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**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
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|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2023 | L\$186.3613/US\$1.00 | L\$186.2448/US\$1.00 |

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

# The New Dawn

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Sen. Nuquay

# Sen. Nuquay attacks McGill



Mr. McGill



Dr. George Parkinson Gonpu

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# Continental News

## Fifteen killed as dozens of fires sweep Algeria

At least 15 people have been killed and thousands evacuated after wildfires broke out across Algeria, the country's interior ministry says. Outbreaks of 97 wildfires were recorded across

Jijel, fanned by high winds.

Northern Algeria has been experiencing a record heatwave in recent days, with temperatures reaching 48C.

Temperatures in several regions in North Africa are up to 7C

keeping homes cool.

Meanwhile, southern Europe has been dealing with a challenging heatwave that has seen Greece ravaged by wildfires.

The UN weather agency, the World Meteorological Organization, has warned that the heatwave in Europe could continue into August and that the extreme temperatures sweeping the globe are the new normal in a world warmed by climate change.

The three hottest days ever recorded were in July, according to the EU climate and weather service, Copernicus.

The average world temperature hit 16.89C on Monday 3 July and topped 17C for the first time on 4 July, with an average global temperature of 17.04C. Provisional figures suggest that was exceeded on 5 July when temperatures reached 17.05C.

The World Meteorological Organization says extreme weather patterns highlight the need for greater climate action.

Climate change increases the risk of the hot, dry weather that is likely to fuel wildfires. The world has already warmed by about 1.1C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions. BBC



Parts of Algeria were hit with wildfires in August 2022

16 provinces affecting forest, crops and farmland on Monday.

Around 7,500 firefighters and 350 fire trucks were working to bring the blazes under control, authorities said.

Twenty-six people were also injured and 1,500 evacuated from their homes in Fenaia, Bejaia, Zbarbar and Bouira.

Ten soldiers were killed battling the fires in Bejaia, the Algerian defence ministry said.

The most extensive fires, in the mountainous Kabylie region to the east of Algiers, spread to residential areas in the coastal towns of Bejaia and

higher than normal for the time of year.

Algeria's Meteorological Office has warned that temperatures of more than 48C are likely to continue until the end of the month in the north of the country.

On Monday, Algeria's national electricity and gas company, Sonelgaz, said it had recorded a "historic peak" in electricity consumption. A leading outlet critical of the government, Tout Sur l'Algerie (TSA), reported earlier this month there had been an unprecedented use of air conditioners, saying current methods of construction were less effective than traditional bricks in

## Russia can replace Ukraine grain to Africa - Putin

President Putin says Russia is capable of replacing exports of grain to Africa from Ukraine after he withdrew from a deal allowing their safe shipment across the Black Sea.

A Kremlin statement said Moscow could provide the grain on a commercial and free-of charge basis.

In the year up to June 2022, Russia was on of the largest suppliers of wheat to Africa - exporting 10.8 million tonnes. In the same period, Ukraine exported 6.3 million tonnes to the continent.

Mr Putin said Russia expected a record harvest this year. The country will host the second Russia-Africa summit later this week. The

ending of the Ukraine grain deal was met with a statement of regret from the African Union whose member states have been particularly hard-hit by rising food prices.

Reports have suggested Moscow is pushing to supply grain via a scheme involving Qatar and Turkey, although it's unclear if they'll accept. BBC



In many African countries there has been a significant increase in food prices

## Cameroon Rescue Workers Search for Survivors After Building Collapse

Cameroon's President Paul Biya has ordered the demolition of poorly constructed, illegal houses in the port city of Douala, the country's largest city and economic hub. The order came after a four-story building collapsed onto a smaller one Sunday killing at least 33 people, including four children. Rescue workers are still digging through the rubble in hopes of finding survivors.

Scores of rescue workers and military troops use spades to dig through the wreckage of a collapsed structure Monday.

Military bulldozers move and dump scattered pieces of the building onto an empty area near scores of onlookers.

Lieutenant Colonel Abdel Kadrey is one of the commanders of the Fire Fighting Department of Cameroon's military. He's

wreckage],” he said. “So, the military, they are still working, and we are sure that they are going to make efforts to finish the work today or tomorrow.”

Diboua said the injured are being treated at Douala's Laquintinie and Dieudo hospitals.

On Monday, the government said President Biya dispatched a delegation led by Cameroon's Housing and Urban Development minister to Douala to oversee demolition of unsafe housing.

Sunday's collapse came as Douala's city council has been trying to demolish unsafe buildings in high-risk zones for floods or landslides. The council and Cameroon's housing ministry last year reported more than 500 buildings in high-risk zones were in danger of collapse.

Authorities ordered owners to either reinforce or demolish the buildings, but Douala's city council reports fewer than 40 were



supervising operations for what is hoped for will be rescues and not just the recovery of bodies.

Kadrey said the building was in an advanced state of degradation before it collapsed Sunday at about 1:00 am local time. He said the collapsed building no longer constitutes a threat to its surroundings.

The apartment building, which authorities estimate housed 160 people, collapsed onto a two-story one next to it that housed another 60. Samuel Dieudonne Ivaha Diboua, the governor of Cameroon's Littoral region, where Douala is located, said the hope of finding survivors is lessening by the hour. “We want to tell the population that 31 people are in hospitals and the military and also gendarmes are working to make sure that there is no body remaining inside [the

repaired and none have been demolished.

