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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023	L\$183.1757/US\$1.00	L\$185.1102/US\$1.00

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

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P11



Assistant Health Minister for Curative Services, Dr. Gborbee G. Logan

Liberia grapples with 47,917 At-risk youth

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Continental News

Sudan Violence Rages as Paramilitaries Deny Darfur War Crimes

Airstrikes pummeled Khartoum on Sunday and fighting raged in Sudan's western Darfur region, witnesses said, as a three-month war between the army and rival paramilitaries showed no signs of abating. In the capital's east and northwest, army fighter jets "targeted bases" belonging to

commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, has claimed at least 3,000 lives and displaced over 3 million people since it erupted on April 15. In Darfur, a vast region which has seen some of the worst of the fighting, witnesses on Sunday

of mass civilian deaths and ethnically charged assassinations blamed on the RSF and allied Arab militias.

On Saturday, the RSF said it "categorically refutes" a recent report by Human Rights Watch that detailed the summary execution of "at least 28 ethnic Massalit" – a non-Arab minority group – and the "total destruction of the town of Misterei" in West Darfur state.

The RSF blamed the violence on "longstanding tribal conflict" and said it "strictly adheres" to "international humanitarian law."

The paramilitary force stemmed from the Janjaweed militia, which was armed and unleashed against ethnic minority rebels in Darfur in the early 2000s.

That conflict killed more than 300,000 people and displaced 2.5 million, the U.N. estimates. Atrocities committed at the time led the International Criminal Court to charge former dictator Omar al-Bashir with offenses including genocide.

The court's chief prosecutor has launched a new investigation into suspected war crimes in the current fighting, including sexual violence and civilians being targeted for their ethnicity. VOA



Smoke billows in the distance around the Khartoum Bahri district amid ongoing fighting in Sudan

the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who "responded with anti-aircraft weapons," witnesses told AFP.

RSF drones targeted Khartoum's largest military hospital, according to witnesses. A similar attack Saturday on the same facility left five dead and 22 injured, the army said.

The war between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF

reported "heavy clashes using various types of weapons" in the town of Kas.

Residents of Kas, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of the South Darfur state capital of Nyala, said houses were broken into and looted by RSF fighters.

The paramilitaries in a statement hailed their "victory" in the town. Darfur, home to around a quarter of Sudan's 48 million people, has seen entire towns razed to the ground, with reports

unemployment and millions going to the diaspora," Chamisa told thousands of supporters gathered at a stadium in the city.

Supporters clad in the party's yellow regalia braved chilly weather to attend the rally following sustained efforts by the police and judiciary to ban opposition party rallies. "They have been banning our campaigns, but no one will ban us from

people's hearts," Chamisa said to thunderous applause.

Chamisa promised to deal with endemic corruption and misuse of the country's resources by the ruling elite, adding that the mineral-rich country should benefit all. This is Chamisa's second bid for the presidency and first under the banner of the CCC, which launched early last year. VOA

Zimbabwe Opposition Leader Launches Campaign With Promise of Prosperity

Zimbabwe's main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa promised economic prosperity and an end to corruption as he launched his party's campaign Sunday for national elections set for Aug. 23.

Chamisa, who leads the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), is running against 80-year-old President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who has led the ruling Zanu-PF since a coup ousted Robert Mugabe in 2017.

The 45-year-old politician, lawyer and pastor launched his "For Everyone" campaign in the city of Gweru, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) east of the capital Harare, vowing to fix the country's unrelenting economic crises.

Chamisa lamented the lack of development in the country, saying there was little to show after 43 years of democracy. "All we see is poverty,



Nelson Chamisa, leader of Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), arrives at a rally to celebrate the launch of his election campaign in Gweru, Zimbabwe

African Clerics: Muslim Women Leadership Fine Under Islamic Teachings

Leaders from 25 Muslim-majority countries in Africa meeting in Cameroon on Friday called for an end to the exclusion of women from political, social, economic and religious issues in the name of Islamic teachings.

The more than 300 clerics, Islamic scholars and researchers at the U.N. conference on Islam, Women's Empowerment and Peace Building said they were launching a campaign in Africa to counter stereotypes that impede the emancipation of Muslim women.

The consensus of the conference was that Muslim women are the most affected by conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa and should take lead roles in communities and decision-making.

Mamadou Lamine Diallo, a

work is an outdated African practice. He said Boko Haram has been using female suicide bombers since 2010 with false promises that when a woman dies while fighting for Islam, she immediately goes to heaven.

Clerics said Muslim women constitute a majority of those enduring unprecedented levels of sexual violence, increased food insecurity and displacement. Muslim women are the largest group of the 3 million people displaced by Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger, according to the clerics. Maryam Amsha, a female Muslim leader in Bambari, a commercial town in the Central African Republic (CAR), said exclusion makes Muslim women ignorant of their roles in building peace in that country. "It will be an abuse of democratic norms if a majority of the more than 51% of CAR's 900,000 Muslims who are



Nigerian Muslim women and children attend Eid al-Adha prayers at an open field in Lagos, June 28, 2023. African Muslim leaders meeting in Cameroon on July 14, 2023, said the idea that women should be allowed to carry out only domestic chores and farm work is an outdated.

Muslim scholar and researcher at the Lansana Conte University in Guinea Conakry, said the campaign will begin in communities where some Muslim leaders teach and practice concepts that are strange to Islam. Diallo said teachings that girls should be given to marriage in their teens, and that women should leave social, economic and political activities to men, are misleading. He said that in the Quran, Prophet Muhammad, who is the founder of Islam, established complete equality between men and women. He said the fact that Muhammad's first wife, Khadija, was a highly respected business leader who traded in furniture, pottery and silks, is an indication that women should not be excluded from political, social, economic and religious issues in the name of Islamic teachings. Some ideas called outdated Diallo said the idea that women should be allowed to carry out only domestic chores and farm

women do not take part in expected elections because they have been taught to avoid politics," Amsha said. She said she is "inviting imams to make sure that Muslim women are taking part in negotiations to end a decade of political tensions and develop CAR." The Central African Republic will hold presidential elections in 2025. Amsha said a president elected by a majority of civilians, including women, will be a major step to peace. CAR descended into chaos after longtime leader Francois Bozize was overthrown in 2013 by a predominantly Muslim rebel alliance called Seleka. Cameroonian Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute, who chaired the conference, said that if not stopped, some religious beliefs will slow Africa's development. "Culture is an important lever of people's development," Ngute said. "In this context, it is essential that women in general and those from the Islamic tradition in particular, see it as an instrument of personal development. VOA

EDITORIAL

More than we think of drug abuse in Liberia

Statistics from the Ministry of Health putting the number of At-risk youth or drug-addicted youth in Liberia at 47,917 is nothing but an understatement of a situation that has become a national crisis and center of discussion in all quarters of the country.

Parents, guardians and institutions across Liberia are lamenting a serious situation that threatens the next generation of Liberians and yet, authorities at the Ministry of Health wants the nation to believe that youth already affected by drugs are less than 50,000.

We vehemently disagree with this figure, for Monrovia alone, not to talk of Montserrado County, has more than 50,000 drug-addicted youth. They are in communities and ghettos across the city needless to talk about the entire county or the remaining 14 counties.

Substances such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, tramadol, and kush, among others, are being smuggled into Liberia daily thru our porous borders, and even official port of entries as was experienced at the Freeport of Monrovia on two separate occasions with cocaine valued nearly 150 million United States Dollars!

Assistant Minister for Curative Services at the Ministry of Health and Head of the Technical Working Group for the government's At-Risk Youth Program, Dr. Gborbee G. Logan, revealed at the Ministry of Information's weekly press briefing last Thursday that a total of 47,917 at-risk youth are across Liberia.

Dr. Logan explained that after President George Weah launched a US\$13 million rehabilitation program in 2022 for drugs-addicted youth, a committee was established with a goal of reaching at least 500 youth per year, but revealed that recent weeks have shown an alarming increase in complaints from At-risk youth, particularly in Montserrado County.

