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# EDC rally money lands students in jail



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# Continental News

## Tunisian Killed in Clashes With Migrants After Days of Tension in Coastal City

A Tunisian man was killed in clashes between residents and sub-Saharan African migrants in the southern city of Sfax, a judicial official said on Tuesday, following days of

country. Faouzi Masmoudi, a spokesperson for the Sfax court, said police had arrested three Sub-Saharan Africans suspected of being responsible for the killing of the Tunisian man on Monday.

migrants from sub-Saharan Africa living in the country illegally and reports of racist attacks amid an economic downturn.

Sfax residents complain about riots and disorderly behavior by migrants, while the migrants say they are subjected to racist harassment by some residents.

Last month, hundreds of Sfax residents protested against the presence of thousands of migrants and asked authorities to deport them, saying Sfax must not become a city of refugees.

In past months hundreds of Africans have been lost and died in boat sinkings off the Sfax coast, while bodies of migrants have piled up in hospital mortuaries after washing up on beaches.

Tunisia is under pressure from Europe to stop the huge numbers departing from its coasts. European countries have pledged financial support, but Tunisian President Kais Saied said that Tunisia will not be a border guard and that it will not accept the settlement of immigrants in the country. VOA



Migrants wait at Sfax port, after being stopped by Tunisian coast guard at sea during their attempt to cross to Italy

violent incidents between locals and migrants.

Sfax, Tunisia's economic capital, is crowded with thousands of African migrants aiming to set off to Europe on boats from local coastal areas in an exodus marking an unprecedented migration crisis for the north African

The killing followed nights of violent clashes in Sfax between residents and migrants, he added. During the past two nights, the police fired tear gas to break up the clashes.

There has been a surge in migration across the Mediterranean from Tunisia this year after a crackdown by Tunis on

## Senegal's President Sall won't run for third term

Senegal's President Macky Sall has ruled out seeking re-election in 2024, ending widespread speculation that he would run for a third term. "The 2019 term was my second and last term," he said in a televised address.

Rumours he would try to extend his grip on power have fuelled unrest several times since 2021, with dozens killed.

The opposition had called for fresh protests if Mr Sall decided to run again - which many legal experts say would have violated the constitution. In his address late on Monday, Mr Sall, 61, said: "There has been much speculation and commentary on my eventual candidature on this election. My decision, carefully considered... is not to run as a candidate in the upcoming election."

"Senegal is more than me, and is full of capable leaders for the country's development," he added.

Social media shut over deadly Senegal protests. Recently there had been

anger in Senegal over the sentencing of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko to two years in prison for the crime of "corrupting youth". The 48-year-old was found guilty of acting immorally towards an individual younger than 21, but cleared of rape charges. Thousands of protesters took to the streets of several cities and at least 16 people were killed. Sonko denies any wrongdoing, and his supporters say the trial was a political ploy to disqualify him from entering the

presidential race. Mr Sall has been in office since 2012. In 2016, he changed the constitution to set a two-term presidential limit. But his supporters argued he could still run for a third term as his first was under the previous constitution.

Speculation that he would try to cling on to power has dented Senegal's reputation as a relatively stable democratic nation in the restive West African region. BBC



"Senegal is more than me, and is full of capable leaders," Macky Sall has said

## Zulu king: I am not poisoned, I am well

South Africa's Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini has moved to reassure his people and dismissed stories that he had been poisoned. "I am not poisoned, I am well," he said on a video released on Monday evening. At the weekend, the king's traditional prime minister said he had gone to neighbouring Eswatini for treatment.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi added that it followed the sudden death of one of the king's senior advisers, also of suspected poisoning.

But in response, the king's spokesperson, Prince Africa Zulu alleged there was "an orchestrated agenda and a desperate narrative to communicate defamatory and baseless claims of His Majesty's ill-health".

The dispute is a sign of how the relationship between King Misuzulu and Chief Buthelezi has fallen apart, reports the

whatsoever. So please people, mostly to the Zulu people, the Zulu royal family also to remind everyone to please don't listen to everything that people say," the king said. King Misuzulu was crowned in front of thousands of his subjects last October.

But a vicious power struggle has been raging within the royal family over the 48-year-old's accession, while tensions have also recently surfaced between the monarch and Chief Buthelezi.

The Zulu king does not have formal political power and the monarch's role within broader South African society is largely ceremonial, but he remains hugely influential with a yearly government-funded budget of several million dollars.

King Misuzulu's accession to the throne was sooner than expected and he has been at the centre of palace intrigue.

His father died during the Covid pandemic in March 2021 of diabetes-related complications.

He was the Zulu nation's longest-reigning monarch, having



The monarch has been at the centre of bitter feuds within the royal family

BBC's Nomsa Maseko in Johannesburg. But in a strongly worded statement on Tuesday, Chief Buthelezi said there was "certainly no growing rift" between him and the king. He did acknowledge that there were "disagreements on matters from time to time", but this was "like any other family".

Chief Buthelezi added that he had not "acted in malice by making the announcement about his health".

In the video released on Monday, the king, looking well, explained that he had travelled to Eswatini for a regular medical health check - something that Chief Buthelezi continues to dispute saying that the king crossed the border to "urgently seek medical attention". "I'm happy, everything is well-functioning, there is no poison

served on the throne for almost 50 years.

King Misuzulu's mother, Queen Mantfombi Dlamini-Zulu, then became the regent, but she died a month later.

She was the sister of Eswatini's King Mswati III - Africa's only absolute monarch.

At the time, Chief Buthelezi dismissed rumours that she had been poisoned.

He had backed King Misuzulu's accession to the throne after her death, but recent reports suggested that sharp differences had emerged between the two.

It followed a dispute over the chairmanship of the Ingonyama Trust Board, which manages vast tracts of land controlled by the monarch. The king appointed Chief Thanduyise Mzimela as its chairman, but this was opposed by Chief Buthelezi who felt he was inexperienced for the post, according to local media.

# EDITORIAL

## Dreaming a new Liberia

**Outgoing United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy**, who ends his mission here in barely two weeks has projected a new Liberia in which the potentials of its citizens and resources would be utilized for future growth and prosperity.

**Mr. McCarthy observed that** if there is one reoccurring theme that unites every visitor to Liberia is the sense of the country's enormous potential with so many reasons for hope towards a forward march.

**However, speaking last Thursday, June 29, 2023** in Monrovia at ceremony to commemorate America's 247th Anniversary Ambassador McCarthy underscored that Liberia can have a bright future if it so chooses but it will require substantial follow-through on issues he outlined, including peaceful, free and fair elections that are just two months away.

**He added that** one of the main goals of the U.S. Embassy Monrovia and the reason it continues to provide the country support across various sectors, including health, education, business and political leadership is to see a more prosperous Liberia.

**But do Liberians** realize their own potential and resources that God has endowed this country with and how to channel them in turning the wheels of poverty, disease, degradation and illiteracy around to enjoy prosperity and growth or do we prefer wallowing in the vices that have kept us in a vicious cycle of stagnation?

**We believe the** ambassador's remarks are a wakeup call to all Liberians to rise from their slumber and dream the kind of country they envisage for themselves in the next four decades or more to improve their personal and general wellbeing as a nation.

**Envisioning for ourselves** the kind of country we desire is the first step to making changes in our national life. Capacity may pose a challenge for now, but if we can only develop the youthful population that God has blessed the country with, a lot could be achieved to attain prosperity and growth that have eluded this country since the 70s and 80s.

**As Liberia's traditional** partner, we believe the United States is prepared to do much more in providing assistance only if we can get our acts together as a people, willing to make sacrifices. Prosperity and growth will not come wrapped in silver plate but hard work.

**It goes beyond** just changing leadership at the ballot box, but demonstrating love for country thru service.

**With the return** to the country of 13 Peace Corps Volunteers after three years absence because of COVID-19, Liberia stands to benefit if only we tap from their expertise in various sectors.

**We believe strongly** that the new Liberia that Ambassador McCarthy talked about is in reach if all Liberians put hands on deck and shun mediocrity, lip-service, greed and selfish bickering, putting interest of the common good in all that we do.

