par un chèque du directeur ou par un certificat bancaire.

Le Comité de la Conférence a fait valoir que les consommateurs de drogues illicites sont des victimes plutôt que des criminels. Il stipule également que les condamnés non libériens pour l'une de ces infractions liées à la drogue seront expulsés après avoir purgé leur peine.

Sur la base des conseils du Comité, les membres du parlement ont voté à la majorité sur les divers amendements proposés, ce qui rend la loi désormais connue sous le nom de Loi réglementant certaines drogues et autres substances de 2023.

Le comité a recommandé que l'amendement du chapitre 14, infractions mettant en danger la personne, titre 26, code pénal, codes libériens soit révisé en y ajoutant le sous-chapitre (E) sous le titre "loi de 2023 sur le contrôle des drogues et des substances".

Le comité de la conférence a ajouté que la cinquième partie, la réglementation des drogues, la loi sur la santé publique et les codes libériens révisés, sont par la présente abrogées.

"La section 17.5, chapitre 17 Infractions contre l'ordre public, loi pénale des codes libériens révisés est modifiée par la présente en y supprimant les mots "stupéfiants ou autres drogues non administrés à des fins thérapeutiques", a révélé le comité.

Le comité de la conférence législative a déclaré que le chapitre 14 Infractions mettant en danger la personne, droit pénal, code des lois libérien révisé est par la présente modifié pour y ajouter le sous-chapitre E, drogues et substances contrôlées.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

Un communisme basé sur l'IA pourrait-il fonctionner ?

BOSTON - Friedrich von Hayek est avant tout célèbre pour son essai influent et polémique de 1944 intitulé La Route de la servitude. Ses travaux les plus reconnus en économie résident toutefois dans « L'Utilisation de l'information dans la société », un article relativement court sur la manière dont la société utilise et acquiert des informations dispersées concernant les fondamentaux économiques, tels que les préférences, les priorités et la productivité.

Cet article formule une puissante critique de la planification centrale, en faisant valoir qu'aucune autorité centralisée ne saurait efficacement recueillir et traiter les « éléments dispersés d'une connaissance incomplète et fréquemment contradictoire que tous les individus séparés possèdent en partie ». Sans connaissance des préférences de chaque individu parmi des millions de produits, et encore moins de leurs idées sur la question de l'utilisation de leurs talents de la manière la plus productive et créative possible, les planificateurs centraux sont voués à échouer.

Par opposition, les économies de marché peuvent efficacement traiter et rassembler ces informations. Les signaux de prix transmettent de manière fluide des informations concernant les priorités et préférences des participants du marché. Lorsque l'étain se fait rare, son prix augmente, et Hayek explique que « Tout ce que les utilisateurs d'étain ont besoin de savoir, c'est qu'une partie de l'étain qu'ils consommaient jusqu'alors est maintenant utilisée de manière plus profitable ailleurs, et qu'ils doivent par conséquent économiser l'étain ».

Il ne s'agit pas non plus de traiter seulement des données existantes. Le système de marché, fait valoir Hayek, est également plus efficace dans la découverte - voire la production - de nouveaux signaux pertinents : « Les 'données' à partir desquelles se fonde le calcul économique ne sont pas et ne peuvent pas être, lorsqu'elles concernent la société toute entière, 'données' pour un individu ».

Si Hayek est célèbre pour avoir formulé une critique - basée sur l'information (ou les « statistiques ») - de la planification centrale, ses arguments constituent plus largement un appel à la décentralisation. « Si nous pouvons admettre que le problème économique central d'une société est celui de l'adaptation rapide aux changements [...], il s'ensuit que les décisions finales doivent être laissées à ceux qui connaissent ces circonstances », observe Hayek, avant de conclure « Nous sommes amenés à résoudre ce problème par un certaine forme de décentralisation » - c'est-à-dire par l'économie de marché et le système des prix.

Pendant des décennies, les arguments d'Hayek ont servi de base au rejet de toutes formes de régulation. Si la réglementation d'une activité économique (de type mesures régissant le lancement de nouveaux produits) ou des prix (de type plafonnements ou contrôle) interfère avec le fonctionnement du système des prix, elle entravera le processus décentralisé d'adaptation à un monde en perpétuelle évolution.