His explanation clearly validates our position that the figure presented at MICAT press briefing last week is nothing but belittling the issue because drugs are being distributed across all 15 counties at a very fast pace than we imagine by well-organized syndicates that include both Liberians and aliens.

Even school campuses are not being spared by the network of unscrupulous individuals trading contrabands, particularly narcotics to our youth.

Come to think of this: The smugglers, distributors and dealers are ahead of whatever programs and steps that government intends to take to addressing the drug situation because they have collaborators among security forces of our country that man our borders. The security forces should be going after those corrupting the future our youth thru drugs, but the reality proves the contrary.

We must be sincere with ourselves as Liberians, particularly as government, and stop politicking with our youth. The Government of Liberia must muster enough courage to face the bleak future that lies before the next generation and work overtime in addressing the drug situation as a national emergency than paying lip service.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh,
Sandrine Dixson-Declève,
and Johannah Bernstein

Why the Paris Financing Summit Failed

The recent Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact was touted by its organizers, including French President Emmanuel Macron, as a groundbreaking initiative to forge a "new contract" between the Global North and South that would address climate change and foster sustainable development. The fact that most G20 leaders did not even bother to show up, however, casts doubt on the feasibility of the effort.

Despite the participation of roughly 50 heads of state, high-ranking representatives of international institutions, private-sector executives, and climate experts, the summit did not live up to its lofty promises. It failed to introduce the necessary measures to narrow the climate-finance gap, provide lower-income countries with the fiscal space they need to weather the current debt crisis, and overhaul the global financial architecture.

Shockingly, the summit concluded without a single firm commitment. This can be attributed to the opaque and unequal preparatory process, which lacked adequate consultation with low-income countries and civil-society groups and thus failed to create the conditions for forging new global policy frameworks. Ahead of the Paris meeting, the Club of Rome's Earth4All Transformational Economics Commission published an open letter identifying four critical issues that leaders and policymakers must address. Unfortunately, there has been little progress on any of them.

Climate finance is a case in point. Rich-country leaders' ongoing failure to deliver on their 2009 pledge to provide developing countries with \$100 billion in annual climate financing has significantly delayed necessary investments and undermined global cooperation. The summit's concluding statement, titled "The Paris Agenda for People and the Planet," states that developed countries will finally meet their climate-financing target this year - a dubious claim, given that the conference ended with no new financial commitments.

In recent years, donor governments have overestimated their climate-finance spending, claiming to have mobilized \$83.3 billion in 2020 when the actual figure was closer to \$24.5 billion. Compounding the problem, most of this support was provided through loans rather than grants, exacerbating the debt burdens of low-income countries. Moreover, as a recent Reuters investigation has revealed, the vagueness of the term "climate finance," together with the absence of a system to track these funds and their impact, has allowed billions of dollars to be directed toward fossil-fuel-related projects and other investments that have nothing to do with reducing emissions.

Although the ongoing global debt crisis has widened the climate-finance gap, the Paris summit failed to tackle the problem. With more than 70 developing countries either in dire need of debt relief or already in default, global leaders offered no concrete proposals for improving the International Monetary Fund's Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable or the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments, both of which have not yielded the expected results. The only relevant development to come out of the meeting was the announcement of a \$6.3 billion debt restructuring deal between Zambia and its creditors that does not include any debt reduction.

While failing to meet their own obligations, global leaders overemphasized the private sector's role. Although private investors control more than \$210 trillion in financial assets, only a

small fraction of this is invested in lower-income countries. Moreover, the financial sector's predatory lending practices have increased the debt burdens of already-distressed countries across the developing world.

These issues were conspicuously absent from the discussions during the Paris summit, perhaps because Macron's advisers included BlackRock and Amundi, two of the worst offenders. Both firms have consistently rejected requests for debt relief from countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Zambia, insisting on full repayment despite benefiting from higher interest rates. BlackRock, which holds \$220 million of Zambian sovereign bonds, could generate \$180 million in profit for clients if the country paid its debts in full - a 110% return on its investment.

A reallocation of special drawing rights, the IMF's reserve asset, offers a cost-effective way to provide lower-income countries with critical financing. While the Paris summit's organizers claimed to have achieved the target of recycling \$100 billion of SDRs from advanced economies to vulnerable countries, this statement is misleading. The United States' pledge to contribute \$21 billion worth of SDRs, for example, is contingent on congressional approval.

The main channels for SDR recycling are expected to be the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST). So far, however, neither fund has disbursed any recycled SDRs. While Rwanda, Costa Rica, and Barbados are supposed to receive disbursements from the RST soon, it will likely take years to re-channel the full \$100 billion. Meanwhile, summit participants barely discussed the SDR allocation process, which relies on outdated and unfair IMF quotas.

In the absence of alternative measures, lower-income countries have little choice but to raise taxes to boost government revenues. But the Paris agenda includes only a generic statement on promoting international cooperation to explore new avenues for international taxation and for combating illicit financial flows. Regrettably, wealth taxation was excluded from the official agenda, along with proposals for global taxes on financial transactions, windfall profits, and multinational corporations. Even the idea of a global tax on carbon emissions from shipping was ignored.

The Paris summit was supposed to catalyze the transformation of the international financial system. But its failure to address the urgent needs of the world's most vulnerable countries puts it in the same league as other recent missed opportunities, such as the IMF and World Bank's Spring Meetings and the G7 meeting in Hiroshima.

A just transition to a low-carbon economy is the only way forward. But even as the planet continues to heat up and inequality and poverty rise, governments in the Global North are stalling. As we approach the G20 meeting in New Delhi in September and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) in November and December, we must hold governments and financial institutions accountable and demand urgent and radical climate action.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission. Sandrine Dixson-Declève is Co-President of the Club of Rome and co-author of Earth For All: A Survival Guide for Humanity. Johannah Bernstein is Senior Policy Lead at Earth4All.

OP-ED

By Joel E. Cohen, John E. Rogers

Financing Childhood Growth

In 2020, chronic undernutrition stunted the growth of nearly a quarter of the world's children under five years old. Being too short for one's age, as a result of chronic undernutrition, can cause irreversible physical and cognitive damage and increases the risk of dying from common infections.

Improving the lives of these children is not a question of food supply. Current cereal grain production, about 2.8 billion tons, provides enough calories to feed 11-14 billion people - more than meeting humanity's current needs. But less than half of the world's grain is eaten by humans, with the remainder fed to animals or burned as fuel. Almost every gallon of gasoline in the United States, for example, contains 10% corn ethanol.

Too poor to affect grain prices in global markets, the chronically hungry are economically invisible. To avert the devastating and long-lasting effects of poor nutrition and health, we propose an innovative financing mechanism that will attract impact investors and ensure adequate food for these malnourished children.

In 2019, two World Bank economists, Emanuela Galasso and the late Adam Wagstaff, found that childhood stunting reduces adult economic productivity, estimating a per capita income loss of between 5-7% in developing countries. And that figure does not account for the millions of stunted children who die young.

Galasso and Wagstaff also conducted a cost-benefit analysis of applying ten tested nutrition interventions over ten years in 34 countries that together account for 90% of the world's stunted children. According to their estimates, the benefits would outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least five to one, and the annual rate of return would be 12%.

Such high payoffs could induce investors to buy development impact bonds focused on ending childhood stunting in low-income countries. The idea behind this type of financial instrument, in which investors provide financing for development programs and receive returns only if agreed-upon outcomes are achieved, is "to generate a positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return."

The World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) tried a similar mechanism, albeit to provide emergency funding to the poorest countries in the event of a pandemic. Investors purchased insured bonds in 2017, and the proceeds were to be paid to developing countries to contain infectious-disease outbreaks. The Bank closed the PEF in April 2021, amid criticism that it was too generous to investors while being too strict and too slow in payouts to governments. Nevertheless, an independent assessment from the London School of Economics concluded that a "properly reformed" PEF has "great potential" to contain pandemics with early and effective responses.

While the large benefit-cost ratio of tested nutrition interventions provides a compelling rationale for development impact bonds, a model of private financing or a public-private partnership could avoid the PEF's mistakes and overcome governmental and individual corruption, cumbersome bureaucracies, and political instability.