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

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# COMMENTARY

By Simon Johnson, Oleg Ustenko

## Why Are Russian Oil Products Still Being Sold in America?

**WASHINGTON, DC/KYIV** - The United States has done a great deal to help Ukraine fend off Russia's full-scale invasion and terrorist tactics since February 2022, including through generous financial and military assistance. In addition, immediately after the invasion, the Biden Administration (and Congress) banned the import of Russian crude oil. But imports of refined products derived from Russian oil were allowed to continue under some conditions. To reduce further the revenue that enables the Kremlin to continue its aggression, now all such imports, without exception, should be prohibited.

During 2022, the US persuaded its G7 partners and the European Union to impose a price cap on exports of Russian oil and refined products. Currently, these exports can be carried, insured, and financed by Western companies only if the price paid is at or below a particular level (\$60 per barrel in the case of crude oil). This cap has proved effective at reducing Russian revenue, increasing fiscal pressure on the Kremlin while preventing disruptions to the world oil market.

But recent efforts to lower the cap further have run into resistance. Given the US-EU political impasse on lowering the price cap, banning the import of all Russian-origin gasoline and other refined products into the US is a low cost and logical way to step up the economic pressure on Putin's regime, while also encouraging US allies to do the same.

US sanctions currently specify that once Russian crude oil is transported to a third country and refined into another product (diesel, gasoline, jet fuel), that product is no longer considered of Russian origin - and it can be sold at world prices, subject to no price cap. This has created highly profitable laundromats for Russian oil in places such as India and Turkey: refineries there buy crude oil at the price cap, and sell refined products at world prices - including to the US, the United Kingdom, and the EU, all of which ban Russian oil but allow products refined from that oil in third countries. The additional profit margin from this arbitrage per barrel obviously varies with world prices, but in 2023 it has likely averaged around \$15-20 per barrel, making this business tremendously lucrative.

Most international crude oil and petroleum products move in specialized ships, with cargo size and composition available through proprietary databases. Analysis of these shipments by Global Witness, a non-governmental organization, reveals a salient fact: the US today imports refined products from one "laundromat country," India, with almost all of it coming from one place -

Jamnagar, the world's largest refining complex.

Reliance Industries Limited, the owner of Jamnagar, is making hundreds of millions of dollars in additional profit because of what it is allowed to do under the price cap. Not surprisingly, in April 2023, 43% of Jamnagar's seaborne crude imports came from Russia.

Of total US petroleum products imports, 3-5% comes from India, which is roughly the same as pre-pandemic levels. Because the US is a large oil producer, all petroleum imports are small relative to the overall US market (over 20 million barrels of petroleum products per day). In fact, imports from India so far this year are equivalent to only about 15 hours of US total petroleum usage.

Any refinery that processes Russian crude should be banned from selling to the US. This is a simple approach that would be easy to enforce. The effect on gasoline and other prices in the US would be minimal, particularly as substitution across alternative international suppliers can easily be arranged.

Jamnagar (and others) can still refine Russian crude, but they will need to find other markets for their refined product. This will further stigmatize trade with Russia, putting additional downward pressure on the price of its crude - and reinforcing the goal of the original US embargo and the G7-EU price cap arrangement. Because Russia has a pressing need for foreign exchange and a short-run marginal cost of production of less than \$20 per barrel, reducing the price paid to Russia will not lower its oil exports.

There is growing support on Capitol Hill for banning all Russian-origin petroleum imports, in large part because this would also encourage both the EU and the UK to move in the same direction. Both those jurisdictions have more exposure to refined products from laundromat countries and will be concerned about the impact on their domestic markets (including inflation).

As Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues, it is completely illogical to support Ukraine on all possible fronts while also allowing Russia to earn large profits on its oil exports. Most of Russia's foreign-exchange earnings now come from the sale of oil, and that will be true for the foreseeable future. Irrespective of who controls the Kremlin next year or 20 years from now, Russia is not likely to become a stable, peace-loving democracy that respects international borders. The West needs a long-term strategy of economic containment, within which Russia can export crude oil but only at a price that drops with every act of aggression.

## OP-ED

By Hanan Morsy

# Reforming the Global Debt Architecture

**A**DDIS ABABA - One in five people globally live in countries that are in debt distress or at risk of it. Two-thirds of low-income countries - most of them in Africa - fall into this category, while eight of the nine countries currently in debt distress are on the continent.

A confluence of factors has created this mounting debt crisis. With booming populations and massive infrastructure needs, coupled with the declining availability of official development assistance and concessional financing, African governments took advantage of historically low interest rates in the 2010s and borrowed heavily from international capital markets and China. Consequently, debt stocks more than doubled between 2010 and 2020.

But that debt has become a lot more expensive. Since 2020, the continent has been hit by a series of exogenous shocks. COVID-19, the Ukraine war, and worsening climate conditions have confronted many African governments with credit-rating downgrades, which rapidly increased their borrowing costs and made tapping international debt markets prohibitively expensive.

Moreover, the US Federal Reserve's massive interest-rate hikes since March 2022 have dealt a double whammy to African countries, whose loans are mostly denominated in dollars: their debt-service costs have gone up and their currencies' dollar exchange rate has gone down. In 2024, African countries will spend around \$74 billion on debt service, up from \$17 billion in 2010. Two states - Ghana and Zambia - have already defaulted, while Chad and Ethiopia are in restructuring talks.

The implications of this crisis are clear: African countries face the specter of a lost decade of development. Kenya has been forced to withhold civil servants' salaries to meet coupon payments. Other countries have reduced education and health-care financing. Debt service now averages 10.6% of GDP in Africa, compared to 6% for spending on health. In the wake of a default, increased borrowing costs inhibit a country's ability to invest in much-needed infrastructure, much less the clean-energy transition.

Efforts to remedy this situation have been made more challenging by the increased complexity of the creditor landscape. The G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which paused debt payments for eligible countries between May 2020 and December 2021, provided some temporary relief. The G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments, a process through which low-income countries can request debt restructuring, was then established in November 2020 to complement the DSSI. While Chad, Zambia, and Ethiopia requested relief under the Common Framework in early 2021, Ethiopia still has not had its debt restructured. Chad concluded a tentative arrangement at the end of 2022, and Zambia reached a debt restructuring deal only last month. Given these delays, the Common Framework has not lived up to expectations. As one policymaker put it, "It is neither common nor a framework."

In response to the Common Framework's deficiencies, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the G20 Presidency (currently held by India) established the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable. The IMF and the World Bank agreed to share macroeconomic projections and debt-sustainability analyses with creditors, who in turn agreed to find a solution to distributing the burden of debt reduction. China, which had previously refused to participate in debt restructuring unless multilateral development banks (MDBs) shared the burden alongside other creditors, agreed to MDBs increasing concessional lending rather than taking a haircut. The Roundtable seems to be paying off: progress on Ghana's restructuring has unlocked a \$3 billion IMF loan and has paved the way for a potential restructuring of a third of its debt.

But this is by no means a systemic solution. In line with UN Secretary-General António Guterres's call for an "SDG Stimulus," strong action must be taken in three areas before the next G20 Summit.

First, the G20 Common Framework must be fixed. Middle-income countries, which are also struggling with unsustainable debt, should be eligible to apply. Applicants should be given a transparent timeline, and their debt-service payments should be suspended immediately to create fiscal space. Ideally, the IMF would provide debtor countries with a line of financing for essential spending during restructuring negotiations. Moreover, clear comparability of debt-treatment formulae would minimize future technical disputes.

Second, the legal framework for public debt needs to be strengthened. Specifically, the inclusion of enhanced collective-action clauses in all future sovereign-debt contracts would address the coordination challenges posed by restructurings. New York State, whose laws govern more than half of sovereign-debt contracts with private creditors, is well-positioned to lead this process, which would prevent vulture funds from preying on distressed debtors. To address the challenges of cascading crises, state-contingent debt instruments that link a country's debt-service payments to its capacity to pay should also be considered for future debt contracts. In particular, climate contingency clauses should be embedded in future debt contracts to defer debt repayment in case of major climate shocks or natural disasters.

Finally, international bodies should make room at the table for African countries and other developing economies. If the African Union had a permanent seat in the G20, for example, the continent could participate fully in discussions on G20 initiatives such as the Common Framework.