Seulement voilà, l'intelligence artificielle soulève aujourd'hui deux défis quant au raisonnement d'Hayek - notamment les modèles d'IA générative, capables d'encoder, de traiter et de déployer (via plusieurs centaines de milliards de paramètres) d'immenses quantités d'informations préexistantes.

Premièrement, compte tenu de la capacité de l'IA à absorber, organiser et interpréter des données à

très grande échelle, on peut se demander si elle pourrait rendre la planification centrale plus efficace que les systèmes de marché d'aujourd'hui. Tel est l'espoir qui accompagne le « communisme fondé sur l'IA » (ou « communisme du luxe entièrement automatisé ») : l'IA confèrera aux planificateurs centraux les moyens de déterminer des répartitions économiques optimales et (supposément) solidaires.

Or, si le communisme fondé sur l'IA constitue une expérimentation intéressante, il ne représente qu'une critique superficielle d'Hayek. Même si une IA parvenait à effectuer l'ensemble des calculs et collectes de données que l'économie de marché permet déjà (et rien n'est moins sûr), la concentration du pouvoir dans les mains d'une autorité centrale serait extrêmement préoccupante.

La famine qui tua cinq millions d'Ukrainiens au début des années 1930 ne fut pas la conséquence d'un échec de Staline dans le calcul des répartitions appropriées. Au contraire, Staline disposait de suffisamment d'informations, et il les utilisa pour extraire autant de céréales que possible de la région (nourrissant des motivations politiques plus larges, et possiblement le souhait de dévaster l'Ukraine).

Par ailleurs, la critique hayékienne de la planification centrale s'étend au-delà de l'analyse des chiffres existants. Comme évoqué précédemment, elle se concentre principalement sur l'adaptation au changement, et insiste autant sur la création de l'information que sur son utilisation.

« Le type de connaissance que j'étudie », écrit Hayek, « ne peut par nature être prise en compte par les statistiques ». Cela signifie que même les grands modèles de langage (LLM) puissants ne parviendraient pas à gérer la véritable nature des informations dispersées.

L'IA soulève un deuxième défi, plus profond, concernant les arguments d'Hayek. À l'ère des IA génératives telles que ChatGPT-4, devrions-nous même présumer que les marchés faciliteront l'utilisation décentralisée des informations ? Le développement de cette technologie est conduit par Alphabet (Google) et Microsoft, deux très grandes sociétés qui opèrent pour ainsi dire dans le domaine de la centralisation des informations. Même si d'autres sociétés parvenaient à rivaliser avec ce duopole, les LLM pourraient en raison de leur nature nécessiter des degrés élevés de centralisation. Il n'est pas difficile d'imaginer un scénario dans lequel une majeure partie de l'humanité obtiendrait ses informations auprès du même modèle.

Bien entendu, le contrôle des informations par Google ou Microsoft diffère de celui exercé par le Parti communiste chinois. Pour autant, comme Simon Johnson et moi-même le démontrons dans notre récent ouvrage *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle over Technology and Prosperity*, même des formes a priori bénignes de centralisation aboutissent à de nombreux coûts économiques et politiques, en fonction de l'entité qui est en fin de compte au contrôle. Aux États-Unis, ces coûts incluent par exemple une monopolisation croissante du secteur technologique, dans la mesure où le contrôle des données crée des barrières à l'entrée, ou encore le développement de modèles d'entreprise fondés sur un engagement constant en ligne et sur des publicités numériques individualisées, modèles qui alimentent l'excès émotionnel, l'extrémisme et les chambres de résonance sur Internet, avec des effets dommageables pour la participation démocratique.

Ainsi la décentralisation demeure-t-elle souhaitable. Afin de promouvoir cette décentralisation à l'ère de l'IA, peut-être devrions-nous cependant considérer le raisonnement d'Hayek de manière inverse - ou du moins sous un autre angle - en acceptant la régulation, plutôt que d'insister exclusivement sur ses coûts potentiels.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from back page **Cummings speaks on Liberia's**

HeforShe Crusader welcomes amended drugs law

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

A pro-advocacy group, 'HE For She Crusaders Liberia' has commended members of the 54th Legislature for the passage of the amended drugs

effort to fight rampant increase of the drug trade across Liberia.

