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**ALP will be a force**  
**-Urey tells UP**



**Who will receive Charloe Musu's body?**  
**-biological parents in Maryland, Cllr. Gloria Scott in prison**

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# Continental News

## Activists: Zimbabwean Women Reduced To Cheerleaders In Upcoming Election

In a large hall at the headquarters of Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party, women responded with roaring cheers when President Emmerson Mnangagwa described them as the party's "backbone" whose

It appears worse this year because the number of women candidates has plummeted, despite women constituting the majority of the population and, traditionally, the biggest number of voters.

"We have some of the best laws

According to a report released in March by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the number of women in national parliaments in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 10% in 1995 to about 27% in 2022. The IPU describes itself as a global organization of national parliaments established in 1889. In Zimbabwe, a patriarchal southern African nation of 15 million people, gender-based biases are still rampant. Men have historically dominated the political, economic, religious and social spheres. The Aug. 23 election suggests that change could be beyond the horizon, despite vigorous local campaigns and global pressure for increased female participation in decision-making. In the last election, in 2018, there were four female candidates for the presidency, a record. When registration closed on Jun. 21 this year, there were 11 male candidates — and no women. In the end, one woman did manage to qualify for the ballot, but only just. Elisabeth Valerio was one of two women, along with Linda Masarira, who were rejected because they had failed to pay the \$20,000 registration fee on time, up from \$1,000 in 2018. In July, Valerio successfully challenged the decision in court. VOA



Linda Masarira, a presidential candidate speaks to the press outside the High Court in Harare, Zimbabwe

votes are vital to victory in elections scheduled for August. At a recent opposition rally, women with the face of their male party leader emblazoned on dresses and skirts sang, danced and promised to vote for change — never mind that the election again represents a status quo where women are largely limited to cheerleading.

and policies on gender equality and women representation, but that's just on paper. The reality on the ground is that the role of women in politics is restricted to being fervent supporters and dependable voters," said Marufu Mandevere, a human rights lawyer in the capital, Harare. The shortage of women candidates puts Zimbabwe at odds with trends on the continent.

## MSF Says Operations in Sudan's Khartoum May Cease After Attack

Doctors Without Borders in Sudan warned Friday that it may end operations at a hospital in the capital, Khartoum, after 18 of its workers were "aggressively assaulted," as conflict rages in the country. The medical aid group, commonly known by its French acronym MSF, said the team was transporting medical supplies to Turkish Hospital in southern Khartoum Thursday when unidentified armed men attacked its staff, "physically beating and whipping them," the aid organization said in a statement. The men also threatened to kill an MSF driver before releasing him and taking off with the vehicle. Christophe Garnier is MSF's emergency manager for Sudan. Speaking to VOA Friday, he denounced the attack as "unacceptable" and "very concerning." He said the aid group may be forced to end services at the hospital in order to protect its staff.

"If an incident like this happens again and if our ability to move supplies continues to be obstructed, then, regrettably, our presence in the Turkish Hospital will soon become untenable," Garnier said in a statement.

He said that the armed men who attacked the aid workers appeared drunk and that it wasn't clear which of Sudan's warring parties they belonged to. Forces from the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have been battling for control of the country since hostilities erupted on April 15.

Sudanese authorities say over

3,000 people have been killed in the conflict. As the humanitarian situation continues to worsen, the United Nations said as of July 14, more than 3 million people have been displaced, including 2.4 million within Sudan. MSF's Garnier called on officials to avoid targeting humanitarian workers and civilians. He said they are not a party to the conflict and "shouldn't be involved in the conflict," urging all sides to guarantee the safety of aid workers and ensure access to vulnerable populations. VOA



Sudanese refugees gather as Doctors Without Borders (MSF) teams assist the war wounded from West Darfur, Sudan, in Adre hospital, Chad

## Italian Conference May Stanch Migrant Flow to Europe With African Aid

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni called Sunday for new, more equal relationships between Europe and migrants' countries of origin and transit as she convened a summit of some 20 nations, EU officials and international organizations aimed at stanching flows of illegal migration.

The one-day conference is a Meloni initiative that aims to make Italy a leader in resolving issues impacting Mediterranean nations. Chief among them is migration, as Italy sustains hundreds of new arrivals daily on Europe's southern border, but also energy as Europe looks to Africa and the Middle East to permanently replace Russian supplies.

Human rights groups see the meeting, which includes nations from both northern

"In an era where so much attention is given to the right to migrate, we are not paying sufficient attention to the right to not be forced to emigrate, to not be forced to flee their own homes, to not be forced to abandon their land and leave family members in search of a new life."

The conference comes against the backdrop of migrants being pushed back from Tunisia into Libya, where they are stuck in the desert.

Pope Francis, in his traditional Sunday blessing, called on leaders in Europe and Africa to find a solution to the thousands of people who are blocked at borders in North Africa.

"Thousands of them have been experiencing indescribable suffering for weeks, and have been trapped and abandoned in deserts," the pontiff said. "May the Mediterranean no longer be a theater of death and inhumanity,"



Participants at an international conference on migration pose for a family photo in Rome

and sub-Saharan Africa as well as the Middle East, as creating a future roadmap, and worry it will amount to anti-migrant policies that put the onus on Africa to keep Africans out of Europe.

Meloni told the opening meeting that Western arrogance had likely stood in the way of solutions to the migrant issue. She proposed four main prongs for future cooperation: fighting criminal organizations trafficking migrants, better managing flows of migrants, supporting refugees and helping countries of origin. "The West too often has given the impression of being more interested in giving lessons rather than lending a hand," Meloni said. "It is probably this diffidence that has made it difficult to make progress on solutions." She said if flows were better managed there would be more room for legal migration.

the pope said, calling for a sense of "fraternity, solidarity and welcoming."

The Rome summit comes a week after one of the key participants, Tunisian President Kais Saied, signed a memorandum of understanding for a "comprehensive strategic partnership" in a meeting that included Meloni and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Financial details weren't released, but the EU has held out the promise of nearly 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) to help restart Tunisia's hobbled economy, and 100 million euros (\$111 million) for border control as well as search and rescue missions at sea and repatriating immigrants without residence permits. Migrants pay traffickers thousands to make the perilous journey across Africa's deserts. Many report suffering torture and other abuse along the way. And hundreds drown each year at sea trying to reach Italy in fragile boats. VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Solving our food problem

Last Tuesday, July 18, the World Bank launched the 4th Edition of the Liberia Economic Update highlighting the country's staple rice and an important need to urgently invest in rice production to alleviate poverty.

Acting World Bank Country Manager to Liberia, Mack Capehart Mulbah, while launching the report, said the Government of Liberia and its partners have invested and are still investing a significant amount of resources to enhance productivity in the agricultural sector, with a focus on value chain for rice.

However, Mr. Mulbah noted that local rice farmers continue to be less competitive due to stark price difference between locally grown and imported varieties of rice - birthed by the many supply-side constraints faced in the rice sector and households' preference for imported rice.

Quite clearly, this is the paradox of Liberians and issues that surrounds rice, the nation's staple. It is incomprehensible that we as a people would have preferential taste for rice grown abroad and then locally-produced rice. Meanwhile, our economy cannot sustain rice importation at prices beyond our control.