In the absence of better mechanisms for debt-distressed countries, more governments will struggle to service their obligations and will stop investing in the future. The resulting damage would have significant implications for the fight against climate change. Dealing with unsustainable debt burdens now will cost far less than dealing with unsustainable environmental burdens later.

## OPINION

By Antara Haldar

# The Supreme Court Kicks Away the Ladder

**C**AMBRIDGE - Fifteen years ago, I watched in rapt attention as a resplendent, yet surreal, scene unfolded: the election of the first-ever African-American US president, Barack Obama. In the past week, the Supreme Court, in a landmark 6-3 ruling, struck down what may have been one of the key factors in making that story possible: affirmative action in higher education.

In an opinion drafted by Chief Justice John Roberts, the Court rejected race-conscious admissions policies at Harvard (Obama's law school alma mater) and the University of North Carolina on the grounds that they "cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause" of the Fourteenth Amendment. The dissenting opinion was, fittingly, delivered by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, an Obama appointee, and the first Supreme Court justice of Latin American origin. Sotomayor lamented that the decision "rolls back decades of precedent and momentous progress."

Judging by the experience of even liberal states like Michigan and California (two of nine to already have rejected affirmative action), the Court's decision is likely to lead to a sharp drop in the number of Black and Latino students at the undergraduate level, as well as at professional schools. It also opens policies like corporate diversity programs, which ramped up after the murder of George Floyd in 2020, to judicial scrutiny.

After the Dobbs ruling last year eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, this is the second time that the Court has upended years of jurisprudence on a highly charged issue (it has also, recently, upheld the right to discriminate against the LGBTQ community). Notably, in all these cases, nothing material has changed - save for the composition of the Court.

Conservatives' reaction to the affirmative action ruling has been rousing, with endorsements pouring in from Mike Pence, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, and with much of the credit going to Donald Trump (who appointed three of the six conservative justices). Conservatives have played the long game, especially on Court appointments, and now they are reaping the rewards of their finely tuned ideological machine. President Joe Biden described it as "not a normal court."

The ruling strikes at the heart of the American dream: the promise of equality of opportunity, of which the American university has long been a custodian. Education has always been critical for what social scientists call the "matrix of mobility" precisely because of its ability to allow individuals to leapfrog into a different life, regardless of their background - and typically with significant spillover effects for their family and community. Admission to elite schools, in particular, is one of the few ways that the meritorious can challenge inherited privilege.

According to Roberts, a "judiciary that picks winners and losers on the color of their skin" is morally odious. But, as Sotomayor noted in her dissent, history had already done that. Affirmative action was introduced in the 1960s in the United States as a means of advancing racial equality against the backdrop of that history. The purpose was to achieve substantive, rather than procedural, justice. The "colorblind" law that Roberts idealizes can work only in societies with no racial discrimination, not in settings where it is rampant.

The classic treatise *The Shape of the River* rigorously documents the role of affirmative action policies as an engine of social mobility, but, anecdotally, the success of America's top universities is clearly visible. As an academic who has spent my career on both sides of the Atlantic, I have found the diversity of the lectures and seminars, faculty lounges, and fellowship classes of Stanford, Harvard, and Columbia, for example, to be unique. The normalization of racial diversity has arguably strengthened the world's best university system (as evidenced by its near-monopoly on, say, Nobel Prizes).

The benefits of the diversity in American education speak for themselves, but none more eloquently than Obama. There could be no more poignant illustration of what affirmative action achieved than the Obama presidency. A highly visible symbol of the racial gap created by centuries of oppression, the domination of the White House by white men, was torn down after just a few decades of limited legal protection.

Obama, raised by a single mother in a family of humble means, has been candid in *Dreams From My Father* and elsewhere about the "lost years" of his youth, which may have led to his graduating from Columbia without honors. In an admissions decision that changed the course of history, it was the positive discrimination of Harvard Law School that led to his being "found": he graduated magna cum laude.

Legal scholars debate whether "law matters." It does, but not always in a good way. It was the law that underwrote slavery and segregation. And it was the law that afforded us, in 2008, a moment of blinding hope.

Michelle Obama, who graduated from Princeton, described affirmative action as providing "ladders of opportunity." Without the ladder of affirmative action, her husband's ascent may have been impossible. The educational potency of symbols that we can see (and occasionally even touch) is singular.

Obama's story provided inspiration to many of us that the climb, however steep, was worth the effort, even as we witnessed others take the elevator. Perhaps it was the possibility embodied in Obama's meteoric ascent that led the Court's conservative majority to kick the ladder away.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

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**ON 2ND THOUGHTS**



with Othello B. Garblah

**Liberia is not Sierra Leone**

As Liberians prepare to head to the polls in October to retain or elect a new president and 88 Lawmakers out of 103, recent elections results filtering in from neighboring Sierra Leone appear to have given supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) some false hope of a massive first-round victory on October 10.

These ruling party zealots believe that the Sierra Leone election results are direct reflection of the outcome of Liberia's October polls.

In what was described as a tense election, the people of Sierra Leone voted to give incumbent President Julius Maada Bio a second term on June 24.

According to Sierra Leone's Election Commission, Bio, 59, received 56.17% of total votes cast to avoid a presidential runoff against his closest rival from the All People's Congress Party (ACP).

President Maada Bio was declared winner of the June 24 polls and swiftly sworn in for a second term immediately after the result was announced on Tuesday, June 27.

The "re-election" of incumbent Maada Bio using a modified version of the Sierra Leone electoral law as it relates to the two-round system, with a candidate having to receive more than 55% of the vote in the first round to be elected has emboldened many CDCians to boost of a first-round victory.

But here's the thing-Liberia is not Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone's politics are strongly divided on tribal lines. Although the country recorded 13 political parties' participation in its just-ended election, the two main political parties; Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) of Maada Bio and Samura Kamara's ACP are strongly divided on tribal lines.

For example, incumbent President Maada Bio is from Sierra Leone's second largest ethnic group Mende. According to Wikipedia, Mende makes up 31.2% of Sierra Leone's population. The Mende predominates the Southern Province and Eastern Sierra Leone (except for Kono District). They are often referred to as Southeasterners. Although, there are arguments that swing the majority number in their favor.

Meanwhile, the ACP of opposition candidate Samura Kamara is said to base its strength on the Temne ethnic group, the largest ethnic grouping in Sierra Leone. According to Wikipedia, the Temne people make up 35.5% of Sierra Leone's population. They predominate the Northern Province and the areas around Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown.

Therefore, the tension which usually marred Sierra Leone's elections is purely based on tribal sentiments. However, unlike Sierra Leone, Liberia's politics are driven by tribal diversity. There is no political party that has its strength based on a tribal majority or minority. Why it is true that of recent, the regional card has come into play, but that is yet to have any significant bearing on Liberians' voting pattern.

This is due in part to the cross-cultural movement of political parties, with candidates seeking votes from regions considered most populated by featuring natives from those regions on their tickets and creating a crowded field. This difference makes it difficult if not impossible for a party to win an election in the first round.

Therefore, to think that the ruling party or any of the two main opposition parties-Unity Party and Collaborating Political Party (CPP) can win a first-round victory is just a figment of one's imagination.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## WAEC releases results for 3rd, 6th and 9 graders

**..with 97% pass rate**

By Bridgett Milton

The West African Examination Council (WAEC) Liberia has

School Certificate Examination (LPSCE) and the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Examination (LJHSCE) have been conducted in Liberia over

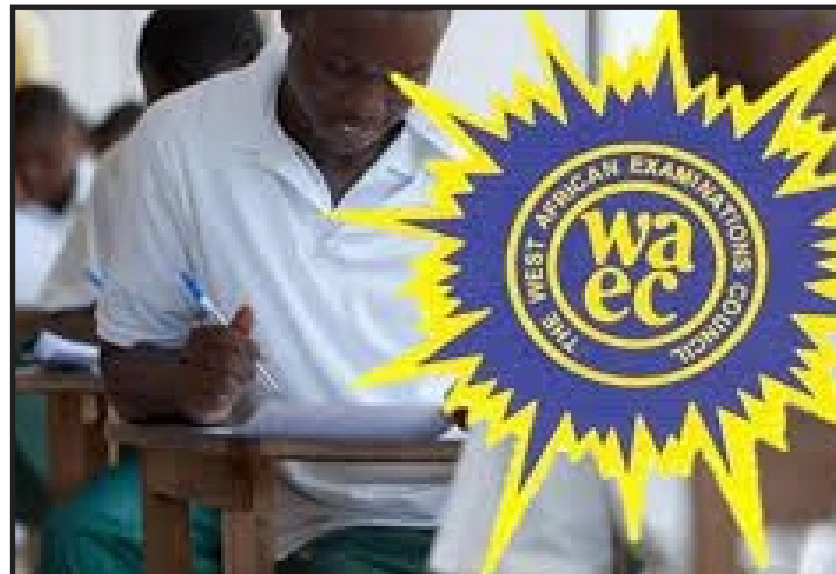
For a candidate to be successful on this exam, he or she must pass in both subjects with at least an E8.