Council officials say the building that collapsed early Sunday was not one of those marked for demolition.

Edward Nfor, a member of the Cameroon Civil Society Group and a building contractor, blamed what he described as a lack of respect by authorities for building safety standards.

“A city like Douala is supposed to be well planned so that each one knows that this area is good to construct or not or these are areas where we have floods or landslides,” he said. “That information is not available. Normally, there are supposed to be some geotechnical surveys approved by the state before you carry out (construct) (multi-)story buildings. That is not done. Everybody is just doing what he or she wants to do and then these are the resultant effects like what just happened.” 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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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

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# COMMENTARY

By Nora McKeon

## Governing the Right to Food

**R**OME - When I was a child, my father, who had witnessed the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, told me how common ground was sought around shared principles in a world fractured by the Cold War. The Declaration, adopted in 1948, upheld a series of basic rights, including to adequate food. States have the duty to protect, respect, and fulfill such rights and can be called to account if they fail to do so.

United Nations membership grew rapidly in the 1960s, when many former colonies gained independence and subsequently pushed for greater equity in global governance. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966, called on signatories to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.

The oil-supply shocks and stagflation of the mid-1970s shifted the momentum away from state-led, rights-based governance to neoliberalism as the dominant policymaking paradigm. This approach was based on the misguided beliefs that unfettered markets allocate resources most efficiently; economic globalization benefits all countries; and the private sector provides goods and services more effectively than the public sector.

From the 1980s, the neoliberal structural-adjustment programs imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on cash-strapped countries, coupled with the advent of the World Trade Organization, restricted the policy space of governments in the Global South. The adjustment programs called for governments to roll back regulations - including labor and environmental protections - that were deemed a hinderance to free trade and to open their markets to imports of subsidized food products.

The resulting globalized, corporate-led industrial food system, which promised to improve food security worldwide, has been a dismal failure. Citizens have been left to pay the price for neoliberal policies: fragile supply chains, workers without rights, a worsening climate crisis, severely diminished biodiversity, reduced access to healthy food, unsustainable diets, and extreme economic inequality. With hunger and malnutrition on the rise, it is time for a radical course correction.

Reforming the global industrial food system will be difficult, in part because it is characterized by an extremely high concentration of power in the hands of a few multinational agribusiness companies. Only a handful of firms dominate the global grain and fertilizer markets, a position that has enabled profiteering when supply chains break down, as they did during the COVID-19 pandemic and following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Backed by powerful commodity-exporting countries, neoliberal policies have promoted industrial production of export crops at the expense of domestic food production by smallholders, transforming Global South

countries into food importers vulnerable to price spikes. Financial power also buys narrative power, which can be used to praise the latest food tech. No one should care that pesticides are decimating bee populations if corporations can turn tiny drones into artificial pollinators (all for a price, of course).

The latest manifestation of this concentrated corporate power is multinationals' attempts to gain control of global food governance from the rights-based intergovernmental system. In 2010, the World Economic Forum launched what has come to be called a multi-stakeholder approach to governance in which everyone has a seat at the table. But this framework is far less inclusive than it sounds. When the roles, responsibilities, and interests of different actors are ignored, and power imbalances are disregarded, corporations inevitably prevail over the less powerful, and government accountability and human rights are set aside.

Inviting corporations to join the decision-making process tips the scales in favor of industrial, chemical-heavy monoculture - a move justified by the neoliberal narrative that we desperately need to harness corporate investment and innovation to increase food production. In reality, the world produces more than enough to feed everyone; the problem is unequal access, which requires political, not technical, solutions.

Supporting small family farmers, who produce a significant proportion of the world's food and reach consumers through local markets rather than global supply chains, requires an entirely different policy framework. But why would multinational corporations advocate an approach that goes against their interests?

The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in September 2021 was the apotheosis of "multi-stakeholderism." Organized without a mandate from governments, and with strong participation by agrifood corporations and the Gates Foundation, the summit did not address the right to food and, in the words of Michael Fakhri, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, was disconnected from "people's real needs." The summit's "Stocktaking Moment," scheduled for late July, is the first global follow-up to this non-event.

Many civil-society organizations that fight for people's right to choose the structure of their food systems have contested both events. These groups prefer platforms like the UN Committee on World Food Security, which includes constituencies most affected by food insecurity, focuses on the structural causes of hunger and inequality, and promotes accountability by reserving voting for governments. The People's Autonomous Response to the UNFSS - a coalition of such groups - held public events in mid-July to highlight power imbalances that challenge democratic food governance and to consider the future of multilateralism.

Determining how to achieve adequate food for all is the right of citizens and the duty of governments. Those concerned with making profits should have no place at the table.



# Lord, who tell them the Footballer people geh time for facts

**Dear Father:**  
I beg you ya, who tell them de Footballer people geh time for facts. In fact, who tell you da they can even listen to him when he talking before your want them to be correcting him.

The man say the Old man used to be sleeping so he never used to see him putting him hand up. Which one be your own to come start making noise around here? Is it becus he say only him man Alberto used to see him hand whenever he wor presiding? Yor lee us mehn.

You say whatin, da Alberto wor there?  
I beg you ya, Alberto who just came in de picture de orlor day wehplay he wor eh?

So, it mean de Old Man talked true da our man never used put him hand up or he never used to attend meeting at de Traditional Council when he wor there? Becus he na even know who was de Paramount Chief sef. Damn! Father, it look leh de sleepy Old Man win dis orlor debate oo.