Returns on investments in nutrition-intervention bonds would be tied to programs' projected economic benefits. After all, effective nutrition interventions should boost productivity and increase the tax base in the participating country. For example, governments could contract with bond issuers to establish and operate anti-stunting programs and then gradually increase payments to these issuers for their nutrition interventions as the expected economic benefits materialize.

Of the many possible models for "childhood growth" bonds, the majority of these bonds would be jointly issued by a parent entity in the developed world and its subsidiary in the local country. Together, they would design the program in consultation with the participating government and recognized experts in child nutrition, field interventions, and data evaluation.

After receiving the invested funds, the parent entity would channel them tax-free to the subsidiary to implement the nutrition interventions alongside the government. That could mean buying food from local producers or markets and delivering it to poor pregnant women and undernourished children. Supplying food, at least in part, through monitored childcare programs outside the home could reduce misappropriation.

Under the contract with the parent and the subsidiary (whose terms would be public), government payments would be in a hard currency. A "sinking fund" would cover interest payments until the government begins to see results. The government would also have the right to assume control of the program at any time in exchange for prepaying the bonds.

The simplest model would offer fixed principal and interest payments, backed by fixed contractual payments. But investors with a greater appetite for risk may prefer governments to reward better-than-expected improvements in child nutrition and related tax revenues with larger contractual payments, triggering larger payments to the bondholders. Of course, poorer-than-expected improvements would result in smaller payments.

It will be important to design payment rights early and well. Given that emerging markets have a long history of debt crises, and that governments tend to repay development-finance institutions (DFIs) first, investors will want these bonds to rank equally in payment rights with the government's debts to DFIs. They may also insist on the contract being tied to a governmental obligation to a DFI, a DFI guarantee of the bonds, or an agreement by a DFI to purchase the bonds from the bondholders upon any payment default.

Nutrition-intervention bonds are an innovative financing vehicle that promises to put food on the table, prevent childhood stunting, and yield high returns for investors. If well-structured, they can be powerful catalysts for economic growth and improving the welfare of the world's most vulnerable people.



Lord, Let them leave us with your US30M story mehn

Dear Father:

Some comen them really geh dry face for true ya. So, you wan tell us da some strangers just out of de blue skies came and offered you 30 million of Uncle Sam's money and you say, you just turned your blind eye to it, puaah. You weh leh money and power bad way leh da. Wait na de Old man had you under some kina spell!

For a second there, even my grandma Solace sef will na have believed da your orlor stori, stori. You better find somewhere to go sit down and shell your crocodile tears and stop disturbing us with your "Kweku Annasee" story.

Bor wait oo, you, yourself too ya, you expect da Old man who leh him tradition bisnay leh da to choose you as him running mate? Loka aye, cat really lick your face oo. So, da power na you want?

You better find something to do! You were playing de Old man, and de Old man wor also playing you too. The Old man na come on top na, den you wan us to feel sorry for you, with your 30 million "Kweku Annasee" story-lala. You better go and sit down with your papy somewhere else! It look leh your dry face na from round here ehn.

Da who my son telling to go sit down again my people?

Father, da na dis orlor conman, who here telling us how some strangers came out of the blue skies to offer him 30 million Uncle Sam's money and he allowed one eighty-year old papy to cajole him. You better stop looking at my face.

If de Old man na mean you with him vice running mate job and it hurting you, you better find different thing to say why you shell your crocodile tears. You think de Old man na know who to make him vice running mate and you come sit down there saying how you say, you na wan 30 million-complete vlah. You better tell your papy so your can find somewhere else to carry your level.

Hahaha, lol, I begging ya. So, where you think they can go right now? Father, de way they na spoiled everywhere right now. I think de man and him papy only geh one option na oo-de Footballer camp. You mean de Country Giant?

Yes, Father. Bor where else can they go? They can't go to Taxi Driver, becus him papy can't even stand him. Ehn, da de man papay and de Old man connived, they wanted Taxi Driver to rot in jail. SO noway, they will be able to go around him, since their relationship with de Old man na chakla beyond repair.

As for my Lawyer friend par, He na even want to hear de name. He say anybody who wor friend to Old rebel cannot even come near him. So, de only hope they geh right na, da de Country Giant.

They will stay long inside. You na know politics, you wan play with Old man leh da. You only know cheap propaganda, and geh Kapagee, da na politics. The Old man played real politics with you and your papy-your will respect the Old man ba.

For de Country Giant, de man wan chop second round so, anybody who come, he willing to take de person. He na care where you come from and what you did there. De only thing, he will na dash you with job.

The bad news is da, de Country Giant already fini drawing him line. You can't even come near him. So, just be going around with regret and your 30 million story.



MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

Office of the Secretary-General

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(Women are strongly encouraged to apply)

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

5

For the Conduct of Gender Based Violence Risk Assessment and GBV Action Plan Development for the Building Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) within the Mano River Union sub-region.

Position open to Nationals of the Mano River Union Member States

(Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

REF. NO: EOI - AfDB/MRU/BI-BEST-0015

DATE OF ISSUE: Monday, July 17, 2023

I. Introduction

The Mano River Union with support from the African Developing Bank (AfDB) is implementing the Building Inclusive Business Ecosystem for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) project that is largely aimed at improving cross-border trade involving mainly women in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The project which is aimed at enhancing women's trade capacity as a way of improving livelihood and building a more equitable and inclusive trading environment was launched in the City of Freetown in October 2022. The project provides for the conduct of an assessment that will inform capacity building for women involved in cross-border trade at the selected border points.

II. Background:

Cross-border trade plays a critical role in the economies of the Mano River Union (MRU) countries. It promotes entrepreneurial activity and regional trade, contributes to food security, and enhance income-earning and employment opportunities for poor households especially for women. Cross-border trade is an important livelihood strategy for women and men living in border areas of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

However, Cross-border trade is often marred by high levels of Gender Based Violence (GBV), mostly perpetuated against Women Cross Border Traders (WCBT). The issue of GBV continues to present challenges relative to abuses and other problems including but not limited to occupational health, safety risks and sometimes loss of capital. Women, who make up a significant portion of Cross border traders are often faced with unique vulnerabilities and disadvantages including lack of business registration and appropriate immigration and customs documents.

The consultant is expected to conduct a GBV Risk Assessment mainly with cross-border women traders and develop a GBV Action Plan that will outline relevant interventions as well as create an awareness towards the elimination of GBV

affecting cross border traders mainly at two separate locations (Jendema in Sierra Leone/Bo Waterside in Liberia and Koindu, Sierra Leone/Foya, Liberia).

III. General Objective of the Consultancy

To provide a context specific information on gender-based violence experienced by women cross-border traders and their communities in project sites in Sierra Leone and Liberia

IV. Specific Objectives:

1. Conduct a GBV risk assessment in and around the project sites; covering the project district
2. Develop a GBV action plan

V. Expected deliverables/Outcomes.

- i) Inception report: Outlining details/process of how the assessment will be organized and carried out in not less than 5 days from the date of signing of contract.
- ii) Final Report: Prepare and submit a comprehensive report on GBV Risk Assessment conducted involving cross-border women traders in selected project communities 20 days after the signing of the contract.
- iii) GBV Action Plan: Prepare and submit a comprehensive GBV Action Plan clearly detailing activities and strategies to improve GBV in selected project areas/locations 25 days after the signing of contract.
- iv) Validation: Organize a presentation meeting for the MRU and the AfDB. Submit PowerPoint presentation of the findings and the Action Plan in soft copies to the MRU 30 days upon contract signing.

VI. Qualifications and Experience

Minimum Education Qualification and Experience

- § An advanced degree in Gender Studies, Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Business Management, Finance, or related field disciplines.
- § At least 5 years of proven work experience in conducting assessments, surveys for donor funded project in developing countries and a very good experience in Women's Economic Empowerment and entrepreneurial related activities, awareness, training/capacity building, and a good knowledge of value chains.
- § Excellent research, interpersonal and communication skills with demonstrated high level of integrity and ethical considerations
- § Experience conducting surveys and assessments for donor-funded projects will be an added advantage.
- § Must a very good command of English, and an excellent report writing skill.