He said the results show that the overall performance of the candidates on the Liberia National Assessment Test was good and that the females performed slightly better than their male counterparts with students passing the test.

For the Liberia Primary school Certificate Examination (LPSCE) administered at 367 centers in the fifteen counties on April 24 and 25, four subjects were involved- Mathematics, General science, Language Arts and Social Studies, while the Junior High examination (LJHSCE) was administered at 361 centers in the fifteen counties on April 27 and 28.

He further explained that for a candidate to be successful on this exam, he or she must pass in at least three subjects with minimum of an E8. He said for this year's examinations 97% students passed the test and the results are encouraging and better than previous years results.

Meanwhile Toe at the same time informed journalists that the senior high school results will be released in August of this year because they cannot release their results ahead of countries.



released provisional results of the 2023 National examinations of the (LJHSCE, LPSCE & LNAT).

Releasing the results on Tuesday, July 4, the acting head of Test Administration Isaac N. Toe said the Council conducted two types of examinations for Liberian Candidates-National and International for the 2023 exams.

He said the National Examinations were developed and administered to candidates in Liberia who were in the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades. "The Liberia Primary

the years.

The maiden edition of the Liberia National Assessment Test (LNAT) was conducted in 2021. This year is the third year for the conduct of the Liberia National Assessment Test".

Mr. Toe further explained that the Liberia National Assessment Test (LNAT) for grade 3 was administered on the school campuses of all the schools that entered for the examination in the fifteen counties on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, and candidates were assessed in two subjects: Numeracy (Mathematics) and Literacy (Language Arts).

## Sen. Smith wants Burkinabees out of RiverCess

By Ethel A. Tweh

River Cess County Senator, Wellington Geevon-Smith has threatened to rally citizens against what he called the illegal settlement of Burkinabees in Liberia through Grand Gedeh and River Cess Counties. Speaking in the Senate Plenary on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, Senator Geevon-Smith recounted that over many years now, hundreds of citizens of Burkina Faso have been trooping their way in Liberia through the counties.

According to him, Liberia does not have a common border point with Burkina Faso, while the citizens of that country are trooping into the country and farming without knowing their intent.

He explained that the Burkinabees are coming into the country through Grand Gedeh and River Cess, adding that the matter needs urgent redress by the Liberian government, or he will join the

local citizens to resist those Burkinabe for illegally settling and occupying land.

The River Cess County Senator also questioned the whereabouts of the Burkinabees, saying that the matter was further brought to the attention of the county's local authority recently to find a remedy and prevent future conflict. Reacting to Senator Wellington-Geevon Smith's claims, Lofa County Senator, Stephen Zargo said unless the presence of the Burkinabees in

Liberia poses threat to the country's security and it is proven, his colleague should realize that all ECOWAS countries' citizens are entitled to free movement.

In defense, Senator Zargo justified that those Burkinabees are coming into Liberia based on friendship and as such, the Liberian government should be careful about how to engage the matter. However, the River Cess Senator informed Senator Zargo that free movement is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Sen. Wellington Geevon-Smit

## Boakai, UP officials risk arrest

**-As court demands a US\$20,000 rent payment**

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Civil Law Court in Monrovia has ordered opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his Unity Party (UP) officials to pay their party office's rent of US\$20,000 or be arrested. Judge Kennedy Peabody has set a deadline of 3 July 2023 for the UP to make the payment in favor of Worjolah McClain Enterprise Inc. On 16 August 2022, the court ordered the Unity Party to pay half of the US\$20,000 on or before 31 October 2022.

The remaining 50% was to be paid on or before 15 December 2022.

Judge Peabody said failure to comply with the court's ruling, the Sheriff will be ordered to arrest the living bodies of Unity Party Standard Bearer Amb. Boakai, along with his officials.

But the Unity Party failed to comply with the mandate.

Judge Sammy made a second ruling on 19 October 2022 mandating the UP to pay half of the total arrears owed to McClain on or before 31 October 2022. The remaining amount was to be paid on or before 15 December 2022, or else a writ of execution would have been issued.

Once again, the Unity Party failed to honor the court's mandate. As a result, McClain filed a Bill of Information on 3 May 2023, informing the court about the Unity Party's refusal to comply.

On 19 May 2023, a ruling was made stating that all UP officials would be held in contempt if the party failed to pay.

However, on 8 June the Unity Party applied a payment stipulation, informing the court that it had paid US\$50,000, which



Former VP Boakai

The arrest would cover the party's Chairman, Co-Chair, Secretary General, Legal Counsel, and Chair of the Steering Committee. On 23 February 2021, McClain filed a summary proceeding against the Unity Party Chairman and all those in authority to recover possession of the real property. On 23 November 2021, the court held the Unity Party liable and ordered the Sheriff to evict the former ruling party.

Additionally, the Unity Party was ordered to pay arrears of US\$180,000 and an additional US\$20,000 for wrongfully withholding the property. The McClains were then placed in possession of the property, and the key was turned over to them.

The McClain Enterprise then requested a Writ of Execution for the payment of US\$20,000.

However, on 14 June 2022, the Unity Party filed a response for a payment stipulation. Judge Nancy Finda Sammy heard the petition and ordered the Unity Party to pay 25% of the amount within a week as of 16 August 2022.

represented 25% of the total amount, contrary to the judge's mandate. They requested to pay the balance in four equal instalments. The court noted that since its 23 November 2022, judgment and the filing of the Bill of Information, there had been no evidence of the UP making efforts to pay the required 50% by 31 October 2022.

The court concluded that it would be left with no alternative but to enforce the 23 November 2021 judgment.

In his ruling, Judge Peabody emphasized that the court had previously ordered the Unity Party to pay the full judgment by 10 June 10 or the party would be held in contempt.

He said the ruling of 16 May 2023 is still in effect due to the UP's repeated failure to meet its stipulations.

The court has denied the UP's requested stipulation. "The Respondent Unity Party is hereby given up to and including the 3rd of July 2023, the same day being Monday, to satisfy the full judgment amount," the court ruled.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

Starts from back page

**Sam Jabbah: A rising star**

**Pick winnable, marketable candidates**

**By Lewis S Teh**  
**T**he winner of the just-ended CDC primary in Montserrado County electoral district#12, Prince Kreplah, urges the ruling Coalition to project winnable and marketable candidates for the October elections.  
 "If the CDC must reclaim its

it is important for the party to pick winnable candidates rather than total strangers.  
 "We are competitive candidates in District 12, if CDC must win in this district than [it] must look for her best", he underscores.  
 Making his case to the electorate why he is best

any track record here; these are things that the CDC must consider. We need individuals who show deeds and not words, this is the best option that officials of the party should follow if they must win this district."  
 He also urges his supporters to rethink properly, ahead of the elections, promising to build on the work in the district. "I'm not saying I will do; instead, I'm saying I will continue to do the already [existing] structures", he adds.

The CDC is conducting primaries in all 73 electoral districts across the 15 counties of Liberia, ahead of the October 10 polls.

The primary in district#12, Montserrado, which was witnessed by scores of partisans and supporters, concludes the process of candidates' selection across the 17 districts of the county that will contest on the party's tickets.