Bor my son, you want to tell me nobody wor there to correct de man?  
Father, how many time I mon say dis one thing? When de people see de Country Giant all their brain them can scatter. Some can go spend time.

I say de people can be so happy da anything our big Brabee say da gospel truth to them. So, nobody geh time sef to understand de thing them de man can be talking. All they know, their man talking and they there-da all.  
Bor come to think of it Father, me I na blame de people who are just there to see de man-whether we lekay or not, de man supporter them jus leh him.

De only problem I have is with de one them who can come be running with it on de Town Crier them, they wan to tell us da they too have lost their brains?

So, you see de problem there. Okay, so we understand de Footballer wor talking da day and him make mistake, you who come explain somer de thing them de man wor saying, you want to tell us you na listen well, well and do some background checking before you come on de village radio to explain to us-Ay mehn!  
Bor my son who say somer de people geh time for de truth.

Father, de thing too bad mehn, leh talk so and talk so. I shame sef. If you do it leh da na, it will jus be looking ugly.  
We all know de Footballer da human being, he can make mistake-you can't tell me he na know who wor de Paramount Chief when he wor at de Upper end of the Tradition Council.

So, to jus start running with de same thing leh da ay mehn, yor na doing well for our Brabee at all. Even de time de man talking about our village paper used to be 23 dollar of Uncle Sam money, na de 50 we are paying for it today.  
Father, I know de Country Giant made honest mistake.  
How do you know my son?

Father, I been following dis man since 2005, if da one thing I know about him, him na leh for people to lie for him. He will tell you de truth.  
Ehn we here, all de people da going around telling all kina lies how de man na do dis orlor one here and da orlor one there de day de man geh ready to talk one on one, he will say my people leh me tell your de true yaa.

So, leh them be there lying all around here saying they helping and covering up for de man. Trust me Father, just listen to our man next time he talking, he will correct himself. Ley man na willing to give nobody chance to come and say bad, bad thing them about him here just so they can pretend leh they working becus when de shit hit de fence, they will all scatter looking for new places to hang their coat them.

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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)  
MONTERRADO COUNTY)

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW  
MONTERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN ITS  
JUNE TERM, A.D. 2023.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

IN RE: The God of Love Forever Church, Inc. by and thru its President, Francis Nwosu of the City of Monrovia, Liberia  
.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Moses T. Konah and all others to be identified of the City of Monrovia, Liberia .....DEFENDANT

SUMMARY PROCEEDING TO RECOVER POSSESSION OF REAL PROPERTY

**WRIT OF SUMMONS**

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF/DEPUTY SHERIFF OF MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, G R E E T I N G S:-

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT(S) IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE OF ACTION, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE JUNE TERM, A.D. 2023, SAME BEING THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, A. D. 2023, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO SUMMONS THE RESPONDENT(S)/DEFENDANT (S) HEREIN TO FILE HIS/HER/THEIR RETURN(S)/ANSWER(S) TO THE PETITIONER(S)/PLAINTIFF(S) PETITION/COMPLAINT, ON OR BEFORE THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2023. FAILURE TO DO SO, DEFAULT JUDGMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST HIM/HER/THEM.

MEANWHILE, YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS TO MY OFFICE ON/OR BEFORE THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2023, WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2023.

COURT'S SEAL:

RANDOLPH B. SNEH  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL  
MONTERRADO COUNTY) CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN  
ITS JUNE A. D. 2023 TERM

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY.....RESIDENT JUDGE

The God of Love Forever Church, Inc. by and thru its President, Francis Nwosu of the City of Monrovia, Liberia.....Petitioner

vs

Moses T. Konah and all others to be identified of Monrovia, Liberia.....Respondents

Summary Proceedings to Recover Possession of Real Property  
Filed May 17, 2023  
@ 3:30 PM  
ASST. Clerk

**Petitioner's Petition**

AND NOW COMES Petitioner in the above entitled Cause of Action and brings this action against the within named Respondent in the form and manner as follows, to wit:

- Petitioner is the legal and legitimate owner of a parcel of land measuring 3.69 Lots located in Congo Town, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia, Liberia. Attached and marked "Exhibit P/1" is a copy of Petitioner's Title Deed to form a cogent part of this Petition.
- Further as to Count 1, Petitioner avers and says that in 2021, 3.69 lots of land were purchased from Charles Cooker, Jr. one of the Administrators of the Intestate Estate Randall P. Gbayu.
- Even further as to Count 1, Petitioner avers and says endorsement of the existence of Randall P. Gbayu owning real property in the area is a Letter of Confirmation issued by the Center of National Documents & Records Agency (CNDRA). Attached and marked "Exhibit P/2" is a copy of the Letter of Confirmation to form a cogent part of this Petition.
- Petitioner avers and says that on many occasions they have opted to engage Respondents of encroaching on their property, but to no avail.
- Further as to Count 4, Petitioner avers and says they complained to the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) which invited Respondents to a Mediator Conference. Again, the meeting was never held as Respondents failed to attend having his Lawyer to formally inform the LLA that such meeting will be too costly for his client; hence, Petitioner should proceed to Court. Attached and marked "Exhibit P/3 in Bulk" are copies of the communication to concerned Parties for Your Honor's ease of reference.
- Petitioner avers and says in February of this year, this Honorable Court held Respondents in contempt of Court for their deliberate failure, without any excuse, to adhere to an Investigative Survey which had been ordered to amicably resolve the matter. Attached and marked "Exhibit P/4" is a copy of the Court's Writ of Arrest for Your Honor's ease of reference.
- And that our Civil Procedure Law as found in 1 LCL Rev. Title 1, §62.21 provides that only a person who has title to real property may bring an action of Summary Proceedings to Recover Possession of Real Property where title is not in issue, and since Petitioner has legitimate such title, they have elected to exercise their rights by bringing such an action.