So where lies the solution to sustaining our insatiable taste for imported rice when from all indication, the government cannot continuously spend millions to subsidize importation just for political expediency?

We believe strongly the only permanent remedy to the rice dilemma is to invest in our soil by growing enough rice to feed ourselves rather than relying on other countries to produce for us what we eat.

It is this alternative that the World Bank highlights in the 4th Edition of the Liberia Economic Update, which government needs to study religiously and embark on practical steps that would lead to the country becoming self-sufficient in food, particularly rice, our staple.

Acting Manager Mulbah recalled that recently, to limit the effect of rising global food prices on households, the Government of Liberia began to subsidize rice imports to ensure availability and affordability of the commodity. But we can surely say such venture is not sustainable in the face of increasing global food crisis.

We need a home-based solution considering the demand, supply, and price dynamic of rice and implications for productivity and poverty alleviation, the Bank emphasized.

Central Bank of Liberia Deputy Governor for Economic Policy, Dr. Musa Dukuly, explained that Liberia development and sustenance are constrained by existence of dynamics of rising population and supply chain constraints, and that subsidy will always fall short of the required estimated subsidy to completely eradicate food insecurity.

Dr. Dukuly said moving towards food sustainability requires enormous sacrifice and the question that confronts policymakers how to develop a more sustainable strategy toward food sustainability.

To begin initially, he suggests a combination of both subsidy and direct investment in the soil saying "For instance, if the subsidy is 20 million, we invest 10 million in direct rice production and allocate 10 million as subsidy or 5 million in rice production and 15 million in subsidy."

We couldn't have agreed with him any better on this. We have to start from somewhere and the sooner, the better.

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# COMMENTARY

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

## Finding Growth in a Fractured World

For decades, China set a shining example of how to capitalize on globalization to accelerate domestic economic growth and development. These days, however, the country risks becoming a cautionary tale about mishandling globalization's shift from a beneficial tailwind to a disruptive headwind.

Although the Chinese economy's recent travails have some unique characteristics, they illustrate the growth challenges facing many developed and developing countries. They also show that while economic growth is not everything, you cannot solve much of anything without it.

This year was supposed to mark a robust economic recovery for China. Instead, many analysts have been forced in recent days to again revise down their projections for Chinese growth, and more are likely to follow suit. This increasingly pessimistic outlook can be attributed to three main factors.

First, as the most recent trade data show, the global economy no longer supports China's domestic growth dynamics. In June, Chinese exports fell by 12.4% (in dollar terms), and imports declined by 6.8%, far worse than the consensus forecast of a 10% decline in exports and a 4.1% decrease in imports. These disappointing figures are the result of sluggish demand growth in Europe and elsewhere, and enhanced restrictions against China, particularly those imposed by the United States, which created a self-reinforcing cycle that further dampened the country's growth prospects.

Second, the Chinese authorities appear to be torn between two distinct approaches to stimulating the economy, resulting in a rather indecisive policy response.

While the government seems inclined to revert to the top-down stimulus measures it employed in the past, actual implementation has been limited, owing to concerns about exacerbating inefficiencies and impeding the ongoing and generally orderly deflation of debt bubbles in certain sectors.

Conversely, the much-needed alternative of unleashing bottom-up economic dynamism is constrained by domestic political considerations, leaving China stuck in the muddled middle. Meanwhile, domestic policy challenges are compounded by structural factors, including the aging population, high youth unemployment, and remaining pockets of excessive leverage.

Third, the removal of the long-standing zero-COVID restrictions has not led to a uniform sharp increase in household, business, and property demand. Instead, the process has been uneven and weaker than consensus forecasts. While GDP bounced back by 6.3% in the second quarter, growth fell short of the 7.1% pace that analysts expected.

Given that growth in Europe and the US is likely to remain subdued for the foreseeable future, and with the global economy still reeling from the impact of the most aggressive wave of interest-rate hikes by central banks in advanced economies in several decades, China cannot count on globalization to rescue its faltering growth model.

As companies seek to diversify supply chains

away from China, inflows of foreign direct investment have also been constrained. Moreover, geopolitically-driven trade and investment restrictions are more likely to increase in response to US national-security concerns.

Rather than seeking salvation from external demand, China needs to sharpen its focus on domestic sources of robust and sustainable economic growth. Here, policy implementation has lagged, failing to match political leaders' rhetoric. Similarly, the country's industrial-policy framework has yet to strike the right balance between macro-level directives and providing sufficient operational autonomy at the micro level.

To avoid the middle-income trap that has repeatedly ensnared emerging economies, China must avoid policy inconsistency. That said, and with only a small handful of exceptions, it is difficult to point to any sizable economy that has managed to evade this trap over the past few decades.

While China represents a special example of "muddled-middle" growth strategies, it is not the only country in danger of falling into a growth trap. Both developed and developing countries face a similar risk of economic stagnation or, worse, regression.

With the exception of the US, few systemically important economies have recognized the significance of comprehensively reinvigorating their growth strategies. And even in the US, where recent government actions have focused on generating higher and more sustainable growth, the process is still susceptible to disruption by another Federal Reserve policy error.

Over the past two years, Gordon Brown, Michael Spence, Reid Lidow, and I have been discussing strategies that would enable governments to deliver the inclusive, durable, and sustainable growth needed to meet their citizens' needs and aspirations. The results of these deliberations are outlined in our forthcoming book *Permacrisis: A Plan to Fix a Fractured World*, which will be published in September.

Our vision is simple. By adopting a "reduced form" approach, we have identified a manageable set of actions focused on three key areas: reengineering stagnant and increasingly ineffective growth models, improving domestic economic management, and enhancing global policy coordination and responses.

We firmly believe that a detailed set of realistic and actionable measures could reverse worrisome secular developments, including declining growth and productivity, rising inequality, and heightened financial fragility.

Our findings could apply not only to China and other developing countries, but also to the world's major developed countries, whose domestic malaise and weak global engagement undermine their economic and social well-being and the stability of the international system.

Despite the policy mistakes that have put our world on its current course, we now have an opportunity to heed the lessons of the past and present and chart a more promising path for future generations.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Why VP pick in Liberia's 2023 elections matter -The case of UP, CPP and LPP

By all accounts, Liberians are expected to head to the polls on October 10 to vote in a crucial election that may see either incumbent President George M. Weah being re-elected for another six years term or be replaced by one of his numerous contenders.

Although the National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to announce names of qualified candidates on August 5, there are about 20 or more individuals aspiring to unseat President Weah in the upcoming polls.

Among the laundry list of candidates seeking to unseat him are former vice president Joseph N. Boakai of Unity Party (UP), former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawon S. Gongloe of Liberian People Party (LPP).

Unlike Cllr. Gongloe and few others that will be contesting the presidency for the first time in this year's elections, President Weah, Amb. Boakai and Mr. Cummings were among dozen other candidates that participated in 2017 elections which brought Mr. Weah to power following a run-off with Amb. Boakai of UP.