The primary saw Prince Kreplah, who's also former director of program, planning and technical services at the Wash Commission emerge victorious, accumulating 275 votes against his opponent Henry Wokolo, who received 35 votes. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Mr. Prince Kreplah

territories in the forthcoming election, the need to project winnable and marketable candidates can't be overly emphasized", he says.

Speaking on Monday, July 3, at the CDC office in district#12, along the Japan Freeway when the ruling party conducted its primary for individuals desiring to contest on its ticket, Mr. Kreplah said

suited above his competitors, Kreplah explains that his desire to contest on the CDC ticket is due to his proven track record in advocacy, saying all of you the delegates are familiar with this history.

"My last reason why I'm best suited above my competitors is I have demonstrated more loyalty to the CDC than my competitor, he doesn't have

**I don't see any match for me in District#7**

**-Rep. Solomon George**

**By Kruah Thompson**

**R**uling Coalition for Democratic Change Representative in Montserrado County District#7, Solomon C. George, brags that he has no significant contender in the upcoming October 10th election.

Speaking via mobile on a live talk show in Monrovia on Tuesday, July 4, Rep. George attributed this lack of competition to his track record and accomplishments over the years. According to the lawmaker, he has heard people claiming that an aspirant Emmanuel Dahn, will be his major challenger due to his (Emmanuel) ownership of a hospital and free education program in the district.

But he refutes these claims and challenges Emmanuel Dahn to provide any proof of such initiatives in the district.

"While some may talk about Emmanuel Dahn building a school, they fail to mention that students still have to pay school fees, whereas my school

provides education free of charge", Rep. George says.

"I have been providing free education for the past 20 years, not just 12. So you can't compare Emmanuel Dahn to Solomon George. We are not equals," he adds.

He says there is no comparison between his school and that of Emmanuel's, emphasizing his school focuses on human resource development and capacity building unlike Emmanuel Dahn's alleged practice of increasing school fees every year, which he terms as

wasteful.

When asked to comment on the just-ended CDC primary in Montserrado, Rep. George explains that some of his colleagues in District#2, Montserrado County said they were not informed about the primary, but adds that he had received a message from the chairman of the youth league and Chairman Morlu, informing him to proceed to town hall for the primary.

Though he was absent himself, the CDC lawmaker discloses that he had political officers there and described the primary as very democratic, as he was voted



Rep. Solomon George

measures that are sometimes overlooked during sea navigation.

**LEADERSHIP AS A MARINE SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Since 2018, Sam has been leading and managing a larger group of Liberians which includes the Tugboat Boat and Pilot boat crew, the Mooring team, and other external marine contractors managing marine operations at the Freeport of Monrovia.

He is responsible for planning marine movements to optimize berth utilization and safe handling of vessels in close collaboration with local, regional and national government regulatory agencies. In addition, his work involves assisting with the safe and orderly flow of vessel traffic through port approaches and harbors. The key to his leadership success according to him is that he is a team player who cares about his people.

"I'm a leader that always think about my people before myself" he said in an interview.

**A BENEFICIARY OF APM TERMINALS LIBERIA "LEADERS OF THE FUTURE" PROGRAM**

For the next phase of APM Terminals Liberia's strategic growth, the company is focused on taking the transformation of its human resource to a new

has well positioned itself in the Mano River hub and has enormous prospects. He believes that it is important for the industry to further position itself globally through knowledge and technology.

He identified a number of challenges including the inadequate navigational equipment as well as the poor safety measures as major issues facing the sector. He explained that the solution lies with advance blue ocean (seagoing trade) and empowering of local content, insisting on the use of indigenous people who would be passionate about their country and its development.

"...The whole purpose of my training is so that we as Liberians will become competent enough to manage our own sector. We don't have to go out looking for people to come and run our industry or our country's Marine operations", he continued.

On a recent courtesy visit to the Liberian Maritime Authority, the Commissioner of the Authority, Mr Lenn Eugene Nagbe lauded Mr Jabbah for being an inspiration to future generations of Maritime professionals and for aspiring for further knowledge and skills acquisition. He in turn thanked the Commissioner for taking an interest in his career and that of many others and for the



Sam Jabbah

dimension. It is implementing the "Leaders of the Future" program; a special initiative which utilizes global resources within the Maersk group to develop the leadership skills of its leaders. An aspect of this initiative is the Marine Pilot "Liberianization" program which is purposely designed to sustain Human Resource capacity within the pilotage and Marine sector of Liberia so that those sectors are managed solely by Liberians in the near future.

As a beneficiary of this initiative, Sam hopes to use his knowledge to improve his leadership in his new role as a Marine Pilot Trainee and to impact positively on the Liberia Maritime sector.

**PERSPECTIVES ON THE LIBERIAN MARITIME SECTOR**

Officer Jabbah believes that the Liberian Maritime industry

work he is doing in uplifting Maritime operations in Liberia.

**THE FUTURE**

Sam's journey continues.

Next, he will be pursuing a Certificate of Competency as Master/Captain, Near Coastal from the Regional Maritime University and the Ghana Maritime Authority.

Quite clearly, his dream of being a master Marine Pilot of international acclaim is firmly within grasp.

Indeed Sam's story is an inspiration to Liberians who may in the near future have the full capacity and assume responsibility to manage the Maritime Industry of Liberia through APM Terminals Liberia Marine Pilot "Liberianization" program with Sam as the very first beneficiary.

# Français

## La CPP mettra fin aux excuses du CDC et de l'UP

Alexander B. Cummings offrira de meilleures alternatives aux Libériens, CDC d'avoir gaspillé les opportunités qui leur ont été offertes au cours des 20 dernières années.



estime Menipakai Dumoe, candidat malheureux aux élections sénatoriales du comté de Bong.

Le lundi 3 juillet 2023, lors d'une émission sur une radio de la place, Dumoe a déclaré que seul le billet de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) de Cummings peut répondre efficacement aux besoins du peuple, contrairement aux régimes du Parti de l'unité (UP) et de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

Dumoe a accusé l'UP et la

Selon lui, le Parti de l'unité et la CDC ont utilisé des stratégies ratées qui ne fournissent que des excuses au peuple libérien.

« Il est temps d'élire M. Cumming qui mettra en œuvre des politiques économiques qui feront vraiment avancer le pays », a-t-il dit.

« Le pays a connu près de 20 ans de paix non perturbée. Après le gouvernement intérimaire de deux ans, le Parti de l'unité a passé 12 ans au pouvoir, et la CDC six ans. Ça fait donc 20 ans de paix. Mais aucun d'entre eux n'a été en mesure d'atteindre le panier fiscal de 12 milliards de

dollars au cours de ces 20 années. Pourtant, ils continuent de donner des excuses sur les maladies et les séquelles de la guerre », a-t-il ajouté.

« Le rapport sur les perspectives économiques de la Banque africaine de développement sur la Côte d'Ivoire indique que le PIB du pays a augmenté de 7% », a déclaré Dumoe.

Il a comparé cela avec les affirmations du président Weah et du Parti de l'unité d'une augmentation de 4 % du PIB du Libéria.

Dumoe a déclaré que les pays voisins font des progrès significatifs pour améliorer leur propre pays tandis que le leader de l'UP Joseph Nyumah Boakai se bat la poitrine et se vante d'une augmentation de 4%.

L'ancien candidat aux sénatoriales voit dans les prochaines élections une opportunité de redonner aux Libériens un nouvel espoir et une nouvelle direction pour le pays.

Dans un autre développement, M. Abdullah Kiatamba a fait part de ses inquiétudes quant à la capacité de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) d'organiser des élections

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## La CDC met en garde les perdants aux primaires contre tout acte susceptible de la discréditer

La Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir a mis en garde les candidats perdants aux élections primaires contre la contestation de la volonté du peuple, sous peine de faire face à la colère du parti.

M. Jefferson T. Koijee, secrétaire général du parti au pouvoir et maire de Monrovia, a fait la mise en garde lors d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes après la primaire de la CDC dans la circonscription électorale n° 16 de Montserrado ce week-end.

« Nous voulons appeler le représentant vaincu Jimmy Smith à accepter la volonté et la décision du peuple, si non le parti prendra des mesures contre lui », a déclaré M. Koijee.