VII. Duration: Three Months, from the date of signature of contract

VIII. Application

Applicants should submit both their Technical and Financial Proposals with the CV of resource persons to the e-mails: jobs@mru.int Copy: fnyuma@mru.int ; info@mru.int not later than August 4, 2023. Indicate the title of the position in the subject of your email "Expression of Interest to Conduct a GVB Risk Assessment" for MRU/BI BEST Project to the address below:

Mano River Union Secretariat
32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown
Rep. of Sierra Leone
Tel: +232 76-503-112

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

I'm very impressed

-Agriculture Minister hails Jeety rubber processing plant

Liberia's Agriculture Minister Madam Jeanine M. Cooper says she is very impressed by a state-of-the-art rubber processing plant being established by



Another thing that impressed Minister Cooper is that Mr. Jeety has cut in half his targeted time for the completion of establishing the rubber processing plant.

Minister Cooper and her entourage toured the Jeety Rubber Processing Plant in Margibi County on Saturday, 15 July 2023.

Through the plant, Liberia could make history by establishing the first surgical gloves-producing factory on the African continent, besides the production of other essential rubber materials that are normally imported here.

"Well, I am very, very impressed. Uh, this is a state-of-the-art rubber processing plant. It's been a long time since I have seen one set up here in Liberia," Minister Cooper told journalists following the tour.

She said some of her impressions about the Jeety Rubber Processing Plant is the way things are set up to protect the environment against waste and environmental pollution.

Having toured the plant, Minister said a circular system is set up so that things are recycled and go into the plant.

said the Jeety Rubber Processing Plant will be the first surgical gloves factory on the African continent.

She said though rubber is not a smallholder farming crop, so many smallholder farmers have been developed in the sector over the years.

Initially, she said, the system was not set up for smallholding because a minimum amount of rubber trees are needed to be able to realize anything.

To run a rubber plantation, she said so many things are needed besides the market where you are going to sell. She said you need vehicles, import supplies, and make payroll.

According to Minister Cooper, rubber is an expensive cash crop that is difficult for smallholders to make a profit from.

But she said the good thing is that there are a few companies that buy rubber from Liberian farmers.

According to Minister Cooper, Firestone is the main player that buys from Liberian farmers.

But when the FireStone plant breaks down and it can't buy from Liberian farmers, she said the whole economy feels it.

She recalled that during the Coronavirus crisis when FireStone closed down, the whole economy felt it.

"When FireStone sneezes, all of us will catch a cold. So now we have several others like Nimba Rubber [who] has set up a processing plant, but they too cannot handle even the volume of rubber that comes from the Liberian farmers," she noted.

In response to the Liberian farmers' need for cash for the Christmas season, she explained that FireStone recently overbought rubber and didn't have anywhere to store the rubber.

"And so, they slow down on buying. And everybody else who was coming now couldn't sell. Now you have alternatives - so Jeety, by setting up a processing plant," she noted.

'Liberia hails AU for formal endorsement of UNSC candidature'

The Government of Liberia has commended the African Union for formally endorsing Liberia's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2026-2027.

The decision to formally endorse Liberia's candidature was adopted on July 14, 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya, at the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, reaffirming the earlier endorsement by the AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures in 2022. Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Sarah Safyn Fyneah, represented Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador De-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., at the Session. Ambassador Fyneah attributed the formal endorsement to the farsightedness of Minister Kemayah, who acted with urgency to deliver on His Excellency President George Manneh Weah's quest to ensure that Liberia is represented on the

Liberia's support to the African Union's ongoing Institutional Reform and called on the African Union to reform its recruitment process, prioritizing candidates from under-represented countries like Liberia to ensure equitable representation. Liberia currently has less than 5 persons in the junior professional category at the African Union Commission, even though its representation quota was increased from 8 to 19 in 2021, in line with the institutional reform of the AU that started in 2019. "Liberia laments the slow pace of the recruitment process and proposes that a moratorium be placed on the further recruitment of Member States that have exceeded their representation gap cap. This will allow underrepresented countries to benefit from the recruitment process". Ambassador Fyneah emphasized. On the issue of the new scale of assessment of member states, which increases the assessed contribution of member states, Liberia proposed that the current scale of assessment be retained due to the prevailing global socio-economic challenges



Amb. Fyneah and Mr. Barchue at the 43rd Session of the AU in Nairobi

United Nations Security Council. Ambassador Fyneah: "The endorsement was a clean slate, thanks to the farsightedness of Minister Kemayah. The Government of Liberia requested early consideration of its candidature and further mobilized ECOWAS to endorse Liberia as the only candidate of the West African region. The United Nations Security Council is one of the most powerful organs of the United Nations and it will be considered a milestone achievement when Liberia is elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council at the elections that will be held in 2025 in New York." Ambassador Fyneah expressed Liberia's appreciation for the regional support of ECOWAS and the solidarity of the African Union and looks forward to the actualization of their support during the elections in 2025. In a related development, Ambassador Fyneah pledged

facing member states. The 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council convened under the African Union's Theme for the Year 2023: "Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation", in support of implementing the AfCFTA Agreement in a manner that truly benefits the people of the Continent and achieves the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063. The session will be followed by the 5th Mid-Year Coordination Conference between the African Union and Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanism, which is scheduled to take place on July 16, 2023. The Liberian delegation to the 43rd Ordinary Session included Mr. Jimmy Barchue, Acting Head of Liberia's Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Permanent Mission to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), who also played a pivotal role in ensuring Liberia's endorsement.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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NPP warns James Biney about 'fake chairmanship'

By Naneka Hoffman

The National Patriotic Party (NPP) has strongly warned its expelled chairman, James Biney, in Congo Town that Senator Biney is falsely presenting himself as NPP National Chairman. He warned that it is a violation of the party's

camp. He accused Biney of embarking on activities aimed at creating division in the ranks and files of the NPP.

"We have been silent thinking he will come to his senses and desist, but it seems that he is going too far and [we] will take legal action if he continues to do so," said Atty. Mulbah.

Meanwhile, Atty. Mulbah condemned Ambassador Boakai's threat to arrest and seize the properties of corrupt CDC government officials if he wins the presidency this October.

Mulbah said Boakai's threat is a witch hunt of officials of the government.

For his part, NPP National Secretary General Andrew Peters said the Unity Party-led government was three times more corrupt than those Boakai believes are corrupt.

According to him, the CDC-led government can never feel threatened by Amb. Boakai because the Unity Party can never defeat the coalition in the 2023 elections. The NPP National Secretary General concluded that the Unity Party does not have the numbers to unseat the CDC-led government.



Hon Biney

Biney, to stop claiming chairmanship of the NPP. NPP, a constituent party of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), said Mr. Biney is the Co-Chairman for the opposition Unity Party Campaign. NPP National Chairman George Mulbah told a press conference over the weekend

constitution and that the party will not hesitate to seek legal redress. Attorney Mulbah explained that Senator Biney was expelled from the NPP and he is now a Co-Chairman of the opposition Joseph Boakai Campaign Committee. But Mulbah complained that Biney has been using the name of the NPP in the opposition

CDC certificates 88 aspirants

By Lewis S. Teh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has officially certificated 88 winners of its nationwide primaries, constituting both senatorial and representative aspirants.

The official certification ceremony was held at the party's headquarters in Oldest Congo Friday, 14 July 2023.