WHEREFORE, AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, Petitioner has instituted this suit and pray Judgment against Respondents to have them ousted and ejected from their property, and to rule the costs of these proceedings against Respondents and to grant unto your humble Petitioner such other and further relief as Your Honor and this Honorable Court may deem equitable, just and legal in the premise.

Respectfully submitted  
The Petitioner  
By and thru their Legal Counsel  
  
Jura A. Lynch  
Counsellor-at-Law  
Cell: 0886 140 273/0777 002 379

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of May, A. D. 2023

US\$5.00 Revenue Stamp Affixed to the Original Copy.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
MONTERRADO COUNTY) FOR AND IN MONTERRADO COUNTY,  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

The God of Love Forever Church, Inc. by and thru its President, Francis Nwosu of the City of Monrovia, Liberia.....Petitioner

vs

Moses T. Konah and all others to be identified of Monrovia, Liberia.....Respondents

Summary Proceedings to Recover Possession of Real Property

**Petitioner's Affidavit**

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, a duly qualified and commissioned Justice of the Peace in and for the City of Monrovia, Monterrado County, Republic of Liberia, at my office in the City of Monrovia, Monterrado County, Republic aforesaid, Jura A. Lynch, Counsellor-at-Law, Counsel for Petitioner in the above entitled Cause of Action and made oath according to law that the allegations laid and contained in the foregoing and annexed PETITIONER'S PETITION are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and that as to those matters of information, he verily believes them to be true and correct.

Jura A. Lynch  
Counsellor-at-Law

Sworn and Subscribed to Before Me  
This 17<sup>th</sup> Day of May A. D. 2023  
  
Justice of the Peace  
For and in Monterrado County  
Republic of Liberia

US\$3.00 Revenue Stamps Affixed to the Original Copy.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### ECOWAS Parliament convenes Delocalized Committee 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.

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

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 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*



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. In recent

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 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

### Businessman accuses Customs of favoring foreigners

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberian businessman identified as Rochina Harvey has accused a top Customs Officer of allegedly discriminating against Liberian-owned businesses in favor of Indian and Lebanese-owned businesses.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Innovational International Group of Companies Liberia, LTD, told a press conference over the weekend that due to the alleged discrimination, he has transferred to Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, a company that should have employed hundreds of Liberians.

He alleged that he has lost over 500,000 United States Dollars over the last two years due to alleged bureaucratic and discriminatory measures in Liberia.

According to him, his

company has been facing this challenge with the Custom Department of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) over the last four to five years.

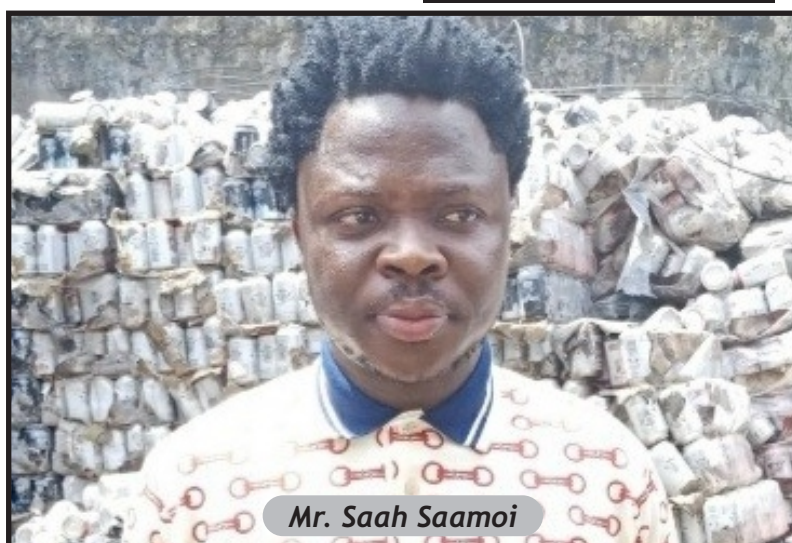
He said he has been importing some drinks juices and other items in the country.

Meanwhile, Mr. Harvey threatened to mobilize

Liberians against Mr. Saah Saamoi, a commander of LRA's Customs Security Forces and the foreign-owned businesses for discriminating against Liberian businesses.

"Few years ago," he went on, "I brought three containers of juice into the country; when they noticed that the juice I [had] imported [would have competed] with

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Mr. Saah Saamoi

### 3 DPPL executives suspend membership with party

accuse standard bearer Kermue, Chairman Tamba of taking unilateral decisions

Three executives of the Democratic People Party of Liberia (DPPL) say they have finally reached a decision to suspend their membership with the party for gross disrespect from some executive members of the party including party chairman Atty. Dickson R. Tamba and the standard bearer, Rev. David Kermue.

The three DPPL officials in a press release accused Chairman Tamba of taking unilateral decision without the consent of the majority of the Executive committee, noting that such action which undermines and violates the constitution of the party has the propensity to derail the progress of the party in this crucial time of the current political process in the country.