M. Smith, le représentant sortant de la CDC dans la circonscription électorale n° 2 du comté de Montserrado, a perdu le ticket du parti au profit de son rival lors d'une

primaire ce week-end.

Koijee a demandé à M. Smith d'accepter sa défaite et de cesser d'être ingrat envers le parti et les gens qui l'ont fait au fil des ans.

Le nouveau venu Kokulo Borvor a obtenu 382 voix en tant que favori de la CDC, battant le représentant sortant Smith qui n'a obtenu que 21 voix.

Quelques minutes après l'annonce des résultats, M. Smith a immédiatement suspendu son adhésion à la CDC par une communication écrite adressée au président du parti, Mulbah Morlu.

Dans sa lettre, le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Rêver d'un Libéria nouveau

L'ambassadeur sortant des États-Unis au Libéria Son Excellence Michael McCarthy, qui termine sa mission ici dans à peine deux semaines, a projeté un nouveau Libéria dans lequel le potentiel de ses citoyens et ses ressources seront mis à profit pour la croissance et la prospérité futures.

M. McCarthy a fait observer que s'il y a un thème récurrent qui unit chaque visiteur au Libéria, c'est l'énorme potentiel dont dispose le pays au point d'espérer une nouvelle marche en avant.

Cependant, s'exprimant le jeudi 29 juin 2023 à Monrovia lors d'une cérémonie commémorant le 247e anniversaire de l'Amérique, l'ambassadeur McCarthy a souligné que le Libéria peut avoir un avenir radieux s'il le souhaite, mais qu'il nécessitera un suivi substantiel sur les questions qu'il a décrites, y compris des élections qui auront lieu dans seulement deux mois.

Il a ajouté que l'un des principaux objectifs de l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia et la raison pour laquelle elle continue de fournir un soutien au pays dans divers secteurs, notamment la santé, l'éducation, les affaires et le leadership politique, est de voir le Libéria prospérer davantage.

Mais les Libériens réalisent-ils leur propre potentiel et les ressources dont Dieu a doté ce pays et comment les canaliser en faisant tentant de se débarrasser de la pauvreté, de la maladie, de la dégradation et de l'analphabétisme pour profiter de la prospérité et de la croissance, ou préférons-nous nous vautrer dans les vices qui nous ont mis dans un cercle vicieux de stagnation ?

Nous pensons que la déclaration de l'ambassadeur est un appel à tous les Libériens pour qu'ils sortent de leur sommeil et rêvent du genre de pays qu'ils envisagent pour eux-mêmes dans les quatre prochaines décennies ou plus afin d'améliorer leur bien-être personnel et général en tant que nation.

Imaginer par nous-mêmes le genre de pays que nous désirons est la première étape pour apporter des changements dans notre vie en tant que nation. La capacité peut poser un défi pour le moment, mais si nous ne pouvons développer la population jeune avec laquelle Dieu a béni le pays, nous pouvons mieux faire pour atteindre la prospérité et la croissance qui échappent à ce pays depuis les années 70 et 80.

En tant que partenaire traditionnel du Libéria, nous pensons que les États-Unis sont prêts à faire beaucoup plus pour fournir une assistance uniquement si nous pouvons agir ensemble en tant que peuple, prêt à faire des sacrifices. On ne peut atteindre la prospérité et la croissance que par le travail acharné.

Il ne s'agit pas que de changer de leader par les urnes, mais de démontrer l'amour pour la patrie à travers le service. Avec le retour dans le pays de 13 Volontaires Peace Corps après trois ans d'absence à cause de la COVID-19, le Libéria a tout à gagner si seulement nous exploitons leur expertise dans divers secteurs.

Nous croyons fermement que le nouveau Libéria dont a parlé l'ambassadeur McCarthy est à portée de main, mais encore faut-il que tous les Libériens mettent la main à la pâte et évitent la médiocrité, les



# Français

## La CPP mettra fin aux

libres et équitables.

Pour lui, la NEC n'a pas démontré sa volonté de traiter les questions fondamentales soulevées lors des dernières élections.

Kiatamba a apprécié l'implication de la communauté internationale dans le processus électoral et l'a considérée comme une évolution positive.

Cependant, il a souligné la nécessité d'obtenir des assurances de la part de la commission électorale. Il a aussi souligné l'importance de leur engagement auprès du public.

Kiatamba a exhorté la communauté internationale à aller au-delà de l'ordinaire et à intensifier ses efforts, car

les prochaines élections devraient être tendues et critiques.

De plus, M. Mo Ali a dit que le parti de l'unité a joué un rôle essentiel dans le développement du Libéria c'est pourquoi il reçoit plus de soutien pour gouverner le pays.

M. Ali pense que le soutien du Parti de l'unité à travers le pays augmente ses chances de remporter les élections d'octobre, ce qui est son objectif ultime.

Ali a déclaré que tout le soutien dont le Parti de l'unité bénéficie actuellement a une valeur significative, en particulier à un moment où le peuple libérien s'inquiète du fait que de jeunes perdent la vie à cause de la drogue.

## La CDC met en garde les perdants aux primaires

représentant Smith a allégué que le porte-drapeau de la CDC, le président George Manneh Weah, et les dirigeants de la CDC l'avaient trahi.

Selon lui, M. Weah est parvenu à un accord avec le caucus législatif du parti selon lequel tous les législateurs en exercice n'auraient pas été soumis à la primaire.

Il a ajouté qu'il avait été convenu que les législateurs de la CDC cherchant à être réélus lors des élections du 10 octobre 2023 devraient être considérés comme des candidats consensuels pour le ticket du parti.

Mais Kojjee a rappelé au candidat battu que c'est le même parti qui lui avait permis de se présenter sur son ticket aux élections de 2017.

Kojjee a fait valoir que Smith n'a aucune morale pour remettre en question les choix et les décisions du peuple.

Selon lui, le législateur avait été rejeté par les citoyens du district n° 2

lorsqu'il s'était présenté sur le ticket du Parti de l'unité, mais c'est la Coalition au pouvoir qui lui a redonné de l'espoir.

Pour lui, M. Smith est en train de commettre une terrible erreur en discréditant la décision des mêmes personnes qui l'avaient élu.

Selon Kojjee, la CDC n'impose pas de candidats à l'électorat, affirmant que le peuple a le temps et la possibilité de décider de qui ils veulent sur le ticket du parti lors d'une élection.

En même temps, M. Kojjee a félicité Kokulo Borvor, le vainqueur de la primaire dans la circonscription électorale n° 2 du comté de Montserrado,.

Il a également remercié le représentant Jimmy Smith pour sa participation pacifique et démocratique au processus, ajoutant que la décision du peuple est plus importante.

Pendant ce temps, Kojjee a révélé que tous les candidats défaits aux primaires de la CDC à travers le pays sont automatiquement membres de l'équipe de campagne nationale du parti.

## Sénégal : Macky Sall annonce qu'il ne sera pas candidat à un troisième mandat présidentiel



À la surprise générale, le président sénégalais ne sera pas en lice pour un second quinquennat pour l'élection prévue en février 2024. Dans un discours à la nation très attendu prononcé en direct sur la Radio-Télévision sénégalaise, le président sénégalais est également revenu sur les violences qui ont secoué le pays. « Ma décision, longuement et murement réfléchi, est de ne pas être candidat à la prochaine élection [présidentielle] du 25 février 2024 », a annoncé ce lundi soir le président Macky Sall, et ce, a-t-il précisé, « même si la Constitution m'en donne le droit ». Macky Sall, à travers cette déclaration, met un terme à suspens de plusieurs mois, voire plusieurs années, et déjoue les pronostics qui le voyaient concourir une troisième fois... mais pour un second quinquennat, subtilité qui selon lui l'autorisait à se porter candidat, ce que contestait fortement l'opposition. « J'ai un code d'honneur et un sens de la responsabilité qui me commandent de préserver ma dignité et ma parole », a-t-il développé pour justifier sa décision. Il avait en effet plusieurs fois affirmé que ce deuxième mandat, commencé en

2019, serait son dernier, rappelle notre correspondante à Dakar, Juliette Dubois. « J'ai une claire conscience et mémoire de ce que j'ai dit et écrit ». « Le Sénégal dépasse ma personne et il est rempli de leaders capables de pousser le pays vers l'émergence », a-t-il ajouté. « On a tant spéculé, commenté ma candidature à cette élection (...) Mes priorités portaient surtout sur la gestion d'un pays, d'une équipe gouvernementale cohérente, et engagée dans l'action pour l'émergence, surtout dans un contexte socio-économique difficile et incertain », a-t-il ajouté.