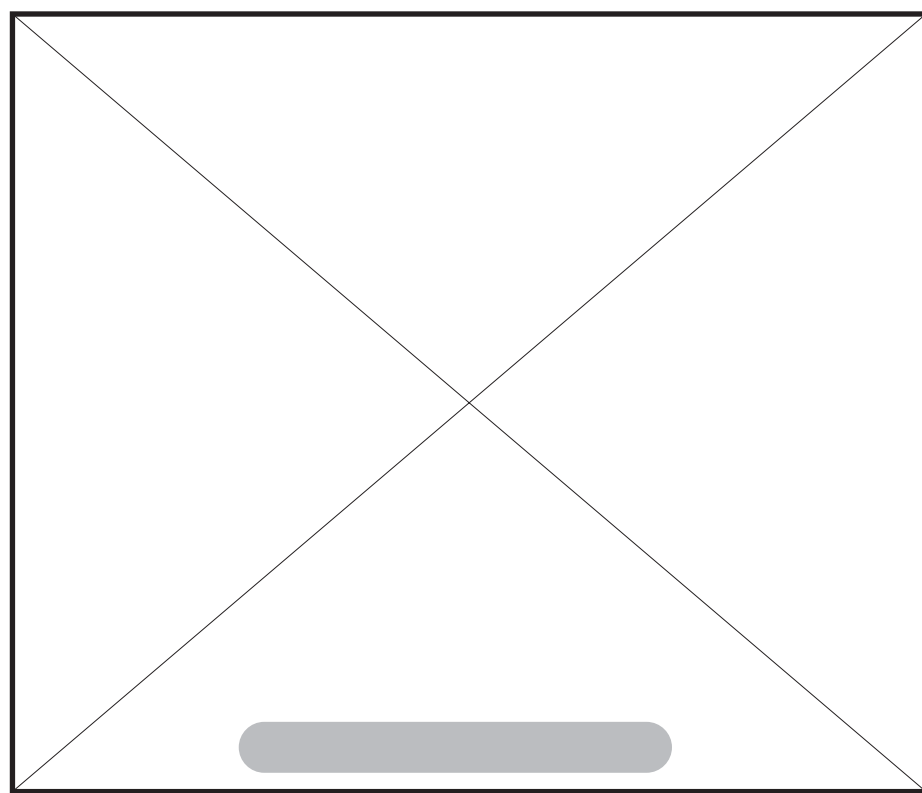
CDC Youth League Secretary General Hassan Newland called on supporters and CDC partisans to form a united force to defeat the opposition during the pending 10 October polls. "You are mandated to vote [for] President Weah on the first ballot on October 10. If we must avoid jeopardizing our future, then we must form a formidable force to defeat the opposition," said Mr. Newland.

Giving the overview of the

(NIR) Director-General Mr. Andrew Peters said the occasion was a glorious day for supporters and partisans of the CDC. "We want to appreciate all those that participated in the election of candidates that will represent our beloved party at the legislature," he said.

"It is our anticipation that we will win majority seats in the Legislature. The issue has been dealt with; we're just awaiting the results to claim our victory." Former Grand Cape Mount County Senator Albel Massaley congratulated the senatorial and representative aspirants on their victory. He said the fact that they won the primaries doesn't make them a winner, reminding them that there's a challenge that lies ahead of them.

"Winning the primary is one thing, and securing the full results is another thing. The challenge you have now is with your people," he



NEC ends candidate nomination process

By Naneka Hoffman

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has ended the candidate nomination process and commended all aspirants for submitting their documents in time for the closure of the process.

NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lanasah addressed a press conference over the weekend at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports complex at the end of the process.

She said it has been a headache during the nomination process and it was difficult for many of the aspirants to gather their necessary information.

According to her, the nomination process is a very critical aspect of the electoral process.

The NEC Boss explained that it's in the nomination process where they get to know who are the aspirants that are to be qualified to be candidates for the 10 October 2023 elections.

The National Elections Commission Chairperson applauded the aspirants and the

NEC staff that worked tirelessly during the process.

She gave a big thanks to the joint security, particularly the Liberia National Police (LNP), for working tirelessly to ensure that the process went smoothly.

She appreciated the authorities of the Ministry of Youth and Sports for allowing the NEC to use the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex to conduct the candidate nomination process.



Madam Davidetta Browne-Lanasah

ceremony, a stalwart of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Mr. Poe Wesseh said the primary was the result of allowing CDC supporters and partisans to select candidates of their choice in their various counties and districts.

He said the CDC continues to do unprecedented things.

"That's why we went to our people to form part of the decision-making process. This exercise took seven days in all of the fifteen counties," said Mr. Wesseh. "We give the people the opportunity by selecting fifty delegates from each of the constituent parties that made up the CDC, bringing it to the total of 450 delegates that were allowed to form part of the voting process," he said. Making a special statement, NPP National Secretary General and National Identification Registry

continued. He urged CDC legislative aspirants to go back to their people and work with them, get their blessings before becoming a lawmaker.

For his part, CDC National Chairman Mulbah Morlu extended appreciation to members of the independent primary committee for a job well done. "You [have] done a job that is better than any primary conducted in this country. We are proud as a party that candidates will go through challenges that will determine a winner," Morlu said. Morlu said the CDC is proud as a party that there was no violence during its primaries. He said the will of the people was respected without confusion, noting that the CDC is also proud that a man walking on crushes was able to win a sitting lawmaker. He said it is the beauty of democracy within the CDC.

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Français

Le juge Willie devrait interpréter vendredi le mandat de la Cour d'Appel

Le juge Roosevelt Willie de la Cour pénale « A » devrait interpréter vendredi le mandat de la Cour d'Appel

suprême annulât la décision du juge Willie accordant la demande de mise à disposition des éléments de preuve aux avocats de la défense.

juridiques couvrant cette affaire, l'interprétation de cette action de la part de la chambre de justice permet de renforcer l'argumentation de la défense et c'est un pas de plus vers la justice.

L'équipe juridique de la famille de l'ancien juge en chef a continuellement demandé à l'accusation de présenter les preuves que l'État prétend avoir en sa possession pour porter des accusations de meurtre contre la famille après la mort de Charloe Musu.

Les experts juridiques ont affirmé qu'il était peut-être trop tôt pour que les avocats du gouvernement commencent à remettre en question la théorie ou le fondement de leur affaire, il pourrait également être trop tôt pour remettre en question la crédibilité de la police et sa capacité à rassembler un ensemble de preuves convaincantes pour sécuriser une condamnation.

L'équipe de défense est apparue dans une humeur plus dynamique avec l'apparition de l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Musu Scott qui fait une apparition pro se pour sa propre défense et celle des membres de sa famille.



former Chief Justice Gloria Scott

dans le cadre du procès de l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Musu Scott et trois autres membres de sa famille.

Le mercredi 12 juillet, le juge associé Gbeisay a rejeté la demande des procureurs de l'accusation d'émettre un bref de certiorari alternatif dans le procès de Mme Scott et des membres de sa famille.

Le ministère public avait demandé que la cour

Le parquet ne voulait pas être obligé de présenter les éléments de preuve sur lesquels ils se sont appuyés pour arrêter, détenir et inculper l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Scott et les membres de sa famille de crime de meurtre.

Les avocats de la défense disent avoir reçu ladite notification d'assignation du juge Willie invitant toutes les parties à comparaître pour entendre la lecture du mandat de la cour suprême.

Selon nos correspondants

Le nouveau patron de la PPCC s'engage à revoir les marchés et l'accord de concession

Le nouveau directeur exécutif de la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC) s'est engagé à examiner tous les documents d'approvisionnement et d'accord de concession.

Lors de la cérémonie de passation de service le jeudi 13 juillet 2023 dans les locaux de la PPCC à Monrovia, M. Bodger Scott Johnson s'est engagé à atténuer et à prévenir la corruption dans tous les secteurs au niveau de la fonction publique.

Il a promis de veiller à ce que l'on se conforme de manière adéquate et transparente aux lois qui régissent les achats.