"DDPL as faith-based grassroots political party was established on the principles of

contrary to the tenets of pragmatic 21st century democracy and if it is not corrected now, it will land the party in the wrong direction against the principle on which it was organized.

According to the three DPPL executives, political party is not a personal property of anyone that will be managed at his/her will and pleasure at the detriment of other members and the institution.

They stressed that the essence of a party is to collectively harness the effort and potential of everyone in the direct that deem appropriate for the correction of societal ills which include but not limited to economic freedom for all, equal political participation that incorporates divergence views or opinions and efforts that promote the state of wellbeing of all as the reward of politics is not in heaven but on earth, which is harmony and happening in all spheres of freedom.



Rev. David Kermue.

inclusion, participatory democracy and respect for all irrespective of socio-economic status. These doctrines as were envisaged have been overlooked by few members of the executive engineered by the chairman and supported by the standard bearer", the release reads.

According to the party's National Secretary General John D. Pangbe; National Vice Chair for Administration, Joseph Bush Trinity; and National Vice Chair for Recruitment and Mobilization, Rev. Josephus Koffeh, without the acquiescence of the majority members of the party, Chairman Tamba unilaterally selected legislative candidates on the ticket of the DPPL and singlehandedly organized a national convention without the presence of county chairpersons and other stalwarts of the party at a secret location outside the national headquarters.

They said these actions have sinister motives that run

"Today, we are disturbed to announce that over 10 executive members and about 25 key members and stakeholders are suspending their membership with the DPPL on account that the party that we dearly cherished has now turned to a friendly empire and no longer tolerate and respect others' efforts for reason best known to those in the habit of engaging into unorthodox behaviors against the practice of democratic principles.

As it is popularly said, one or two cannot work together if they cannot agree to each other—on this note, we have finally decided to leave the DPPL with those who believed that the party is their personally property and should be treated at their will and pleasure. Meanwhile, the DPPL executives say they will not be a political backbencher in this crucial process, vowing to play a formidable role in determining the new leadership of Liberia.

"Let it be known that political

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# HAPPY ★ INDEPENDENCE DAY

★  
**LIBERIA**  
JULY 26, 2023



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## AML pays affected communities US\$16,377

### -EPA Executive Director discloses

By Ethel A Tweh

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, has disclosed that the magnitude of pollution caused by

company hired an EPA-accredited third party consultancy firm to develop restoration plan and implement same under the supervision of the Agency within 60 days.

polluted portion of the wetland, and repair damaged sewage lines in homes as well as provide at least one treated drinking water source for each of the affected communities Namely; Area A, Area Q and Camp 4, respectively.

As the result of EPA intervention, Arcelor Mittal Liberia has committed to providing immediate compensation to affected farmers for damages caused to their crops, utilizing the most recent crop price list from the Ministry of Agriculture, totaling US\$16,377. AML expressed appreciation to the EPA for its mediation efforts in amicably addressing the concerns of the community members.

The direct discharge of sewage into the wetland resulted into microbial proliferation, causing a corresponding negative impact to surface water quality, also the portion of the wetland impacted spans from the point of discharge to the point of confluence.

The community also complained that the sewage discharge resulted into a eutrophic condition leading to overgrowth of vegetation that has impacted the productivity of certain crops planted within the wetland. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh

ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML's) direct discharge of raw sewage into nearby wetland in three communities within its concession has been addressed by the mining company paying the affected communities US\$16,377.

Addressing a press conference at the EPA head office in Monrovia over the weekend, Prof. Tarpeh said that during a meeting with AML and the affected communities, the mining

He said they also agreed that the area to be restored shall cover the wetland spanning from the point of sewage discharge to the confluence, and that ArcelorMittal Liberia shall also pay compensation to all affected farmers for damages caused to crops due to the pollution.

Prof. Tarpeh noted that EPA intervened for AML to provide alternative livelihood for all farmers currently using the

## GVL distances from dead body found in its plantation

Sinoe County- Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. says it is aware of the lifeless body of a man that was discovered in one of its plantation divisions in Butaw, Sinoe County. The man identified as Issac, according to sources, went missing while on his palm wine tapping expedition, but was later found dead in division 4 of our Butaw Plantation on June 24, 2023, the company narrates in a press release issued in Monrovia.

"GVL wants to make it emphatically clear that the late Isaac was neither its employee nor did he have any connection or relationship with GVL. We believe that this matter is being investigated by the Liberia National Police", the release reads.

The company says that despite having no connection to the deceased, a group of persons believed to be residents of nearby communities, under the name "Travelers Association", stormed its Butaw housing camp on Saturday, July 8, 2023, threatening the life and safety of

its residents who are employees and their families.

It details that this group carried the coffin presumably bearing the remains of the late Isaac on the camp going from one house to another, displaying acts of violence which instilled fear in those living there. The company notes that such conduct should have no place in the Liberian society, nor should persons engaged in such acts go with impunity.



GVL says it is convinced that the Government of Liberia has the ability to take robust actions to promote justice in the Liberian society and has informed the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs, National Bureau of Concessions, and the County Superintendent of this violent incident while seeking their intervention. **Press Release**

## Food poisoning leaves over 30 persons hospitalized

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Health Authorities at the Jackson Fiah Doe Memorial Referral Hospital in Tappita, Nimba County have admitted over 30 persons as a result of food poisoning. There has been no death reported.