However, the stakes in this year's elections are high, even higher than in 2017 amidst a fragmented opposition divided by sheer greed and moles. Under such prevailing political atmosphere, the Vice Presidential pick is very crucial for the numbers. There are arguably six vote rich counties in Liberia-they are Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties. The rest of the nine counties account for a mere 20 to 25 percent of total votes.

Thus, the expectation that a vice presidential candidate coming from any of these counties would boost a party's ticket is high-albeit and assuming that such candidate does not come with excess baggage that could play to the advantage of the incumbent or other contenders.

### The Case of UP

The Unity Party's choice of vice running mate in the person of Sen. Jeremiah Koug comes with a bag full of mixed reactions. Koug is a senator from vote rich Nimba County and political leader of Prince Johnson's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR).

He is expected to pull the numbers for the UP from his native Nimba to the disadvantage of other parties including incumbent President Weah who has a herculean task defending his policies over the last six years.

However, the Prince Johnson factor could ruin the party's chances of attracting votes from other regions. Sen. Johnson, a designee of the United States association with the Baokai-Koug ticket could cause him (Boakai) a serious problem and could take away from his chances.

Though UPists will argue otherwise, Prince Johnson's alignment with Amb. Boakai at this stage would have a negative impact on his chances.

However, it remains to be seen how huge such an impact will be on UP's attempt to wrestle power from CDC.

### The case of CPP

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is a brand still reeling from the split. Originally, a collaboration of Unity Party (UP), All Liberian Party (ALP), Alternative National Congress (ANC), and Liberty Party (LP) has been reduced to just the ANC and a fragment of LP.

Though conspirators pointed fingers at ALP's Benoni Urey and embattled LP Charmian Musa Bility as being moles of the ruling CDC in helping to split the CPP, a recent pronouncement by Mr. Urey referring to President Weah as his junior brother whom he can call at any time render more credence to such conspiracy theory than sound to the naked ears. And with Bility's recent podcast, something just doesn't add up.

However, the CPP's choice of Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine, daughter of the founding father of LP appears to have brought some light to the CPP campaign. Nonetheless, the political novelty of Cllr. Brumskine and her criticism of not being in touch with the Bassa people could hurt the CPP to the advantage of its opponents. But this is politics, anything can happen.

### The Case of LPP

The Liberian People's Party (LPP) comes to this year's election on the platform of integrity. Both standard bearer Cllr. Gongloe and running mate Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey-Yarkpawolo are from a legal background and pride themselves on integrity.

Although Dr. Urey is from Bong County, one of the vote rich counties, he appears an unpopular and hard to sell candidate among many.

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) which is currently swimming in a pool of allegation full of failed policies, extreme poverty, corruption, and failure to bring corrupt officials to book could be rethinking its strategy with all these factors in play. But who knows politics can be unpredictable at times.



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF  
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER FOR  
WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Center for Women and Development Successfully Completes Inaugural Grant Project



MONROVIA, LIBERIA - The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center) is pleased to announce the successful completion of its first-ever grant project, the Liberia Support Program – an initiative designed to support women-led organizations providing education, health, technology, and other social services that benefit local communities.

Made possible through a generous grant of 95,000 United States Dollars from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) to our founder and former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Liberia Support Program allocated funds to three organizations: [Healing Liberia Foundation](#), [FACE Africa](#), and [Girls In Tech Liberia](#). These organizations were selected for their commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in Liberia.

Healing Liberia Foundation deployed the funds to provide medical interventions for 61 critically ill patients, including 43 who received life changing surgeries, and who are now leading healthier and less burdensome lives. As a result of the grant funding, the organization was able to surpass its goal of aiding 200 patients by its two-year anniversary, saving twice as many lives as initially anticipated. Healing Liberia Foundation was also able to expand its operations in order to reach some of Liberia's most vulnerable patients, who live in rural areas without access to proper medical care. Healing Liberia Foundation continues to see the patients treated through monthly check-ins to monitor outcomes.

FACE Africa harnessed the funds to build water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in hard-to-reach areas and conducted sanitation training in Jaster Town, Rivercess County, Liberia. Effects of the intervention include improved health outcomes, especially for women, children, and infants. Having access to clean water has considerably reduced the risk of mortality and water-borne illness, and a local school has reported a drop in student absenteeism by at least 40%, indicating fewer students are missing out on their education due to falling ill. The local medical clinic has also seen a notable reduction in cases of diarrheal diseases, malaria, and worms, allowing the clinic staff to devote more time to maternal health care, infant vaccinations, and health education.

Girls In Tech Liberia (GITL) utilized the funds to equip young women with essential technology skills. The organization trained 110 women in Microsoft Office and QuickBooks, with over half of these trainees successfully securing employment post-training. By equipping young women with enhanced computer literacy and digital skills, the training has been transformative for many, opening up job opportunities and fostering financial independence and self-reliance. The funding has also propelled GITL's mission forward, providing a mini-computer lab that supports its ambitious goal of training 10,000 women and girls by 2030.

Overall, the Liberia Support Program directly benefited 629 individuals and indirectly influenced the lives of 3,145 individuals. The ripple effects of this initiative have been overwhelmingly positive, ushering in improvements in health, sanitation, and employment opportunities for women and girls in the targeted communities.

Encouraged by the success of its first grant project, the EJS Center looks forward to awarding future community grants and continuing its successful collaborative relationship with AWDF.

-ENDS -

### Notes to Editors:

#### About the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development

The EJS Center was founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for change across Africa by helping to unleash its most abundant untapped power—its women. It officially launched on International Women's Day, March 8, 2020. Through a unique blend of programming, advocacy, research, and exhibitions, the Center advances women's public leadership and social development on the continent. As the first democratically elected woman president in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is passionate about supporting the next generation of women in public leadership.

For more information, visit [www.ejscenter.org](http://www.ejscenter.org), and press inquiries can be directed to [press@ejscenter.org](mailto:press@ejscenter.org).

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Agriculture, private sector can recover economy

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential aspirant Mr. Simeon Freeman says investment in the agriculture sector and private sector investment can recover Liberia's economy.

under this failed leadership not only because of corruption, but because this government has no interest and priority in the area of agriculture investment and private sector growth," he said.

According to the opposition Movement for Progressive

"But Liberia, despite having the land and resources, has refused to follow suit," he stated.

The businessman-turned-politician indicated that Liberia is very blessed with the highest green forest, but governments of the past and present did pay attention to the agriculture and private sectors.

According to him, the agriculture and private sectors have the means to feed citizens.

Mr. Freeman disclosed that if Liberia will experience true economic growth and recovery, the country should move to agricultural production and private sector investment.

Mr. Freeman believes that these will enable Liberians to have jobs and become self-reliant, instead of waiting on the government.

Through agriculture and private sector investment, the MPC leader pledges to transform Liberia with better economic growth and recovery.

Mr. Freeman pointed out that he will do it by bringing in companies that will be able to provide the machines and the funding to farmers who will be willing to go into the area of cassava production. He said cassava is an important cash crop in tropical and subtropical regions, and it's versatile as an industrial raw material and staple food for the country.