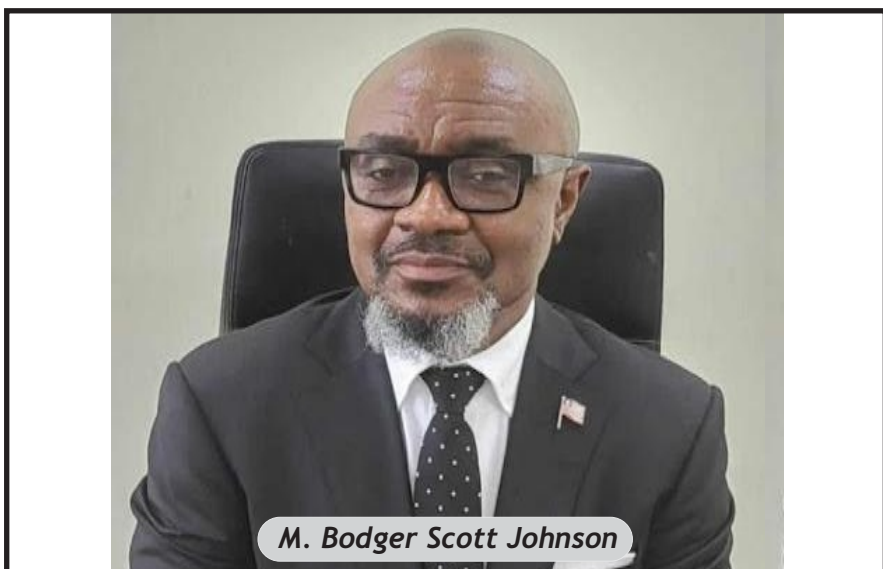
« Sous ma direction, l'équipe compétente de la PPCC et moi avons l'intention de faire respecter la conformité, en surveillant de manière adéquate et transparente l'examen des documents d'approvisionnement et de concession », a-t-il déclaré.

Il s'est engagé à prévenir la corruption dans le

processus de passation des marchés, en procédant à des ateliers de formation sur les marchés publics au niveau de la fonction publique.

Il a pris l'engagement de faire appliquer la loi PPCC à tous les niveaux et s'est dit disposé à travailler avec chaque institution

Il a insisté sur la nécessité que les gens aient une formation, expliquant que le processus d'approvisionnement est long en raison du manque de personnel chargé de la conformité. Il estime aussi que la paperasserie est un



M. Bodger Scott Johnson

gouvernementale concernant son plan d'approvisionnement et sa mise en œuvre. Les trois composantes des processus d'approvisionnement sont les personnes, les processus et la paperasserie, selon M. Johnson, qui a en outre fait savoir qu'il veillera à ce que ces principes soient respectés et mis en œuvre.

processus compliqué tant pour les agences gouvernementales que pour la PPCC.

« Mon objectif est d'améliorer le processus d'approvisionnement. Et je salue certainement la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Créer un espace pour les femmes et les personnes handicapées

En juillet, le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies des droits de l'homme a mis en lumière la participation des femmes à la vie politique à l'échelle mondiale. Il a mis un accent particulier sur les femmes et les filles handicapées. Son message s'inscrivait dans le cadre de la célébration du 75e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme (DUDH) et du 30e anniversaire de la Déclaration et programme d'action de Vienne pour 2023.

Les Libériens sont à peine à 90 jours des élections présidentielle et législatives d'octobre, mais il y a très peu de candidates en lice. Nous parlons du moins des personnes handicapées.

Parmi les dizaines d'aspirants à la présidence, seules deux femmes ont publiquement exprimé leur intérêt à se joindre à la course au pouvoir, une femme étant déclarée colistière en plus de la vice-présidente sortante Jewel Howard Taylor de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir. Il y a une absence flagrante de personnes handicapées.

La coordonnatrice résidente des Nations Unies au Libéria, Christine Umutoni, a affirmé que si le taux de participation des femmes à la politique est globalement faible, celui des femmes handicapées l'est encore plus, et ce, en raison des normes et de l'attitude discriminatoires fondées sur le sexe et le handicap. Ainsi, les gens les considèrent incapables de voter ou d'exercer des fonctions. Il y a des caractéristiques stéréotypées qui sont attribuées aux femmes et aux handicapés physiques.

Elle a indiqué que ces considérations discriminatoires empêchent les handicapés physiques de se porter candidats aux élections ou même de se rendre dans les bureaux de vote pour voter.

« Les processus électoraux doivent être inclusifs et participatifs, et toute action visant à améliorer la participation des femmes à la vie politique et publique doit inclure les femmes et les filles handicapées », a souligné Madame Umutoni.

Cette observation devrait attirer l'attention des décideurs politiques au Libéria, en particulier des personnes et des institutions responsables des questions électorales, dont notamment la Commission électorale nationale, sur la nécessité d'examiner la structure de notre système électoral en mettant l'accent sur la création d'un espace pour les femmes et les personnes handicapées.

Un tel effort devrait aller au-delà du simple appel aux hommes politiques et aux dirigeants de partis politiques à prédominance masculine pour qu'ils incluent les femmes dans leur structure et leurs activités afin de les faire élire et de faire campagne pour qu'elles gagnent.

Nous devrions être fiers en tant que Libériens d'être entrés dans l'histoire en 2005 en élisant la première femme présidente d'Afrique, Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Mais nous pouvons et devons faire plus pour la participation des femmes à la vie politique, y compris les femmes handicapées.

Les femmes et les filles sont désavantagées à bien des égards, y compris par les normes culturelles et religieuses en Afrique. Ces normes les confinent à des rôles domestiques avec peu de considération pour leur potentiel de service public. Il nous faut trouver un équilibre pour apporter l'égalité et l'équité dans le paysage politique en encourageant et en offrant plus

d'opportunités aux femmes (nos filles, sœurs et nièces) et aux personnes handicapées de participer à la vie politique.

Français

Starts from page 8

Le nouveau patron de

transition vers les achats en ligne », a-t-il déclaré.

Le nouveau patron de la PPCC a déclaré que l'objectif principal de l'institution est de veiller à l'utilisation économique et optimale des fonds publics dans le cadre des marchés publics.

Il s'agira, selon lui, de veiller à ce que les processus de passation des marchés publics et de concession soient menés de manière équitable, transparente et non discriminatoire. Il s'est dit convaincu que la PPCC, sous sa direction, maintiendra ces objectifs principaux en recherchant des partenariats et une collaboration étroite avec les agences de l'Etat et les entreprises et partenaires publics.

« Je suis profondément honoré de votre confiance en ma capacité à diriger cette commission. Je me sens vraiment privilégié d'avoir

l'opportunité de servir et de travailler avec tous nos partenaires au cours des quatre prochaines années », a déclaré M. Johnson.

Il a remercié son prédécesseur Me Roseline J. Kowo pour ses efforts et son dévouement.

Le jeudi 13 juillet 2023, M. Johnson a officiellement pris fonction en tant que nouveau directeur exécutif chargé de diriger les affaires de la PPCC pour les quatre prochaines années.

M. Johnson a été nommé par le Conseil des commissaires de la PPCC succédant à Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo après l'expiration de son mandat.

Le programme a été honoré par plusieurs partenaires gouvernementaux et diplomatiques qui ont exprimé leur confiance dans la nouvelle direction. Mais ils ont exhorté le nouveau chef de l'entité à maintenir la confiance malgré la conviction qu'il peut faire mieux.

Prolongation de l'accord céréalier :

échange téléphonique entre Ramaphosa et Poutine



Cyril Ramaphosa

Un mois après la mission de paix en Ukraine et en Russie menée par plusieurs chefs d'Etat africains, le président d'Afrique du Sud, Cyril Ramaphosa, l'un des participants, s'est entretenu avec son homologue Vladimir Poutine par téléphone ce samedi 15 juillet. Les deux hommes ont notamment échangé autour de l'avenir de l'accord céréalier en mer Noire, accord qui permet à l'Ukraine d'exporter son blé depuis ses ports, malgré la guerre, et qui doit arriver à expiration lundi 17 juillet au soir. Selon le Kremlin, Vladimir Poutine a rappelé à son interlocuteur sud-africain que les demandes russes pour lever les obstacles quant à ses propres exportations d'engrais et de produits alimentaires n'ont pour l'instant pas été respectées.

Ces échanges interviennent après les déclarations du

président turc, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, qui affirmait vendredi que son homologue russe était « d'accord » pour continuer le corridor céréalier en mer Noire.