Addressing a news conference Wednesday, June 28, 2023, in Paynesville, the national coordinator for

approve the act to help address issue of illegal substance abuse.

He called for proper implementation of the act when officially printed into a handbill.

Johnson recently criticized the Liberian Legislature for delay in amending the drugs law that has been lingering before lawmakers, who described as killers of children.

Meanwhile, Part II, count 11 of the current drug law, provides that "Any person who, without lawful authority: imports, manufactures, produces, processes, plants or grows drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroin or any other similar drugs shall be guilty of an offense and liable on conviction to be sentenced to life imprisonment." It also states that "any person who sells, buys, exposes or offers for sale or otherwise deals in or with the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroin or any other similar drugs shall be guilty of an offense and liable on conviction to be sentenced to imprisonment for life; or knowingly possesses or uses the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroin or any other similar drugs by smoking, inhaling or injecting the said drugs shall be guilty of an offense and liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than fifteen years but not exceeding 25 years."

'HeforShe' Crusaders Liberia, Tamba Johnson commended the House of Representatives for unanimously concurring with the Liberian Senate in passing the drugs act, making the offenses non-bailable.

The act is currently before President Weah for signing into law. When signed by the President, it could boost government's effort to combat trafficking of illicit drugs that are prevalent across the country, damaging mostly the youthful generation.

Mr. Johnson called on President Weah to speedily

law, making production, importation and exportation of narcotics a non-bailable offense in the country.

Earlier Tuesday, 27 June the Legislature overwhelmingly amended Chapter 14 of the New Penal Law of Liberia titled, "Offense Involving Danger to the person" by adding Thereto Sub-Chapter E under the title: 'Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2014', now "Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of 2023."

When approved by President George Weah, the law will boost government's

Inauguration and launch (DACORE) by WAPIS and INTERPOL in Monrovia

The Liberia National Police in collaboration with its regional counterpart the West African Police Information System WAPIS along with the global police network INTERPOL has formally inaugurated a Data Collection & Registration Center (DACORE) in Monrovia as part of efforts to address the growing wave of violence extremism and insecurity challenges facing in the region. The ceremony was held in Monrovia at the headquarters of the Liberia National Police.

The West African Police Information System (WAPIS) is aimed at providing and tracking information about security related threats across the region through a centralized national system that can be used by authorities for surveillance purposes in maintaining safe environments at regional and international levels. The first phase of the pilot project began in

September 2012 and ended September 2013 with financial assistance from the European Union to four West African nation-states namely; Benin, Ghana, Mali and Niger. Whilst Mauritania as an observer country. The second phase of the project which was initiated in October 2013 to February 2016 saw the deployment of the program in these four pilot countries.

The program brought

together state actors and stakeholders from the international community, which included among others, the Resident Representative of the President of the Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS Commission in Liberia Her Excellency Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah who applauded the initiative of the center in Liberia.



experience, as a vehicle to engage hearts and minds, promote dialogue, justice, forgiveness, and national unity.

The Liberian Presidential aspirant told the forum that lessons from Rwanda's enterprise solutions, such as a private sector focus, technology and innovation, agriculture and rural development, and social protection programs, as highlighted by participants were valuable for Liberia's recovery.

Mr. Cummings emphasized the importance of tailoring the solutions to Liberia's specific needs and seeking international collaboration for sustainable development and recovery.

He expressed the readiness of Liberians for real change and hoped for cooperation from friends and partners in achieving this goal.

Participants at the special Liberia Policy Forum were senior advisor to Rwanda President Paul Kagame, Mr. Michael Fairbanks and Dale Dawson, founder of Bridge2Rwanda, who also serves as Presidential Advisor. Dawson helped launch a bank in Kigali in addition to other business and social enterprises and is a former Partner at KPMG and Head of Investment Banking at Stephens Inc.