Mr. Simeon Freeman

Mr. Freeman addressed scores of intellectuals at the Mohammed Sasey Intellectual Forum at Red Hill Field recently and outlined his plans for Liberia's recovery when he's elected president this October.

He said he will invest in the agriculture sector, especially in the area of cassava production, and give opportunities to the private sector to increase jobs and employment.

"Liberia is what it's today

Change (MPC) standard bearer, Liberia is experiencing slow economic growth and recovery.

He said it is because the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government has failed to prioritize and invest in agriculture and the private sector. "Many countries around the world are highly involved in the area of agriculture through massive production which has the chance of creating more jobs and food insecurity," Mr. Freeman explained.

## Liberia's Labour Minister addresses Youth Empowerment at the World Minister Forum in Seoul, South Korea

Labour Minister Cllr Charles H Gibson has engaged in productive discussions with participants attending the prestigious "World Minister Forum" in South Korea, focusing on the challenges faced by the youth in Liberia and across Africa.

Minister Gibson has emphasized the pressing need to address the issue of youth unemployment and has proposed practical solutions to empower young adults and school-going youths.

According to him, during his round table discussions held at the World Minister Forum with fellow Ministers, he highlighted the dire situation faced by young adults in Liberia, where unemployment remains a significant challenge. He emphasized that the transition to young adulthood often coincides with early parenthood, placing immense responsibilities on them to provide for their families.

The Liberian Labour Minister

recognized that employment opportunities are crucial in alleviating the hardships faced by young adults, preventing them from resorting to criminal activities or seeking assistance from family and friends.

He said to combat the issue of youth unemployment, the

Ministry of Labour has identified the importance of vocational training and stressed that while skills training is vital, many young adults lack employable skills, hindering their chances of securing meaningful

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



## ECOWAS Parliament to convene here meeting

The ECOWAS Parliament is set to convene a crucial Delocalized Joint Committee Meeting from Tuesday, 25th to 29th July 2023, at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

The meeting is expected to bring together representatives from various member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to deliberate on the theme: "Enhancing Political Inclusivity in Participatory Governance Process - A Mechanism for Promoting Peace and Security."

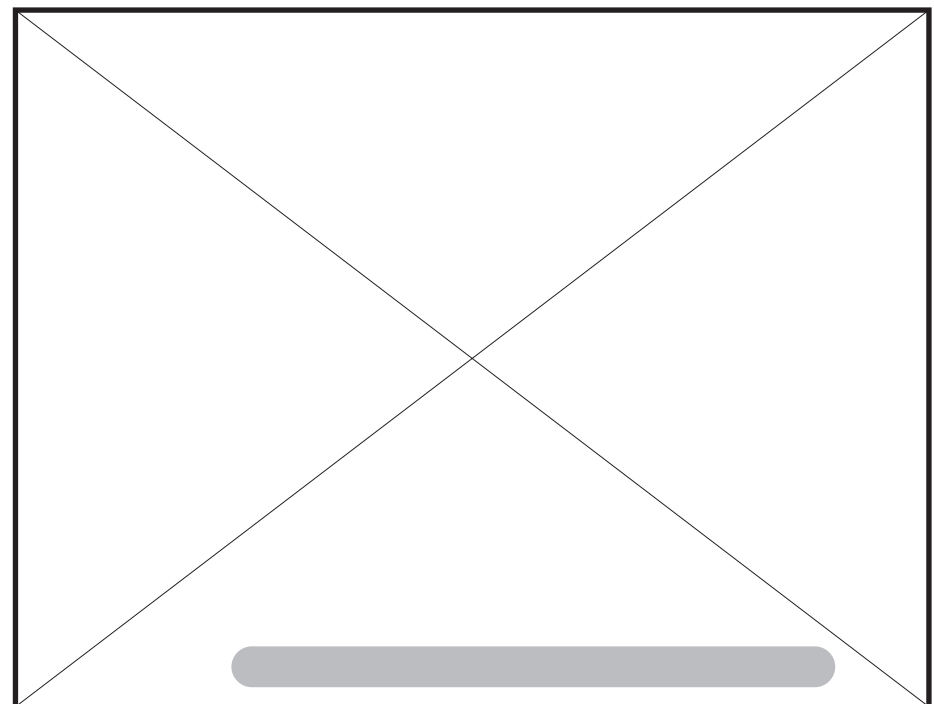
It comes in the wake of unfolding political developments in the region, where political inclusivity has emerged as a crucial topic for discussion. The ECOWAS Parliament seeks to address this issue and explore ways to strengthen participatory governance processes to ensure a more inclusive and representative political system across the region.

other stakeholders.

They will engage in discussions and debates on various aspects related to political inclusivity, such as electoral reforms, minority representation, gender equality in politics, and mechanisms for ensuring the participation of marginalized groups in the governance process.

Moreover, the Delocalized Joint Committee Meeting will serve as a platform for the Parliament to reinforce its role in promoting peace and security across member states. By emphasizing the importance of inclusivity, the Parliament aims to bolster the efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, foster social cohesion, and enhance stability in the region.

The Ministerial Complex in Congo Town will provide the ideal backdrop for the meeting, as Liberia has experienced its share of political challenges in the past and can offer valuable insights into the importance of political inclusivity and its impact on peace and



In recent times, several countries within the ECOWAS region have experienced political transitions, sometimes marred by unrest and instability. Recognizing the vital role of political inclusivity in fostering stability and sustainable development, the Parliament aims to spotlight the importance of creating a political landscape that encompasses diverse voices and ensures the representation of all citizens.

The meeting will be attended by delegates from ECOWAS member states, including parliamentary officials, government representatives, civil society organizations, and

security.

The outcomes of the meeting are expected to result in the formulation of recommendations and strategies that can be adopted by member states to enhance political inclusivity in their respective countries. Additionally, the Parliament is likely to propose legislative measures to reinforce participatory governance and promote peace-building initiatives.

The Delocalized Joint Committee Meeting is poised to be a crucial milestone in advancing the cause of political inclusivity, with the ultimate goal of promoting lasting peace and security in the ECOWAS community. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY LIBERIA



# Français

## Donner à Weah un second mandat est un suicide, selon l'opposant Gongloé

L'opposant Me Tiawan Say Gongloé a mis en garde les jeunes le mercredi 19 juillet 2023 lors d'une marche qu'ils avaient eux-mêmes organisée pour

La marche a commencé à Ducor Hill à Ashmun Street jeudi, elle n'a pas pu continuer à cause de l'attaque des participants par des hommes inconnus dont l'objectif était de disperser la foule à coups de pierres.

L'attaque a eu lieu au moment où Me Gongloé se préparait pour livrer son message de mobilisation sur la campagne contre la corruption à quelques mois des élections présidentielle et législatives prévues en octobre 2023.

Le président sortant George Manneh Weah cherche à être réélu face à plusieurs candidats de l'opposition, dont l'organisateur de la marche Me Gongloé.

Me Gongloé a exprimé sa position contre la corruption endémique au sommet de l'Etat dirigé par Weah. Il a appelé à la poursuite en justice des fonctionnaires corrompus. Il a aussi promis un Libéria exempt de corruption s'il est élu président de la république.