Cyril Ramaphosa entend poursuivre les discussions, également auprès du président ukrainien, Volodymyr Zelensky, avec lequel il s'était déjà entretenu au cours de la semaine, ainsi que le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres. Si cet accord n'est pas une nouvelle fois prolongé, l'Afrique en particulier pourrait en payer le prix et voir sa sécurité alimentaire être mise un peu plus en danger. Les présidents sud-africain et russe ont aussi échangé autour du sommet des BRICS (Brésil, Russie, Inde, Chine et Afrique du Sud), organisé fin août à Johannesburg, sans qu'il soit pour l'instant précisé si Vladimir Poutine se rendra sur place : sous le coup d'un mandat d'arrêt de la Cour pénale internationale, il devrait être arrêté s'il mettait le pied en terre sud-africaine, le pays étant signataire du Statut de Rome.

Les agents de santé du sud-est du Libéria sont en grève



Les agents de santé du sud-est, sous l'égide du Réseau des agents de santé du sud-est du Libéria, se sont mis en grève pour attirer l'attention du gouvernement, qui, selon eux, refuse de trouver une solution définitive à la question de la disparité salariale dans le secteur de la santé. Le réseau cherche également à mettre en évidence d'autres préoccupations urgentes, dont le paiement des agents de santé bénévoles, la révision des retenues constantes sur les salaires, la revalorisation des salaires, la mise en place d'un programme de motivation pour les comtés difficiles d'accès et le remplacement des agents de santé à la retraite.

Il souligne également la nécessité urgente de cesser d'accepter l'assurance SAAR pour les agents de santé généraux du Sud-Est, parce que, selon le

groupe, environ 90 % de ses membres dans la région n'ont pas bénéficié d'une couverture sanitaire adéquate de la compagnie d'assurance.

Composé d'agents de santé de cinq comtés du Sud-Est, à savoir ; Maryland, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Gedeh et Grand Kru, le Réseau des travailleurs de la santé du sud-est du Libéria vise à plaider en faveur de meilleures conditions de travail et d'un traitement équitable.

Dans un communiqué de presse qui date du 12 juillet 2023, la direction du réseau a dit que le gouvernement, par l'intermédiaire des ministères et organismes concernés, s'était engagé à répondre à ces préoccupations en juin 2022. Mais, seulement environ huit cents agents de santé ont bénéficié d'une augmentation salariale partielle, excluant la majorité des agents de santé, ce, en raison de l'incapacité du gouvernement à remplacer les noms fantômes identifiés lors d'une vérification indépendante menée par ses dirigeants.

« Des collègues ont fortement critiqué la direction du réseau pour la décision du gouvernement de n'accorder que des augmentations de salaire marginales à quelques agents de santé », déplorant que l'augmentation n'ait pas répondu aux attentes.

La direction du Réseau appelle ainsi tous les travailleurs de la santé du Sud-Est à rester chez eux.

Ghana : le Parlement adopte une loi autorisant la production du cannabis médical et industriel

Le Parlement ghanéen a adopté mardi 11 juillet un projet de loi qui rend légal la production du cannabis à des fins médicales et commerciales. Cette loi va permettre la fabrication des médicaments et des produits comme le charbon, le béton, ou les textiles à partir de la plante de cannabis. Une décision qui pourrait permettre au Ghana, durement frappé par une crise économique, de s'octroyer une part de ce marché mondial qui pèse plusieurs milliards de dollars.

Cette nouvelle a été saluée par les acteurs du secteur, à l'image de Nana Kwaku Agyemang, président de l'ONG Hempire Association of Ghana, qui milite depuis des années pour la légalisation du cannabis.

« Cette décision est très importante parce qu'à l'heure actuelle, le Ghana supplie le FMI pour de l'aide financière parce que nous ne créons pas de revenus nous-mêmes, affirme-t-il au micro de Christina Okello du service Afrique de RFI. La commercialisation du cannabis offre de nouvelles perspectives. Elle va permettre la création de milliers d'emplois directs et indirects. Ce qu'autorise cette loi, c'est le chanvre industriel, et non pas le cannabis récréatif. Le chanvre est moins puissant que le cannabis. Il peut être utilisé de plusieurs façons différentes. Tout ce qui est plastique, comme des bouteilles d'eau, peuvent être fabriqués, à partir du chanvre



Nana Kwaku Agyemang

industriel, qui est également biodégradable. »

Dans l'attente d'une validation présidentielle

« On peut produire le CBD, une molécule extraite du cannabis, à partir des graines du chanvre, et c'est une bonne chose sur le plan médical car le CBD peut traiter l'épilepsie, l'insomnie, l'hypertension artérielle, les douleurs menstruelles, donc il y a beaucoup d'avantages. Nous allons acheter des graines certifiées en France, appelées Future 75, qui contiennent moins de 0,3% du THC, une molécule psychoactive, donc ça ne va pas nous faire planer. »

Ce projet de loi doit encore être validé par le président Nana Akufo-Addo.

SALE!! SALE!! SALE!!

Vehicle AUCTION

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

ITEM	BID REF. AC-VEHAUC-008 VEHICLE PLATE	DESCRIPTION	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	VEICLE STATUS
1	A64274	2014 NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120586909	FRIDAY JULY 14, 2023 at 16:00 GMT	USED VEHICLE
2	A6189	2014 NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120586482		USED VEHICLE
3	A6960	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120586880		USED VEHICLE
4	A64116	NISSAN PATROL SUV - JNITCSY6120585461		USED VEHICLE
5	A59097	2011 TOYOTA HILUX DOUBLE CABIN - HTFR22G606050357		USED VEHICLE
6	A6188	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120585423		USED VEHICLE
7	A64593	2014 NISSAN PATROL - JNITCSY6120387843		USED VEHICLE
8	A62535	2008 TOYOTA PRADO - JTEBZZ29J00029773		
9	A54905	2008 TOYOTA HILUX PICKUP - AHTFK22G103037960		NO ENGINE

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

For further inquiries, please contact the Administrative department at the below email and contact secretary@cerraautomotive-lr.com or +231 778 752 082 / +231777 589 204

VACANCY!! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!

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MUST HAVE A GOOD CONTROL OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (COMPREHENSION)
MUST BE ABLE TO MULTITASK AND WORK UNDER PRESURE (TIME FLEXIBLE)
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- Fully qualified WITH A BACHELOR IN FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
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- Ability to correspond & communicate independently with clients,
- A very good command of English, communication skills are essential.
- Ability to multitask & work under pressure.
- Minimum 5 years' experience

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SALES & MARKETING POSITION

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

REQUIREMENT

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

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Medica Liberia, partners train election observers

By Lewis S. Teh

Medical and POWER Liberia in collaboration with the Coalition of Political Party Women (COPWILL) has ended a two-day workshop for election observers in Monsterrado, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, River Cess, and Sinoe Counties.

The workshop was held with support from the UN Secretary-General Peacebuilding Funds through UNWOMEN and UNDP.

The training was mainly focused on detecting and reporting violence against women in politics.

In her opening remarks during the training in Sinkor, Madam Mbalu Winnie Jusu said the training will provide additional knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill a crucial role in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections.

The head of programs at Medica Liberia explained that election observers and monitors play a key role in upholding democratic principles.

She said they safeguard the integrity of the electoral process, and promote the rights of all individuals, especially women to participate in the political affairs of Liberia.

for Liberia," Madam Jusu concluded.

For his part, the head of the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) Atty. Oscar Bloh noted that violence against women in elections and politics undermines women's political participation.

The ECC boss believes that there has been a major gap in documenting violence against women over the years.

He said election observers have focused a lot on monitoring and observing campaigns, and other activities on election day, but not the issue of violence against women and how it undermines women's political participation.

He stated that the observers will be trained to identify barriers that hinder women's political participation, and the types of violence against women, and systematically monitor, track and document violence against women in elections.

"When women are physically or



"Your commitment to independent oversight demonstrates your dedication to a democratic and inclusive society," Madam Jusu expressed.