Other participants were Gina Sheets, former official, US Department of Agriculture official and former state agriculture director for then Indiana Governor Mike Pence; Kaia Miller, founder of Aslan Global, a Boston-based consulting firm, that's helping to advise developing economies on competitiveness and economic development was present. She serves on President Kagame Advisory Council and also a former leader in Monitor Group's Country Competitiveness Practice and Associate at Harvard University's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness. She chairs New England Board for the US Fund/UNICEF.

Others are Dano Jukanovich, co-founder and managing partner of Karisimbi Business Partners, a leading social impact consulting and private equity firms in East Africa. He is a West Point graduate and former Army

Ranger and senior intelligence officer; Jennifer Jukanovich, who recently published her doctoral dissertation on Rwanda at Pepperdine University. She plays multiple leadership roles in Rwanda including communications director for a USAID project, founded a women's business and a preschool, and served as a champion for orphan care. She is also former Gordon College VP for Student Life; Dan Vogel, Director, North America, Boston Consulting Group's Centre for Public Impact. Previously, Dan served as advisor to the founding CEO of the Rwanda Development Board; he also worked at the White House as a policy/private sector specialist.

Also participating were Manny Ohonme, a Nigerian, founder and CEO of Samaritan's Feet which has fulfilled its goal of distributing 10 million shoes to needy children and families. Manny is also the founder and CEO of World Shoe Inc.

Courtney Cash - president of the World Shoe Fund; social entrepreneurship professor at Berry College; founder of Simply Strategic and experience establishing sports programs to build hope and healthy relationships in more than 100 countries; and Emil Ekiyor, also a Nigerian, founder and CEO of InnoPower, providing services to build black entrepreneurial talent in the US and Africa.

He played in the NFL for six seasons. He formerly operated an import-export business between US and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The rest of the participants included: Chuck Bentley, founder and CEO of Christian Economic Forum and CEO of Crown Financial Ministries; board member of Foundations for Farming providing leadership to expand the model across Africa; and Jay Hein, CEO of Sagamore Institute and Commonwealth Impact Investing; former director of White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives where he began work in Rwanda; board member, Bridge2Rwanda.

Directly attending the forum with, Mr. Cummings were Cllr. Moriah Yeakula, Chief of Staff to Mr. Cummings and Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah, Jr., Head of the Policy Team.

Starts from page 6 **Liberia is better under President Weah**

unprecedented developments and tangibles under the Weah leadership, bragging that the October poll is just an exhibition of the CDC government's achievements in the past six years. "We will only be going to the ballot in October for the formality. We can assure you a first-round victory, the people's

victory, so the opposition needs to start sending in congratulation messages to Mr. George Weah."

Contrary to Johnson's claims of drop in prices of basic commodities, Liberia has witnessed skyrocketing prices of several commodities, including rice, petroleum and exchange rate. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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U.S. calls for peaceful election

By Bridgett Milton

Outgoing United States Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy has called for a

the warm welcome and friendship he has received during his tenure. "Serving as Chief of Mission has been the honor of a lifetime, and I will

Weah's administration for Liberia's principled, and unwavering stand against the unprovoked attack by Russia on Ukraine.

He also recognized Liberia's position in defense of the Muslim minority in one of the world's most populous nations.

"As exemplary global citizens, I urge you to continue to support the freedom of the oppressed against this sort of unbridled aggression," he said. Amb. McCarthy noted that he also admires the Weah administration's efforts to work with the legislature to further strengthen the freedom of the press. According to the U.S. Envoy, only societies with courage and maturity allow opposition figures to voice their dissent, especially during an election year.

"I am well aware that all too many countries do not protect press freedom, a freedom that has allowed me, as a guest of Liberia, to so fully share my concerns about the country," he said.

Amb. McCarthy said every country can be improved, every government can be enhanced, but today, as friends and partners, he would like to highlight recent Liberian victories that are worth celebrating.

For his part, President George Manneh Weah thanked the U.S. Ambassador for his time spent in Liberia and the relationship between the two countries.