La présidente des militants anti-corruption, Jessica Angel Morris, prononçant son discours avant l'attaque, a appelé les Libériens à rejeter les dirigeants corrompus lors de la prochaine élection présidentielle.

Elle a aussi exhorté le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloé

Libériens contre la réélection du président sortant George Manneh Weah, car pour lui, donner un second mandat au président actuel serait comme commettre un suicide.

Le porte-drapeau du Parti du peuple libérien (LPP) a décrit l'administration de M. Weah comme la pire de tous les temps, l'accusant d'infliger des souffrances aux Libériens.

M. Gongloé et son colistier Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo ont failli se faire lyncher par un groupe de

dénoncer la corruption au sommet de l'Etat. Ils ont dû prendre la fuite pour avoir la vie sauve quand des inconnus armés de gourdins se sont introduits parmi leurs militants pour interrompre la marche. Au moins deux personnes ont été blessées.

Le lundi 17 juillet 2023, Me Gongloé, un avocat libérien renommé des droits de l'homme, avait appelé à une marche géante pour le mercredi 19 juillet 2023 pour dénoncer la corruption qui gangrène tout le pays. Il avait appelé les Libériens à y participer pour montrer aux yeux du monde que les Libériens en ont vraiment marre de la corruption.

## Tiken Jah Fakoly: «Personne ne viendra changer l'Afrique à notre place, si on veut on peut y arriver»

Tiken Jah Fakoly est l'un des artistes les plus respectés en Afrique de l'Ouest et un militant de la première heure. Le chanteur ivoirien est actuellement en tournée en Europe, la première depuis la fin de la pandémie de Covid-19. Il sera notamment sur la Scène du Port du festival Les Escales de Saint-Nazaire, dans l'ouest de la France, dimanche 30 juillet. L'occasion d'évoquer les retrouvailles avec le public et l'économie liée à ces concerts.

RFI : Avez-vous l'impression que la crise du Covid-19 qui a tant touché l'économie culturelle est définitivement derrière nous?

Tiken Jah Fakoly : Oui, je crois que la crise est derrière nous, en tout cas en ce qui me concerne. Je peux le constater aussi chez mes collègues. Les concerts ont repris partout. Je sais qu'il y

a plus de 200 festivals prévus en France. Nous, on a la chance d'être en quatrième position parmi les artistes qui tournent le plus. En tout cas, les choses ont repris, les choses ont repris complètement.

J'imagine, tout simplement, que ça fait du bien?

Ah, oui. Et cela fait du bien parce que, pendant la pandémie, on ne pensait même pas que ça allait reprendre. On se posait des

questions. Donc ça fait du bien aux fans aussi de nous retrouver sur le festival.

Grâce à ces concerts, vous faites vivre combien de personnes, combien de familles?

Dans mon équipe, nous sommes au total 16 sur la route. Ça me permet donc de payer mes employés à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Tiken Jah Fakoly

## 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

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## Donner à Weah un second

gouvernement américain à enquêter rapidement et à fournir des preuves contre des responsables gouvernementaux présumés corrompus. Elle a cité le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Johnson, Nathaniel McGill, ancien ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, qui brigue maintenant le siège sénatorial du comté de Margibi, et Bill Tweahway, ancien directeur général de la National Port Authority (NPA), candidat à l'élection sénatoriale de River Cess, entre autres.

Pour elle, ces personnes devaient être poursuivies. Elle veut donc une enquête complète et rapide afin qu'ils puissent faire face à tout le poids de la loi.

Madame Morris s'est dite convaincue qu'une vraie lutte forte et collective contre la corruption et l'impunité qui entravent la croissance et le développement de la nation, mettra fin à ces phénomènes au Libéria.

Me Gongloe a averti que la réélection de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique perpétuerait tellement de souffrances que les citoyens feront recours au suicide. Il a pris la parole lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il a organisée après la manifestation interrompue. Il a accusé le gouvernement du Libéria d'avoir perturbé le rassemblement pacifique. Pour lui, leur intention était d'intimider, de blesser et d'arrêter la campagne contre la corruption.

« Cette élection d'octobre, soyons conscients de qui nous élisons, ne chantons pas une chanson pareille à celle que nous avons chantée en 1997 : "tu as tué mon père, tu as tué ma mère, mais je voterai pour toi". Et encore en 2017 nous avons dit : " que tu sois instruit ou pas, je voterai pour toi." »

Il a demandé aux Libériens de changer les choses cette année en prenant une sage décision. « Il ne faut pas chanter la chanson : "Vous êtes corrompu, vous mangez tout notre argent, je voterai pour vous". Quiconque fait cela apportera trop de souffrance au Libéria parce que plus personne n'aura de sympathie pour le Libéria », a-t-il dit.

Le célèbre avocat libérien des droits de l'homme a accusé le président Weah de construire des villas personnelles plus que n'importe qui dans le pays. « Moins de huit mois après être devenu président, George Weah s'est construit une cité personnelle de plusieurs millions de dollars comprenant 47 bâtiments ultramodernes, et il continue d'en construire davantage, alors que les gens souffrent plus que jamais », a-t-il déploré.

Pour sa part, la présidente de l'ACC, Jessica Angel Morris, a exhorté les Libériens à rejeter les dirigeants corrompus lors des prochaines élections présidentielles afin de mettre fin à la corruption et de faire du Libéria une nation meilleure.

Elle a déclaré que l'élimination de la corruption doit être une tâche collective des Libériens.

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## Tiken Jah Fakoly: «Personne

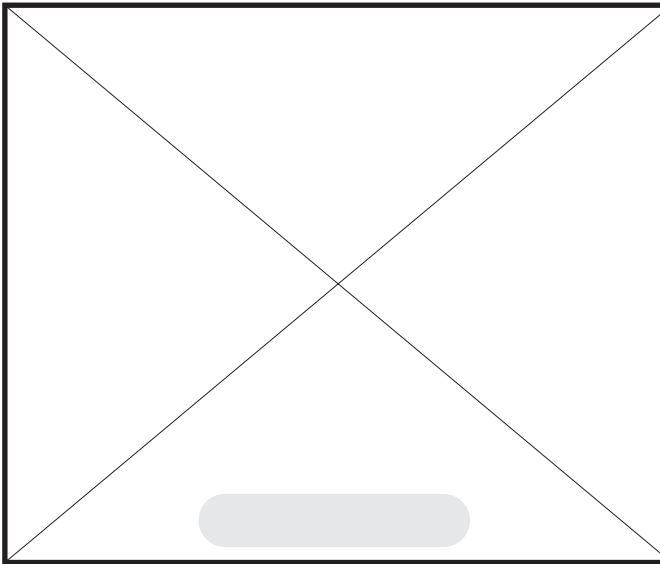
Bamako, de payer aussi mes employés à Abidjan puisque j'ai Fakoly Productions à Abidjan, Fakoly Productions à Bamako, un studio d'enregistrement à Abidjan. La seule bibliothèque reggae d'Afrique et deux salles de répétition. C'est vrai que ces entreprises nous rapportent un peu d'argent, mais pas assez pour payer tout le monde parce que notre objectif, c'est d'encourager la nouvelle génération. Donc, on ne peut pas leur faire payer plein pot, on ne gagne pas assez d'argent. Les concerts que je fais en Europe me permettent de payer tous ces employés.