She maintained that throughout the training, the facilitators dug into the essential aspects of monitoring and observing elections, empowering the participants with the tools to make meaningful impacts.

She furthered that the participants' dedication to ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections is commendable and serves as a beacon of hope for a democratic Liberia. "Remember, the work does not end here. As you go on, remain vigilant, objective, and committed to the principles of accountability and impartiality," she urged the participants. By fulfilling their responsibilities with integrity, she said the participants will contribute to building public trust in the electoral process and promoting a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

"Together, we will work towards free, fair, and credible elections that reflect the will of the people and contribute to a brighter future

emotionally attacked, they stay away or reduce their participation in politics," he said.

Atty. Bloh firmly said if women are 49% of the Liberian population, there should be nothing that should undermine their participation.

Facilitating on implementing the VAWiE Protocol, Madam Leisel Talery said the National Elections Commissions and heads of political parties signed a memorandum of Understanding in February 2022 to protect and prevent violence against women in the upcoming elections. "Violence Against Women in Election and Politics is driven by discriminatory gender norms and men's desire to hold onto power and maintain the status quo, whereby women are largely excluded from key leadership positions and political power."

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You are not candidates yet

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says no aspirant has yet been certificated to contest the October 10 General Elections, contrary to impression being

networks to create the impression that they have been qualified and certificated as candidates to contest the elections, only confirms that they have returned their packages to

indicating that all of the information given to the commission are correct. Yet that person is not a candidate and has not been qualified to contest any elections," She emphasized.

Mrs. Browne Lansanah reminded that the candidate nomination process has several steps that an aspirant must submit to before a determination of qualification is made. She explained that following the determination, a preliminary list of qualified candidates is released, to be followed by the final list of candidates which will be published for public viewing.

Meanwhile, speaking Friday at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex, Chairperson Browne Lansanah declared the 2023 candidate nomination exercise closed and reiterated that there will be no extension.

She said the commission was still in talks with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to release the remaining allotment of US\$6.2 million. She also disclosed that NEC has received US\$46 million from the Government.



Mrs. Browne Lansanah

created by some individuals who participated in the just-ended Candidate Nomination Process.

Speaking during the Inter-Political Parties Consultative Committee (IPCC) on Friday, 14, July Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the document being displayed by some aspirants on social media and other

the nomination committee and they are waiting for final screening before being qualified to contest in the elections.

"You cannot be governments in waiting and lie to the Liberian people. The documents being displayed are just receipts with the photo, date of birth, logo of the aspirant,

Liberia grapples with 47,917 At-risk youth

By Kruah Thompson

The Assistant Minister for Curative Services at the Ministry of Health and Head of the Technical Working Group for the At-Risk Youth Program, Dr. Gborbee G. Logan, discloses here that Liberia is grappling with 47,917 at-risk youth.

He says of this number, 83 percent represents males, while 17 percent represents females.

Making the disclosure Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the Ministry of Information weekly briefing in Monrovia, Dr. Logan explained that several mapping exercises were conducted across the country, including an assessment in 2022 on 13,244 At-risk youth identified in 396 different task forces from all 15 counties.

"The report from this assessment revealed that 72% of first-time substance users were below 20 years old, with approximately sixty percent below 18", Dr. Logan adds.

He says report shows that majority of the problem lies with young people, particularly those within the adult age group.

Dr. Logan reaffirms commitment of

from At-risk youth, particularly in Montserrado County.

He adds that to address these concerns, the committee has developed implementation framework plans that will shortly go into effect to respond to those complaints from the counties.

"The plans and guidelines will be presented to the steering committee for review, and implementation is expected to commence anytime soon", he says, revealing that government has already allocated US\$5,000 for this process.

The Assistant Minister notes that currently, there are 458 mental health clinicians in the country, including psychosocial officers, who have received training from Carter Center over the years, with additional ongoing specialized training programs in prevention, treatment, and recovery that have enrolled 104 participants.

He lauds the United States Government specifically, the Agency for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) for support to the program.



Assistant Health Minister for Curative Services, Dr. Gborbee G. Logan

the Government of Liberia and partners to invest in drug-demand reduction in the country. According to him, after President George Weah launched a US\$13 million rehabilitation program in 2022 for drugs-addicted youth, a committee was established with the goal of assisting 500 individuals per year but reveals that recent weeks have shown an alarming increase in complaints

Dr. Logan, who discloses that subsequent training phases are scheduled for August, September, and November respectively, defines At-risk youth as young individuals who have dropped out of school and reside in various challenging environments, such as ghettos, streets, graveyards, and abandoned buildings, engage in narcotics and substance abuse.

Starts from back page

Charyne Brumskine hails

Cllr. Brumskine also inspired the women that their chosen area of fashion, specifically, beauty salon business is a multi-billion dollar business in places like America because clients are always on the lookout for beautiful make-up, hair and accessories, thus making it a lucrative investment that needs to be supported so the Liberian women can benefit from the sector.

"So, we will ensure that the government will empower the sector and we have come to tell you that we are committed to the initiative. As I stand here, I see myself in you as a sister and as a woman, and will want us to work together to explore the opportunities.

"There should be nothing to limit you and what you want to achieve. I want to see a little girl like this becoming a counselor, a medical doctor, a businesswoman, a and successful person. In America where I lived and worked for some time, no one sets a limit to what you want to become, and I think we can do similar things too to provide the opportunities for our women to excel and become what they can also be.

Cllr. Brumskine used the

occasion to further introduce herself to many of them who were just seeing her for the first time.

"I am Cllr. Charlyne M. Brumskine, God's willing, if you decide, I will be the next Vice President of the Republic of Liberia. I am going on the ticket of the CPP with Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

"Mr. Cummings trust me, and he understands that the women of this country are carrying the burden of the country on our shoulders, on our back and we use our hands to make money. It must not only be men who are making the money and stealing the money. Mr. Cummings is intentional about changing the status of women and ending their suffering in this country.

"So I want to tell you and make the promise that if we are elected, I will be for you, I am with you and I belong to you.

"Please choose and make the right decision. I know some of you here belong to various parties, but we are not talking about parties now. We are talking about the future of the country, we are talking about you and so we ask you to give us the

opportunity to work for you", the eloquent VP candidate told the women amidst cheers and shouts to acknowledge how the message resonated with them.

Meanwhile, the women expressed their joy and excitement for meeting with Cllr. Brumskine., describing her as an inspiration.

"In anything where there is no woman, it is nothing, I say it again, anything minus woman is nothing, it can't work," one of the women at the event said.

The lady insisted that the country will not go anywhere when women are not given the opportunities to excel and lauded Cllr. Brumskine for her bold steps to take a shot at the second highest position in the land during the ensuing general election and called on her fellow women to support her (Charlyne) cause.

The visit to the women by Cllr. Brumskine is part of the several outreach activities she has been embarking upon since her nomination recently in Buchanan City by Mr. Cummings.

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Charlyne Brumskine hails women's resilience

-Says, "CPP Govt. will Budget \$20m for women in 100 days"

Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Vice Presidential running mate Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine had hailed the resilience of

under Alexander B. Cummings will ensure that a budgetary allotment of USD20m in the first 100 days will be made available for women and

the impact they are making in their line of business despite the challenges being encountered and still daring to succeed at all costs.

"I have traveled to Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, America, and have seen women there, I am yet to see any women who are stronger than the Liberian women.

"Liberian women are businesswomen, they are entrepreneurs. We just need some empowerment; if Liberian women are given the opportunities, they can transform our economy. We must invest in our women.

"So, Mr. Cummings has decided, and he has been open about it, that in the first 100 days when he is elected, he will begin to invest \$20m for women and youth entrepreneurs. So, that you can go into serious business so that you will not be under something like this tent, you will not be under the rain, so that you will have money to set up structure and run your business successfully", she said.



Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine

Liberian women despite the difficult challenges being encountered, playing them ahead of their sub-regional counterparts.

youth entrepreneurship in the country.

The CPP vice presidential running mate met with the group of women under a business name, Under the Tree Saloon located in Central Monrovia. She had gone on the invitation of the group to see

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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