The victims, said to be communion farmers, ate a goat soup last Friday, 21 July in Dorpa, Yarwimehnsion Administrative district in electoral district#9, Nimba County.

About 28 of them are members of a farming union locally known as 'Koo' while more than five others are from the same family, who are believed to have eaten some of the food that was allegedly prepared by a man only identified as Josiah and his wife, owners of the farm they had

they were subsequently taken to Jackson Fiah Doe Memorial Hospital where they are currently receiving medication.

According to eyewitness account, following the evening meal, the Koo members began experiencing stomach pain, which some of them considered ordinary illness.

Sources narrated that Josiah and his family prepared the food only for the workers without eaten any themselves. An unidentified lady is said to have assisted the wife in cooking the meal.

Following the incident, local authorities in the district assembled in Dorpa Town and invited Josiah and his family for questioning during which his daughter allegedly confessed that they had found a dead goat earlier on the farm, but have no knowledge what killed the



gone to work.

The couple previously lived in Tappita, but later relocated to Dorpa Town in district#9 where they are involved in farming.

The NEW DAWN gathered that among those hospitalized are two pregnant women, whose conditions are reportedly critical.

Some of the victims narrated that Josiah and his wife prepared 'GB', a local dish made of cassava, and goat soup during the afternoon hours which the Koo members ate.

The victims were initially rushed to Boyee Clinic, a nearby health facility but staff there could not solve their problem so

animal.

Some family members told them not to eat the goal nor prepare it for the Koo members that were expected to work for them, but they seemed to have ignored the advice.

This paper also gathered that after intervention by local authorities in the district, officers of the Liberia National Police in Tappita, arrested Josiah and detained him, pending thorough investigation.

Report says after the communion farmers ate the GB, Josiah and his family also cooked rice for them in the evening hours, which they ate with the remaining goat soup. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Français

## L'opposition libérienne se fragmente de plus en plus

L'All Liberians Party profitera des élections plutôt ce dernier qui l'a écarté. Il a expliqué que l'ALP a travaillé avec le Parti de l'unité au

l'alliance démocratique. « Sur la base de ces circonstances, le comité exécutif national de l'ALP a adopté une résolution qui met fin au soutien de notre parti au Parti de l'unité », a-t-il déclaré.

Le porte-drapeau de l'ALP a également accusé le Parti de l'unité de discrimination tribale à l'égard des membres du parti. « Mais, nous leur ferons comprendre pendant cette élection que nous sommes une force avec laquelle il faut compter et je veux faire comprendre au monde que nous n'accepterons plus jamais d'être utilisés comme ça ».

Il regrette que l'ALP ait mis son temps et des ressources pendant six ans à la disposition du parti de l'unité qui, à cause de deux ou trois sièges législatifs, le combat. « Comment peut-on être si méchant et si mauvais ? », s'est-il interrogé.

« Je veux que le monde sache que nous ne sommes pas stupides et que nous ne serons plus jamais utilisés de cette façon. Dieu est un être surnaturel merveilleux parce qu'il nous a montré ces gens maintenant. Si nous avons traversé ces élections en alliance avec l'UP et avons gagné, l'UP nous aurait traités comme des chiens et des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Mali : Human Rights Watch dénonce «de nouvelles atrocités commises par des soldats et des hommes présumés de Wagner»

Dix jours après avoir publié un rapport sur les violences commises par les groupes jihadistes au Mali, l'organisation de défense des droits humains documente cette fois de nouveaux cas d'exactions commises par l'armée malienne et par ses supplétifs russes. Human Rights Watch interpelle l'Union africaine et la Cédéao.

Ouenkoro, Séguéla, Sossobé... Human Rights Watch a recueilli les témoignages d'une vingtaine de témoins directs, mais aussi de familles des victimes, de représentants communautaires ou encore d'acteurs de la société civile, malienne et internationale.

Les opérations menées en février et mars derniers dans ces villages des régions de Mopti et de Ségou, dans le centre du Mali, ne représentent, selon Human Rights Watch, qu'une

fraction des abus perpétrés » par l'armée malienne et ses supplétifs russes, mais l'ONG a réuni pour ces cas des témoignages accablants et concordants.

Violences et pillages  
Des villageois de Séguéla évoquent l'irruption de plusieurs « dizaines de combattants blancs en uniforme militaire ». À Sossobé, les soldats maliens seraient arrivés avec leurs supplétifs russes à bord d'hélicoptères, à Ouenkoro

aussi, un jour de marché. Les témoins racontent les tirs effectués sans distinction depuis les hélicoptères, le regroupement des hommes devant la mosquée d'un village, les destructions et les fouilles maison par maison accompagnées de violences et de pillages accompagnés de vols d'argent ou bijoux.

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## Éditorial

### Pour résoudre notre problème alimentaire

Mardi dernier, c'est-à-dire le 18 juillet, la Banque mondiale, dans le cadre de la 4e édition de la mise à jour du secteur économique du Libéria, a mis en évidence le rôle crucial du riz pour le pays. Elle a ainsi insisté sur l'importance d'investir de manière très urgente dans la production de riz pour réduire la pauvreté.

Le directeur national par intérim de la Banque mondiale au Libéria Mack Caphart Mulbah a déclaré que le gouvernement du Libéria et ses partenaires ont investi et investissent toujours une quantité importante de ressources pour améliorer la productivité dans le secteur agricole, en mettant l'accent sur la chaîne de valeur du riz.