Vous chantez à l'étranger depuis presque 30 ans maintenant. Est-il néanmoins

toujours aussi difficile pour les jeunes musiciens africains d'obtenir les visas, d'obtenir les papiers pour venir travailler, comme vous le faites, à l'étranger?

Tout est difficile aujourd'hui pour les nouvelles générations. Il y a le visa, mais ça, c'est aussi parce que certains de nos collègues ont exagéré et ont essayé de blaguer avec ceux qui donnent les visas. La tâche est donc très difficile pour la génération d'aujourd'hui. Aujourd'hui, pour signer avec un label en Europe, il faut être original, il faut sortir de l'ordinaire. Il faut venir avec son nouveau. Quelque chose qui puisse attirer tout de suite l'attention des gens et c'est ce qui peut faire qu'aujourd'hui, on puisse s'imposer.

## Avez-vous l'impression que le public en Europe



**S**e rend bien compte de la situation politique, sécuritaire en Afrique de l'Ouest? Je pense au Mali, au Burkina Faso...

Pas complètement. Mais grâce à des gens comme nous. Je ne suis pas le seul, il y a d'autres artistes qui en parlent dans les chansons. Les problèmes de sécurité dans le Sahel, les médias en parlent en France. Mais les gens ne voient pas jusqu'où on est, ne voient pas la gravité de la situation. Il y a des pays qui sont carrément menacés aujourd'hui. Les gens savent, mais ils ne savent pas jusqu'où on est

en difficulté.

Et vous avez néanmoins dit récemment que vous gardez beaucoup d'espoir, car tous les pays du monde sont passés par des difficultés...

Bien sûr. Moi, je me réfère très souvent à l'histoire. Quand je regarde l'histoire de la France, quand je regarde aussi l'histoire des États-Unis, je sais qu'il y a eu beaucoup de choses pour qu'ils en arrivent là, (des présidents assassinés, des coups d'État en France...) Je pense que l'Afrique est dans un processus normal. Je n'ai pas peur. J'ai espoir parce que je pense qu'on va sortir de tout cela et qu'on sera un continent stable un jour, parce que les autres sont passés aussi par tout cela. Donc je garde espoir. Le plus important, c'est de ne pas s'asseoir pour dire « ça va aller, dieu est grand, dieu va nous aider ». Et j'ai toujours dit aux Africains que Dieu est très occupé, parce qu'il doit s'occuper des Asiatiques, il doit s'occuper des Américains, il doit s'occuper des Russes. Si nous, on s'assoit pour dire « ça va aller », il va s'occuper de ceux qui bougent. Moi, j'ai l'espoir et c'est pourquoi on se bat pour réveiller les Africains et leur dire : personne ne viendra changer ce continent à notre place, si on veut, on peut y arriver.

## Un mot sur le Sénégal où, à un moment

**U**n mot sur le Sénégal où, à un moment, on vous a empêché de jouer. Récemment, le président du Sénégal, Macky Sall, a annoncé qu'il ne serait pas candidat pour un troisième mandat. Comment appréciez-vous cette décision?

Je salue cette décision. Effectivement, je pense comme les autres. Il y a eu déjà des morts et c'est vraiment dommage. Ces chefs d'État sont pris en otage par leur entourage qui se dit : « Si le président s'en va, je perds mon poste. » Donc, il faut être courageux pour annoncer cela. J'ai même appris que François Hollande en France, à l'époque, n'a pas prévenu tous ses collaborateurs. Si tu t'amuses à faire un troisième mandat là-bas, cela risque de se passer très mal. Donc, c'est une décision que je salue même si elle vient un peu tard. Mais il faut quand même saluer cette décision, ça fait moins de morts.

Vous n'aimez pas trop rentrer dans le secret : en parallèle de tous ces concerts, vous êtes dès que possible en studio pour enregistrer votre douzième album. Que va-t-il y avoir dans le disque?

J'ai toujours rêvé, j'ai toujours voulu enregistrer un album acoustique, c'est-à-dire avec moins d'instruments, dans un autre style. Donc, voilà, c'est ce qu'on est en train de faire aujourd'hui. Et je voudrais préciser que ce sont des anciens titres que nous revisitons comme Plus rien ne m'étonne, Tonton d'America, Délivrance, Justice, Les Martyrs... Pour ceux qui connaissent mon répertoire, ce sont des titres que vous allez retrouver en acoustique. On a déjà commencé et je peux vous assurer que ça sonne très bien. C'est revenir aux racines, c'est ça.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## ECI makes Climate Change appeal to government

By Lincoln G. Peters

Dozens of Climate Change activists from the Eco Climate Initiative (ECI) because Liberia is gradually over the weekend staged a peaceful rally in Paynesville calling on the Government of Liberia to declare Climate Change a national emergency.

The group asked the government to protect wetlands

to combating climate change and environmental pollution.

The objective of the organization is to lead youth into maintaining a friendly environment through advocacy, environmental literacy, and research.

Shedike Varlee Kamara, ECI Executive Director, addressed reporters and the global community during the rally.

He said they joined the rest of the world to celebrate Climate Emergency Day to enable national governments and global partners to take serious decisions in protecting the environment.

He indicated that they have partnered with Climate Clock and the Global Community in over 30 countries to celebrate Climate Emergency Day.

Mr. Kamara added that the Climate Clock is in Liberia and they are asking the government to protect wetlands and ban single-use plastic to help the environment to experience growth.

“Today is Climate Emergency Day and the World set a deadline for us to take serious action to protect our environment,” he said.

He said Climate Change is a serious emergency issue that needs to be addressed.

“We have had flooding and this tells us that we are in [a] Climate emergency,” he noted.

## Cummings visits, empathizes with flood victims in New Georgia

Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander Cummings, on Sunday, July 23, visited and empathized with several churches and communities in New Georgia, Caldwell, whose members were victimized by flood, caused by heavy down pour of rains over the weekend.

The flood in Montserrado County caused massive damages to homes and displaced hundreds of citizens especially in the Caldwell areas.

Mr. Cummings accompanied by his wife, Teresa and senior CPP stalwarts visited and worshipped at the Garden of Prayers, Healing and Delivery Ministries and the Seomi God's Family Church.

The CPP Standard Bearer also engaged several communities along the New Georgia Road in the Chea Cheapoo and Forky Town communities.

The visits to the affected flood areas, followed a special worship

choices, due to instant personal gratifications.

Bishop Thomas preached on the theme, "Few causes of Failures," with emphasis on people who ignored God's divine instructions and are moved by what they see. The Pentecostal Bishop also cautioned Liberians to be careful of what they are receiving during the elections to influence their decisions, noting that "when there is deceit in your heart, you will evoke cause," he said.

He said it will be the greatest mistake by Liberians to ignore Mr. Cummings's great potential and what he is capable of doing to pull Liberia out of the deteriorating economic conditions affecting millions of Liberians.