En préambule de cette déclaration, le président sénégalais est longuement revenu sur les violences - mot prononcé à maintes reprises - qui ont secoué le pays début juin après la condamnation de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko, et qui ont fait 16 morts. Ces derniers mois, des manifestants étaient descendus dans les rues pour lui demander de ne pas se représenter. Macky Sall a donc beaucoup évoqué la sécurité et la paix dans son discours. Qualifiées d'« insoutenables » et « inexcusables », ces violences « ont mis à l'épreuve notre cohésion sociale », des « événements particulièrement graves », « occasionnant des morts et des blessés et la destruction massive de biens publics et privés », a déclaré le président. « L'objectif funeste des instigateurs était clair » : « semer la terreur et mettre le pays à l'arrêt », a-t-il également affirmé, parlant d'un « crime organisé contre la nation sénégalaise, contre l'État, contre la république ». Le président a aussi rappelé à plusieurs reprises que la violence n'était pas une solution, semblant répondre à l'allocution de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko hier soir qui appelait à sortir dans la rue pour « finir le combat ».

## Le Côte d'Ivoire suspend les pêches artisanale et industrielle pour «repos biologique»

Cette mesure dure un mois pour la pêche artisanale et deux mois pour la pêche semi-industrielle. Le repos biologique vise à atténuer l'épuisement des ressources halieutiques. Une mesure similaire est observée au Ghana voisin, qui partage les mêmes secteurs de pêche. Reportage sur un quai de pêche de la capitale économique.

Au quai de pêche « Vridi 3 Zimbabwe », les pirogues sont amarrées les unes à côté des autres. Les pêcheurs ne travaillent pas, assure Kenneth Teby, qui préside l'association des pêcheurs ghanéens de ce site : « Toutes les pirogues sont à l'arrêt. Elles sont garées. Tout le monde est à la maison. On attend l'ouverture de la mer. »

Les pêcheurs doivent se serrer la ceinture faute de revenus ce mois-ci. Mais c'est une mesure fortement utile, car ils constatent eux-mêmes une forte diminution des ressources halieutiques ces dernières années.

« On a 1 200 piroguiers et aujourd'hui, lorsque le piroguier arrive, il peut venir avec un sceau, ce qui ne représente même pas cinq kilos, explique Yves Gnoukouri, le secrétaire général de l'Union des marins pêcheurs de Côte d'Ivoire. Avant il venait avec 15 assiettes, mais aujourd'hui, il n'y a pratiquement pas de poissons, se désolent-ils. C'est dû à la pêche chinoise



qui vient draguer dans les trois nœuds et détruit la faune aquatique des eaux de la Côte d'Ivoire. Donc en instaurant le repos biologique, nous pensons que le poisson va se reproduire.

Selon le département des ressources halieutiques, les marées sont plus longues et on constate une baisse de 30 % des prises de débarquement ces dernières années. « Nous avons prévu un comité de suivi qui va évaluer les impacts, tant sur le plan biologique que sur le plan économique, explique le colonel Alain Kodjo, conseiller technique en charge de la pêche dans ce ministère. Mais il faut attendre un an, deux ans pour mesurer les impacts réels. »

La Marine surveille l'application de cette mesure. En cas d'infraction, les pêcheurs risquent 1 à 5 ans de prison et/ou une forte amende.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Murder in Liberia: Update on the Charloe Musu Case

By DAGBAYONOH KIAH NYANFORE II

Early this month, June, this author discussed the murder of Charloe Musu, a young female university student in Liberia. She died in the house of former Supreme Court chief justice Gloria Scott. Mrs. Scott was her traditional mother in African



culture. According to the information, Charloe lived with her since the deceased was a girl. This edition updates the case.

On June 21, 2023, the Liberian National Police (LNP), through the Justice Ministry, arrested Mrs. Scott and three other co-defendants for murder, criminal conspiracy, and false reports to law enforcement officials regarding Charloe Musu. On June 22, LNP detailed the arrest, indicating that there was no intruder into the house by their investigations. That the defendants killed the deceased, conspired, and reported to LNP that an intruder murdered the victim.

Upon the arrest, supporters of the former Supreme Court judge complained that the arrest was politically motivated and asked that the defendants be freed. Seemingly, the support was for the former Supreme Court judge and not the other co-defendants, ordinary Liberians. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf “described the case of Cllr. Scott as a sad day says that Liberia’s Justice System has reverted to the bad ways of the past, “which I have personally experienced.” Sirleaf’s expression refers to her imprisonment during Samuel Doe’s regime for criticizing and insulting the government. Some observers reacted that her statement was uncalled for because her jailing was for advocacy while Scott’s is for killing.

Nevertheless, Counselor Tiawan Gongloe, a presidential candidate, called the arrest unfair and unfortunate. A director of a justice movement stated that LNP has a conflict of interest, that the police cannot be trusted, and that an independent counsel should be appointed for the case. Nyowo Scott, a son of Mrs. Scott, called the arrest political and said his mother and the other defendants were innocent. “The murderer is out there, and nobody is saying [anything],” he said. However, other Liberians are pleased that the government has finally taken action on the case and hope justice will be served because no one is above the law.

A team of over 30 lawyers is representing the defendants. The attorneys include some of the best legal minds in Liberia with Philips Banks, retired associate Supreme Court judge, and Counselor Negbalee Warner, past dean of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia. Regardless, the court denied the lawyers’ appeal for bail. The defendants are in a maximum security cell.

On June 28, the Special Grand Jury indicted the defendants. The document says, among other things, the following.

- That, on February 22 A.D., 2023, at about 10:00pm, the Defendants Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott, Gertrude Newton, Alice Johnson, and Rebecca Youdeh Wiser, with criminal minds and intent, armed with a sharp instrument believed to be a knife, and pepper spray, willfully, intentionally, purposely, and maliciously inflicted several bodily injuries on the person of Charloe Musu, including her chest, right hand, left thigh and left armpit, which led to her death, thereby committing the

crime of murder.

- That the Defendants knew what they had done was wicked and barbaric, and co-defendant Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott, being an experienced lawyer and criminal



justice practitioner, decided to lie by creating a story that would shield them from the gruesome act of murder. That is why Defendant Gertrude Newton narrated a story that no reasonable mind would ever believe; that after the man allegedly stabbed the deceased in the back, she took the knife from him, but he took it back from her, indicating that the multiple wounds found on the body of the deceased were inflicted by the alleged man who no evidence has

established ever existed. That co-defendant Scott also lied that she pepper sprayed the man in his face after she encountered him in the doorway of her room.

- In an attempt to cover up the truth about what transpired in the house, the defendants decided to concoct a story that a known man entered the house and stabbed the deceased to death; but to the contrary, it was the defendants who murdered the deceased after they were involved in an altercation, evidenced by the outlook of the room when the investigators appeared on the crime scene.

The defense has requested that the trial venue be changed from Monrovia, Montserrado County, to a different county, arguing that their clients would only get a fair trial if the city was not too involved in the case. According to experts, the request is within the law, and the court should grant the appeal. This means the case could be heard in Margibi County or Bomi County, the nearest counties to Montserrado. The defense also has called for bail again, saying that the persecutors have failed to name a single person committing the murder.

Some experts have pointed out that it would be difficult to get a murder guilty verdict since the weapon has not been located. But the persecutors believe they would win based on the evidence and witnesses. For instance, the state maintains that there was no intruder into the house and that a security guard came to the house upon hearing “a crying sound coming from inside the house,” and found the deceased’s body in co-defendant Scott’s private bathroom with bloodstains. Her living quarter is separated from the general quarter with a secured bar.

Moreover, the victim’s face is said to have “a foreign substance believed to be a pepper spray,” which collaborates with Scott’s earlier statement that she discharged pepper spray. Why was the victim’s body in her bathroom?