US. Ambassador Michael McCarthy

peaceful, free, and fair election in Liberia, 15 weeks to the presidential and legislative polls. During a program at the U.S. Embassy near Monrovia marking the U.S. 247th Independence Anniversary, Amb. McCarthy said going forward, Liberia can have a bright future if it so chooses. McCarthy added that a more prosperous Liberia, is, of course, one of the main goals at the U.S. Embassy and the reason they provide substantial support to Liberia across various sectors, including health, education, business, and political leadership.

As his tenure comes to an end, Amb. McCarthy expressed deep gratitude for

cherish the memories and experiences from this remarkable country forever, even as I begin my journey into retirement," he said.

He said the United States and Liberia share a remarkable history dating back to 1822 when the first group of African Americans settled in Liberia, paving the way for a new nation.

Throughout the years, he said the two nations have built a unique friendship, with the United States remaining a steadfast partner, working alongside Liberia to promote peace, stability, and economic growth.

The U.S. Envoy recognized President George Manneh

Starts from page 7

Mother of accident

administering medication, but they treated her before requesting for money.

According to her, she took the case to the Zone One Depot #2 Police Station in St. Paul Bridge community, Bushrod Island and after investigation, the Police held the bike rider liable and exonerated the container truck.

Madam Ballah said the case was then forwarded to the

Traffic Court at the Temple of Justice and one of the judges there told her they will release the container driver so that he could help with financial assistance, as the bike rider could not afford to pay, adding that they free the driver with the understanding that he will provide 6,000 Liberian Dollars every Friday to help with her daughter's medication.

Lisa said the driver carried

6,000 Liberian Dollars one time to the court and the next time she went there, the driver was nowhere to be found. However, she revealed that after three days, he came with 5,000 Liberian Dollars for three weeks, which cannot cover the medical bill, leaving her with no option but to launch a public appeal for her daughter's health condition.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 7

MOE threatens to revoke

during the time of the academic calendar when the students are supposed to be in active classes, including placement of summer school or enrichment list of students, which means the school has already completed the academic year, noting that fees attached are very exorbitant for the students.

The ministry said the action by the school undermines government's

efforts to provide quality education for Liberian students, most of whom are financially challenged.

According to the ministry, it established these violations when it had gone to the school to conduct monitoring and the following actions were being noticed already taken by the administration in its personal interest.

In accordance with the ministry's academic calendar

for 2022/2023, final closing activities should begin July 10-28, 2023 in three categories: Category one, promotion activities for grades 1-9 is between July 17-21, Category two, promotion for grades 10-11 is July 24-28, 2023, while in Category three, 12 graders' promotion are pending on the basis of WASSCE results.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

McGill speaks on sanction

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

Former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel Falo McGill says after his sanction by the United States Government, he inquired from a U.S. Congressional Delegation that visited Liberia and honored him for his outstanding leadership in Liberia on February 12, 2022, about the sanction and they expressed dismay that it was not possible that he would become a victim of U.S. sanction.

According to Mr. McGill, now a senatorial aspirant for Margibi County, the congressional people told him that before coming to honor him in Liberia, the U.S national security gave them a clearance to honor him for his outstanding leadership, indicating that they did not see the possibility of a sanction.

McGill and two other officials were sanctioned in August 2022 by the United States under the Global Magnitsky Act for their involvement in significant public corruption, and immediately suspended for time indefinite by President Weah after

he made the disclosure.

"On February 12, 2022, the American Congressional Delegation came from America and honored me for outstanding leadership, a certificate signed by the Speaker of Congress, Nancy Polosi, honoring me Nathaniel McGill for outstanding leadership. By August 15, they say I was involved in corruption. When I asked the congressional people, the people say it not possible because before we went to Liberia, we got clearance from national security that you're not engaged in anything, how is it possible?" He explained.

He said the Americans have genuine reasons for fighting corruption and everybody must frown at corruption because it is not good.

McGill said he should be despised if it is established that he was involved in corruption, bragging that he does not even have a complaint at the police station about his involvement in corruption.



Former Min. of State McGill

which they subsequently resigned.

The former minister, who is aspiring for the senate in the 2023 elections, had gone to attend a program at the Jubilee Praise and Worship center in Unification City, Lower Margibi County recently when

However, he noted that there are few Liberians who went around stating that once he (McGill) is removed from the government, all acts of corruption would have been eradicated. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6 NTAL, El urge government to invest

Africa Dr. Dennis Sinyolo said the El is a conglomeration of teachers with a membership of 35 million across the world and NTAL is a member organization.