In response, the CPP Standard Bearer expressed gratitude for the honouring ceremony and said upon his election as President of Liberia the religious community will be a critical partner in the transformation of Liberia.

Mr. Cummings said a CPP



Change a national emergency. and ban single-use plastic across the country.

The group partnered with Climate Clock and the Global Community in over 30 countries to celebrate Climate Emergency Day on Saturday, 22 July 2023 during which it sought the government's action.

According to the group, single used plastic poses several hazards to the community and society.

ECI is a youth-driven Anti-Climate Change movement that is working to improve youth participation and contribution

During the rally, the group marched from Boulevard Junction to the E.J.S Ministerial Complex in Congo Town

## Human rights not hand-out

### -Atty. Harris tells government

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian lawyer Atty. Facia B. Harris has warned the government here that human rights, especially educational opportunities for citizens, are not hand-out.

The Paramount Young Women Initiative Executive Director lamented that the lack of educational opportunities is linked to poverty.

Delivering a keynote speech at the graduation ceremony of the Crest Foundation School over the weekend, Atty. Harris said poverty also has strong gender impacts which contribute to keeping girls out of school.

The female activist wondered if Liberians want to always have an unequal society wherein only a few people progress while they look at their neighbors, brothers, and sisters starve in dreadful poverty and discrimination.

Atty. Harris suggested that this is a question for people to sleep over and let the answer be that while there are many tools for reducing poverty, education is the

major one.

She also wondered if Liberians want a country where fathers have abandoned their responsibility to their children, causing many to become school dropouts. "The two major ways to tackle this problem are to increase educational opportunities for all and to make sure the education people get [is] functional," she stated. The female activist disclosed that the right thing to do is for the government,

parents, and people of goodwill to invest in the education of the children, providing equal opportunities for girls and boys.

"For students and children here, who are not in school, the right thing to do is go to school, stay in school, attend all your classes, not spying to pass a quiz, test, or final exam," she said. According to her, it is safe to assume that more students are passing to the next class and graduating than those who fail.



Atty. Facia B. Harris



Mr. Cummings interacting with some flood victims

service at the Garden of Prayers Ministries, during which the Church and community leaders jointly gowned Mr. Cummings and pledged their support to his Presidential bid come October 10. Bishop David S. Thomas of the Garden of Prayers Ministries expressed appreciation for the visit by the CPP Standard Bearer and cautioned Liberians not to repeat or make the wrong

administration will increase economic opportunities with emphasis on young people and women who are Liberia's future and backbone respectively.

He equated Liberia to a bowl of rice, in which all Liberians irrespective of political or religious affiliations and ethnicity, will be granted equal rights and opportunities to eat therefrom in strict adherence to the law.

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# ALP will be a force

By: Naneka Hoffman

The standard bearer of the All Liberian Party Mr. Benoni Urey warns one-time political ally Ambassador Joseph

formation of the Democratic Alliance and at the end of the day, they said they do not need the DA again."

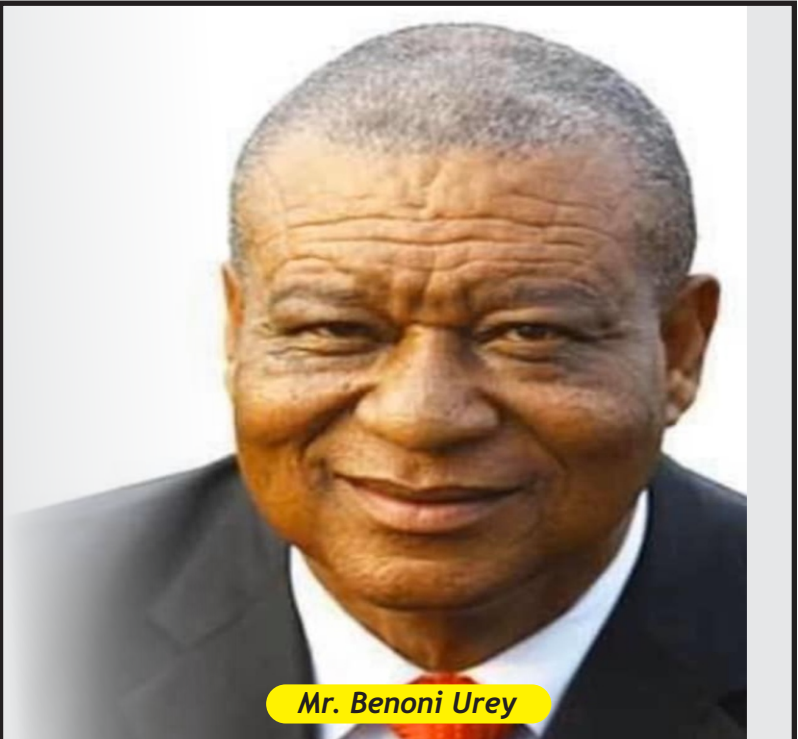
According to Mr. Urey, the UP said they did not need the Democratic Alliance since

this election, we are a force to reckon with and I want to let the world to know that we will never be used like that again." He adds that ALP spent time and resources on the Unity Party for six years, but just because of two or three legislative seats, it fought the ALP, asking "How were they to be so wicked and evil?" "I want the world to know that we are not stupid and we will never be used that way again; God is a wonderful supernatural being because He has shown us these people now." Mr. Urey notes that if they had gone through these elections in an alliance with the UP and won, UP would have treated the ALP and its partisans like dogs and trash; "but I am telling you that your voices will be heard and at the appropriate time we will meet and decide where next", he assures the certificated aspirants. He says nobody should think that the ALP owes anyone and they will have to support them, adding "Because politics is interest and anywhere the party decides that we will support, we will support that with all the forces at our disposal." There are rumors that Mr. Urey and his party may go the way of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change of President Weah, comes October 10th. He points that coming changes in the country will start at the national legislature and expresses optimism for those people nominated on his party's ticket in the elections. A total of 36 aspirants including one woman and two senatorial aspirants were certificated during the program. Editing by Jonathan Browne

there was no confusion in their party because the Democratic Alliance was only meant for a 'fallback' position. He reveals that the UP convinced him and Professor Alaric Togba to form the Democratic Alliance, adding that the UP has allegedly "hijacked" the documents of the DA and money sent from the United States to open a bank account for the alliance. "Based on these prevailing circumstances, the national executive committee of the ALP has passed a resolution that we no longer support the Unity Party", he declares.