Cependant, M. Mulbah a noté que les riziculteurs locaux continuent d'être moins compétitifs en raison de la forte différence de prix entre les variétés de riz cultivées localement et celles importées. Cela engendre de fortes contraintes en ce qui concerne l'offre dans le secteur du riz étant donné que les ménages ont plutôt une préférence accrue pour le riz importé.

De toute évidence, c'est le paradoxe qui entoure la question du riz au Libéria, pourtant c'est l'aliment de base de la nation. Il est incompréhensible que nous, en tant que peuple, ayons un goût préférentiel pour le riz cultivé à l'étranger que pour le riz produit localement. Nous ne sommes pas sans savoir que notre économie ne peut pas soutenir l'importation de riz dont le prix devient de plus en plus exorbitant pour nous.

Alors, où se trouve la solution pour maintenir notre goût insatiable pour le riz importé car, de toute évidence, le gouvernement ne peut pas continuellement dépenser des millions pour subventionner l'importation uniquement par opportunisme politique ?

Nous croyons fermement que le seul remède permanent au dilemme du riz est d'investir dans notre sol en cultivant suffisamment de riz pour nous nourrir plutôt que de compter sur d'autres pays pour produire pour nous ce que nous mangeons.

C'est cette alternative que la Banque mondiale met en évidence dans la 4e édition de la mise à jour du secteur économique du Libéria. Le gouvernement doit donc étudier religieusement et entreprendre des mesures pratiques qui puissent conduire le pays à atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire, en particulier en riz, notre aliment de base.

Le directeur par intérim Mulbah a rappelé que récemment, pour limiter l'effet de la hausse des prix alimentaires mondiaux sur les ménages, le gouvernement du Libéria a commencé à subventionner les importations de riz pour garantir la disponibilité et l'abordabilité de la denrée. Mais nous pouvons certainement dire qu'une telle entreprise n'est ni durable ni optimale face à la crise alimentaire mondiale croissante.

Nous avons besoin d'une solution à domicile pour satisfaire la forte demande, vu la dynamique des prix du riz et des implications pour la productivité et la réduction de la pauvreté, a souligné la Banque.

Le Dr Musa Dukuly, sous-gouverneur chargé de la politique économique de la Banque centrale du Libéria, a expliqué que le développement et la subsistance du Libéria sont limités par l'existence d'une dynamique de croissance démographique et de contraintes de la chaîne d'approvisionnement, et que la subvention sera toujours inférieure à la subvention estimée requise pour éradiquer complètement l'insécurité alimentaire.

Le Dr Dukuly a déclaré que l'évolution vers la durabilité alimentaire nécessite d'énormes sacrifices et la question qui se pose aux décideurs politiques est de savoir comment développer une stratégie plus durable vers la durabilité alimentaire.

Pour commencer, il suggère une combinaison de subventions et d'investissements directs dans le sol. « Par exemple, si la subvention est de 20 millions, nous investissons 10 millions dans la production directe de riz et allouons 10 millions en subvention ou 5 millions en production de riz et 15 millions en subvention », a-t-il dit.

En tout cas nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec lui sur ce point. Il faut commencer quelque part et le plus tôt sera le mieux.



# Français

Starts from page 8

## L'opposition libérienne se

ordures. Mais je vous dis que vos voix seront entendues et au moment opportun nous nous rencontrerons et déciderons de la suite », a-t-il dit.

« Que personne ne pense que l'ALP doit à quelqu'un. Nous ne sommes pas obligés de soutenir qui que ce soit. En politique, les intérêts comptent et nous

soutiendrons celui que nous déciderons de soutenir et nous le ferons avec toutes les forces à notre disposition », a-t-il fait savoir.

Il y a des rumeurs selon lesquelles M. Urey et son parti pourraient se tourner vers la coalition pour le changement démocratique du président Weah.

Starts from page 8

## Mali : Human Rights Watch dénonce

Si les jihadistes du Jnim (Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans), lié à al-Qaïda, sont notoirement actifs dans ces zones, Human Rights Watch dénonce les « exécutions illégales » et les « disparitions forcées » de « plusieurs dizaines de civils », ainsi que des actes de « torture » perpétrés dans le cadre des opérations antiterroristes de l'armée, le plus souvent selon l'ONG, contre des membres de l'ethnie peule.

Enquête ouverte

L'ONG interpelle l'Union africaine et la Cédéao, leur demandant d'« accroître la pression sur les autorités maliennes [...] pour qu'elles mettent fin [...] aux graves

abus commis par les forces armées maliennes et les présumés combattants affiliés au groupe Wagner ».

En réaction à ce rapport de Human Rights Watch, le gouvernement malien de transition dénonce une enquête « à charge » visant « à accabler » l'armée malienne, dément le ciblage de l'ethnie peule et juge que la méthodologie « manque de fiabilité ». Bamako précise que « durant la période concernée, le gouvernement du Mali n'a pas eu connaissance de cas de violation des droits de l'homme par les Fama » mais que, suite aux allégations contenues dans ce rapport, une enquête pour « crime de guerre » et « crime contre l'humanité » sera ouverte par la justice malienne.

## À Rome, les pays méditerranéens jettent les bases d'un fonds commun sur les migrations

Au palais Farnèse, siège du ministère des Affaires étrangères italien, les dirigeants ou ministres de 23 pays se sont retrouvés ce dimanche 23 juillet pour une conférence organisée par l'Italie sur le développement et les migrations. Giorgia Meloni ressort triomphante de sa conférence internationale, estimant l'avoir réussie au-delà de ses attentes.