"We are in Liberia because we care deeply about the quality of public education in Africa and the world at large; therefore, NTAL has been involved in a campaign for many years, which makes us to be in solidarity with the NTAL for national efforts, thus, improving public education here in Liberia."

"We are also here to launch a campaign against the privatization and commercialization of public

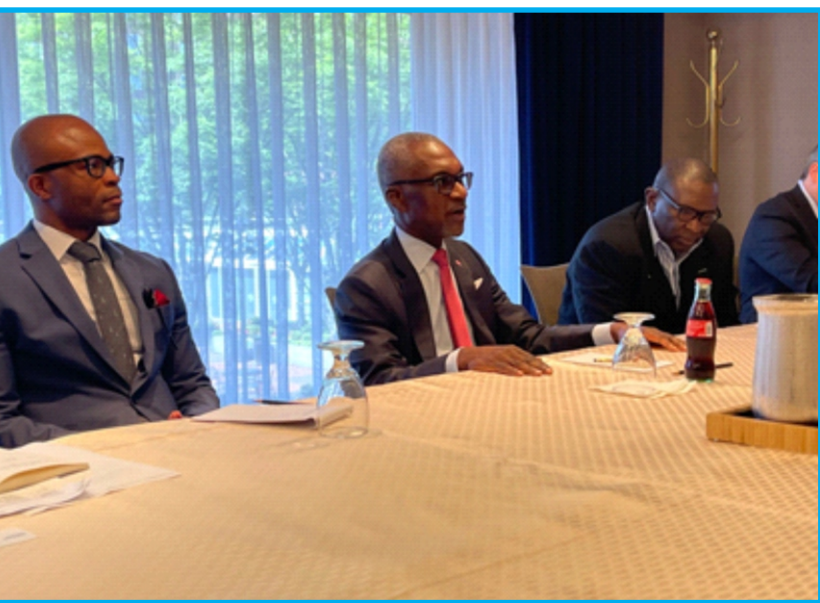
education so that every child through public education can have access to quality education," said Sinyolo. He said one of the key reasons El embarked on this journey is due to education being a fundamental human right that should be available to everyone and not few.

He added that the Liberian government is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 that enshrines the rights and freedoms of all human beings.

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Cummings speaks on Liberia's recovery at Harvard Forum

Boston, MA USA - June 29, 2023: Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, a leading Liberian Presidential contender, was on Thursday, June 29 amongst several top notch international consultants to discuss the



Africans to re-engage with their heritage. Finding means to make this a reality was a major part of the discussions. Liberia's 14 years of devastating civil war is a shared story with Rwanda's own experience and many

Rwanda recovery model which sought to find "enterprise solutions to poverty" in Africa. At a special Policy Forum on the theme "Liberia's Path to Recovery, As Aligned with Rwanda's," held at Harvard University, Mr. Cummings engaged with several key experts, who were involved in Rwanda's recovery. Presentations focused on Liberia as an inspiring opportunity for African Americans and Diaspora

political stability, infrastructure development, economic growth, and social reconciliation.

He stressed the imperative need for competent and qualified leadership with renewed mindset to foster unity, combat corruption, and ensure accountability and transparency in Liberia's governance system.

According to Mr. Cummings, political stability and restoration of the rule of law, with a strong and independent judiciary, are crucial for economic recovery and growth.

The CPP Standard Bearer, who is visiting the U.S., said infrastructure development, including roads, energy, technology, and sanitation, are critical to attract direct foreign investment and trade opportunities needed for job creation, and improved access to basic social services.

Mr. Cummings said economic diversification, private sector development, and value addition were critical to reduce dependency on the extractive sector.

He cited social reconciliation, inspired by Rwanda's post-genocide

barriers to recovery. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), spoke on the daunting path to Liberia's economic recovery, with references also to challenges caused by Liberia's 14 years civil war, the Ebola epidemic, Covid pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war.

Cummings emphasized the critical need for new leadership and mindset,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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