The ALP standard bearer also alleges that the Unity Party applied tribal pressure to take four of the legislative aspirants after his party has nurtured them. "But, we will let them know that during

Nyumah Boakai that the ALP will use the October 10th presidential and legislative elections to let the Unity Party know that it (ALP) is a force to reckon with. Speaking at the certification program of 36 aspirants for legislative seats on the ALP's tickets at the party headquarters on Old Road, Mr. Urey said the world should know that ALP did not leave the Unity Party, but rather, it was the UP that threw them out. He explains that the ALP had worked with the Unity Party for the past five to six years, but as the presidential and legislative elections draw near, Boakai and the UP said they did not want any collaboration, something, he describes as the greatest betrayal ever in Liberian political history. "Before then, they influenced us to start working for the



Mr. Benoni Urey

# Who will receive Charloe Musu's body?

A sorrowful but interesting drama surrounding the corpse of the late Charloe Musu has ensued here, as lawyers representing the former Chief Justice, Gloria Musu Scott reject current attempts by the Government of Liberia, through the Coroner of Montserrado County, and the Liberia National Police, to deliver Charloe's body for burial. This is happening more than four months after the conduct of the government-ordered autopsy on Charloe's remains, followed by fruitless calls by the family for government to hand over the body for a befitting funeral.

The Government of Liberia, through the Coroner of Montserrado County, on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, reached out to one of Justice Scott's lawyers, seeking to convince the family to take delivery of the body for burial, but the lawyer showed no interest whatsoever, in the government's initial attempt to hand over the body in a low-key fashion and to the humiliating exclusion of the late Charloe Musu's guardian, Justice Gloria Musu Scott, who is currently languishing in prison. The

body be released to the bereaved family for funeral arrangement and interment." Deputy Inspector General Mulbah (103) said his letter to Cllr. Fayiah was triggered by a June 29, 2023 communication from the Coroner of Montserrado County, Abraham B. Ricks, stating the completion of post-mortem (physical examination) and the completion of autopsy on the body of the late Charloe Musu, thus the need to deliver the body to the family for burial. In his reply to Inspector Mulbah, dated July 20, 2023, Cllr. Fayiah declined the government's request on grounds that he's only a lawyer for Cllr. Scott and the other three suspects, and not a member of the Musu or Scott family, and therefore cannot take delivery of the body as requested.

Cllr. Fayiah's reply/response reads: "kindly be informed that my role as one of counsels for Cllr. Gloria M. Musu Scott, former Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, and her family does not extend to assuming the role of taking the body of the late



late Charloe Musu

government, again, on July 19, 2023, through Deputy Commissioner of Police for CSD, CID & Interpol, Col. Prince Mulbah, wrote Cllr. Augustine Fayiah, a member of Justice Scott's legal team, requesting him to take delivery of the body on behalf of the family for funeral arrangements and burial, but the latest request has also been denied by Cllr. Fayiah. Col. Mulbah's letter reads: "With compliments and in reference to the attached communication dated June 29, 2023, from the office of the Coroner, Montserrado County, stating the completion of post-mortem examination/observation, coupled with autopsy conducted on the remains of the late Charloe Musu, we concurred with said office that the

Charloe Musu." Amid this latest drama, the spokesperson for the Musu family, Mr. Nathaniel Toe said the current attempts by the government to hand over the body to, in his words, just anybody for the sake of turning it over, confirms the suspicion Justice Scott and other family members had prior to their arrest and incarceration, that there were efforts and plans by powerful political people to sew seed of discord in the Musu and Scott families by excluding Justice Scott from any funeral activities of the late Charloe, while at the same time accusing her of being the murderer along with other family members.

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## Liberia's Labour Minister

response to this, the Ministry of Labour has initiated efforts to encourage vocational training among young adults, equipping them with relevant skills that match the demands of the job market. By doing so, the Ministry aims to reduce unemployment rates and provide hope for a better future.

Regarding school-going youths, Minister Gibson addressed the challenges of anger and violence that often affect their well-being. He acknowledged that anger is a natural emotion, but it is essential to teach young individuals how to manage their anger constructively, ensuring it does not lead to violence or aggression. The Minister emphasized the significance of combining social and mental

education to foster a well-rounded development of the youth. Moreover, the integration of skills education into the curriculum will keep them engaged and occupied, reducing the likelihood of negative behavior.

Minister Gibson's participation in the World Minister Forum has provided an opportunity to share Liberia's experiences and learn from other African nations facing similar challenges in youth employment. By exchanging ideas and best practices, Liberia aims to forge partnerships and collaborations to tackle youth unemployment collectively.

Minister Gibson spoke Friday July 21, 2023, in Seoul, South Korea where he said the Ministry of Labour remains committed to developing effective strategies and policies to empower the youth, improve their employability, and foster a stable and prosperous society.

The Liberia Labour Minister's engagement at the World Minister Forum in South Korea is a testament to Liberia's dedication to finding sustainable solutions for the betterment of its youth and the nation as a whole. -Dospatch

Starts from back page

## Kemayah receives Golden

opportunities to Liberians across the world. Currently, the Ministry is undergoing massive renovations that have not gone on since it was constructed more than fifty years ago. The Chief Convener, President George Manneh Weah in whose honor the award is named, presented the award to Minister Kemayah, an act pundit have described as a significant milestone and the highest level of recognition of Kemayah's reform initiatives at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recently, during the Independence celebration ceremony of the United States of America, Amb. Michael McCathy hailed the Foreign Minister for the level of reformation being carried out at the Ministry.

Making remarks, Foreign Minister Kemayah thanked Amb. Juli Endee and the Golden Image Award's family for their recognition and the value they continue to add to humanity by showcasing the diversity and beauty of Liberian society. "We also like to thank you and your committee, Amb. Juli Endee, for sending three awards, through merit, of course, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: one to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an institution for the level of work being done there, to Deputy Minister Dweh Gray for her dedicated services in your own words, and one to me, your humble servant, for the level of reform at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

## Kemayah receives Presidential Leadership Award

The 2023 and 13th Edition of the Golden Image Award has bestowed upon the Liberia Foreign Minister, Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., the Golden Image George Manneh

Image Award for scrutiny in September 2022 to February 2023". The letter further mentioned that Minister Kemayah's profile, which was read during the official award ceremony, proved captivating and possessed all the attributes listed in the selection criteria; hence, the committee selected him as the winner of the "H.E. George Manneh Weah Presidential Award". Speaking during the award ceremony, Liberia's Culture Ambassador, Executive Director of Liberia Crusaders for Peace, and Event Organizer, Ambassador Juli Endee, recounted the many achievements of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Amb. Endee particularly restated what the former US Ambassador, McCarthy, said when he referenced the transformation that is taking place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister Kemayah, upon taking over the helm of power in 2020, embarked on a reform process. The minister is credited with reducing the passport price by 20% in all categories at no cost to the government's revenue, improving the ranking of the Liberian passport, and providing more scholarship



President Weah Presents the Golden Image George Weah Presidential Leadership Award to Foreign Minister Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr.

Weah Presidential Leadership Award" in the national category. The Golden Image Award is an integral part of the official celebration of the Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia. The award is classified into three categories including local, national and international. Some awardees included the Deputy Speaker of the 54th National Legislature, Cllr. Fonati Kofa, and the Chief of Mission and Change d'Affaires of the United States Embassy accredited near Monrovia, among others. In a

Crusaders for Peace, in collaboration with the Government of Liberia, extended their warmest compliments and informed him of his selection as winner and recipient of the 2023 Golden Image Award in the national level category of Leadership. "Your selection comes following a thorough research and vetting of names and profiles of individuals, organizations, and countries that were submitted by the network of national and international committee members to the National Secretariat of the Golden

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