The case should start in August this year. While Liberians look forward to the trial, the government has asked the public for calm, withheld sentiments, and allowed the law to take its course.

# CDC rally money lands students in jail

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

A magisterial court in Harper, Maryland County has ordered two student leaders jailed for misapplying L\$250,000

high schools in the county for their projects. According to a ruling by the Harper Magisterial Court, Williams and Doe are among other young men who are supporting President George

that while Morlu promised L\$1 million for school projects and an additional L\$100,000 for transportation, there was a change of instructions later from Morlu and CDC's Maryland Chapter Chairman, Scearis Doe. Our correspondent tried to contact Chairman Morlu and Doe but did not get a response. Chairman Doe said he was in a meeting. "Doe and Morlu demanded some part of the L\$1 million for some guys at the city hall who were dissatisfied," Williams alleged. For his part, defendant Doe told the court that he was not around when the instruction was changed. But he remembered that L\$155,000 was distributed among the other schools.

According to Doe, Cape Palmas High School refused its portion of the money, expressing dissatisfaction over how the money was distributed. The Court, after hearing the case, determined that the two accused were guilty of the crime and ordered them to restore the money and present it to the school.

"Because of the defendant's inability to produce Chairmen Doe and Morlu to validate their claims, the court thereby convicts and sentences them to six months imprisonment at the Harper Central Prison. They are to also restore the L\$250K to Cape Palmas High School," the ruling said.

Williams and Doe took exception to the Harper Magistrate Court's ruling and filed an appeal before a Circuit Court in Maryland. They have been given 15 working days to perfect their appeals before a determination is made. Failure to do so, the magistrate court's judgment stands. The two accused spent days at the Harper Prison before they were let out to pursue their case in circuit court.

# House begins revision of 759.4 M recast budget

The House of Representatives- HOR has commenced revision of the draft restatement budget of fiscal year 2023.

Plenary decision Tuesday, 4 July, followed the submission of the instrument by the President George Weah.

"It is my pleasing duty to herewith submit to the 54 National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, a proposed Restatement of the FY2023 National Budget in the total amount of US\$759.4 (Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Million Four Hundred Thousand United States Dollars)", President Weah added.

The Liberian Leader said the confluence of reduction in the volume of trade, expiration of surcharge on petroleum, reduction of tariff on excise on petroleum and a six-month-running slump in global market prices of export commodities in the mining sector has engendered revenue underperformance in both tax and non-tax categories since the beginning of the current fiscal year.

According to him, this

President George Weah said the revised revenue envelope for the proposed Restated Budget is US\$759.4 (Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Million Four Hundred Thousand US Dollars), reflecting a net decrease of US\$23.5 million or 3.0 percent below the originally approved Budget of US\$782.9 Million.

"The total adjusted recurrent expenditure is estimated at US\$612,558,028 (Six Hundred & Twelve Million Five Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Twenty-Eight United States Dollars) or 80.7 percent of the total proposed expenditure. The revised expenditure estimate for public sector investment is US\$146,857,790 (One Hundred & Forty-Six Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety United States Dollars) or 19.3 percent of the total proposed expenditure", he added.

Meanwhile, a motion by Lofa County District 3 Representative, Clarence Massaquoi, on behalf of



provided by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) for distribution with multiple student leaders.

Harper Magisterial Court recently found former Tubman University Student leaders Victor Williams and Sawlodi Doe guilty of misappropriation of entrusted property following their trial for the L\$250K.

The court sentenced them to six months imprisonment each, but they have appealed against the ruling.

The two students ran into trouble in handling the money after CDC Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu, Jr., donated the cash during his visit to Maryland County.

Morlu visited Maryland at the same time Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor was rallying citizens in Southeast Liberia to take advantage of the Biometric Voters' Registration (BVR) process which ended in May.

Morlu made several cash donations to citizens including L\$3m to both heads of the Pleebo General Market and Pleebo Town Small Market in Maryland County.

He also made donations to marketeers at the Harper General Market and L\$1.1m donation for four government

Manneh Weah's re-election bid in Maryland County.

The court said they were given L\$250,000 on 11 April by Mr. Morlu for donation to the Cape Palmas High School.

The L\$250,000 was part of the L\$1m intended to be distributed to the four government high schools in the County for their school projects.

During the trial, Williams and Doe chose to represent themselves instead of hiring the services of a lawyer.

They pleaded not guilty to the charges of misappropriation of entrusted property.

"The purpose of the funds, according to the CDC chairman, was for the schools to undertake student council projects."

"And the L\$100K was for the school to transport the students who had gone to see him back home," state witness Annie Sleweon said. The four government high schools are Cape Palmas and John Hillary High School in Harper district, and Pleebo High and Pleebo Sodoken Central High Schools in Pleebo district. Each of the schools should have received L\$250,000 for their projects. But Williams, in his testimony, told the Court



House Speaker Bhofal Chambers

underperformance has posed a challenge for executing the budget in the first two-quarters of FY2023 and prompted early reprioritization and program deferrals in some instances.

"It is against the foregoing that realization of the aggregate amount of US\$23.5 million or 3.5 percent of the total projected Domestic revenue of US\$672 million has been deemed a risk and untenable", he added.

The President said to ensure that year-end spending is in line with available resources, adjustments in spending entities' program allocation balances have been made such that the risk is absorbed by all and sundry.

He added that critical priority allocations for the ensuing elections and the national electricity grid have been ring-fenced.

plenary received the instrument and vowed to consider such upon the distribution of copies to each lawmaker.

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# Sen. Smith wants Burkinabees

different from illegal settlement as reportedly being carried out by those Burkinabees.

He also cautioned his fellow senators to stop intellectualizing a situation that may cause problems for the country instead of promptly arresting the matter in the interest of the state.

Senator Geevon-Smith maintained that the people of

River Cess County will ensure those Burkinabees are not given a single space if the Liberian government defaults on its constitutional obligation to defend and protect the country and its people.

Meanwhile, following plenary's deliberations, Senator Geevon-Smith's concern was forwarded to the Senate joint Committees on

Defense, Security and Veteran Affairs and Internal Affairs to probe the matter and report back next week.

The joint committee is being led by the Committee on Defense, Security and Veteran Affairs following a motion from Grand Bassa County Senator, Jonathan Kaipay. -edited by Othello B. Garblah

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## Sam Jabbah: A rising star in the Maritime Sector

As Liberia's trade relations with the international market expands, there will be the need for a corresponding expansion in expertise to man the sector. The Freeport of Monrovia which is the

fast rising Maritime stars, Sam Jabbah is a shining example for the sector.  
**HIS CAREER JOURNEY**  
From Sailor to a Marine Services Coordinator and soon-to-be fully qualified Marine Pilot at the Freeport of

becoming a Deck Officer, handling vessels at the Freeport of Monrovia. His exceptional leadership was soon felt as a Marine Pilot Trainee. He displayed excellence and championed policy implementation in the areas of navigation and safety at APM through coaching and training of co-workers which helped to improve their skills and wellbeing.

Sam is an internationally trained Marine professional having attended the South African Maritime Training Academy in Cape Town, the Maritime Professional Training in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the Falck Safety Services in Houston, Texas and the Canarian School of Navigation and Maritime Safety in Tenerife, Spain.

He recently completed a program in Nautical Science at the Regional Maritime University in Ghana and obtained a Certificate of Competency (CoC) as an Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch from the Ghana Maritime Authority.

According to Officer Jabbah, the course exposed him to improved safety methods and precautionary



Sam Jabbah

heartbeat of the Liberian economy is the major trade infrastructure serving as the conduit for the import of critical goods and the export of commodities to other markets. Just like any industry, critical human resource at the Freeport of Monrovia will need continuous professional development to be able to meet up to global standards and it is the reason the story of one of Liberia's

Monrovia, Sam Jabbah's dream of impacting his country's Marine sector is on course, all thanks to APM Terminals Liberia for its desire to fully implement a Marine Pilot "Liberianization" program.

Sam is the first Liberian undergoing training to become a trained Marine Pilot at the Freeport of Monrovia. He started his career as an Ordinary Seaman (OS) before

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