Orientée sur une coopération entre les rives de la Méditerranée, cette conférence était ouverte aux pays du Sahel, de la corne de l'Afrique ou du Proche-Orient. Dix-huit d'entre eux étaient représentés, souvent par le chef d'État ou le Premier ministre, en particulier l'Émirien Mohamed ben Zayed ou le Tunisien Kaïs Saïed.

Giorgia Meloni ressort triomphante de sa conférence internationale, estimant avoir réussi au-delà de ses attentes. D'une part en termes de participation avec la présence de neuf pays d'Afrique et neuf du Proche-Orient. D'autre part en termes de décisions, car les émirats ont annoncé une première contribution de 100 millions d'euros à un futur fonds de développement. Le protocole d'accord avec la

Tunisie est pour les Européens le modèle de coopération entre tous les pays impliqués dans le phénomène migratoire. Lors de cette conférence de Rome, c'est ce modèle qui a été proposé.

Renforcer la coopération entre les polices

« En ce qui concerne la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine, notre priorité devrait être de renforcer la coopération opérationnelle entre nos forces de police : les autorités judiciaires des différents États, l'engagement de poursuivre les trafiquants d'êtres humains et de mettre à jour les législations quand elles sont insuffisantes », dit-elle.

Cette conférence de Rome a beaucoup porté sur les projets de coopération économique et commerciale, mais le donnant-donnant entre migration et développement est omniprésent. « L'ouverture de nouvelles voies légales de migration entre nos continents peut créer une alternative réelle et sûre aux dangereux voyages en mer. C'est pourquoi, au niveau européen, nous nous efforçons de promouvoir la réinstallation et l'admission humanitaire », dit Ursula von der Leyen, présidente de la Commission européenne.

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



Se 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

Un 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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# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

**LIBERIAN DEBATE** By Naneka A. Hoffman

**Topic: Media**

The Civil Law Court in Monrovia recently shut down Spoon Network - a conglomeration of Spoon FM/TV, Fabric Radio and Super FM following a lawsuit by former Acting Director of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) Wilmot Smith, for defamation. But some members of the public think the Government of Liberia has a hand in the closure, as you will read below though government, thru the Ministry of Information issued an official disclaimer here.



Jefferson W. Slinger

problem with Spoon FM and at the end of the day they say the owner of Spoon FM has been giving false messages. And Spoon FM has been leaking the government's secrets so at the end of the day, they passed through the court system to close down Spoon FM. But now as we're standing, Spoon FM will be reopened by the grace of God."

'you know over stories and deals of the period of the government, so a 'time, Spoon FM lot of government has been narrating officials have

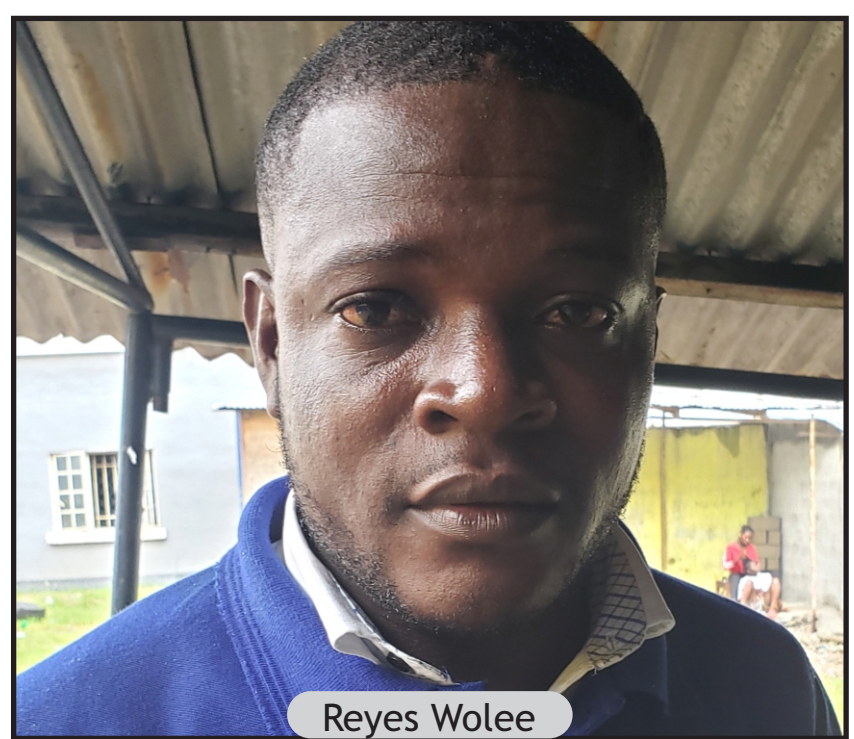
It is a critical thing; I look at it "from another stand point. It is a suppression against an opposition belt because Spoon FM has been hugely attended to by the opposition. They were pushing against them, so based on opposition messages that Spoon failed to appear hugely all long this before the court so they shut gone time, so their down the station. But for me closer by the Civil at this time, I don't see it L a w C o u r t . necessary and I don't think it According to the is right for the Civil Law Court Court, an individual to do what they did." took a complaint



Razzak Kannah

country under the George Weah regime, so we see the closure of Spoon FM that government is making an early attempt to steal the people election, that's the first thing. Moving forward, we are asking the international community to watch over our elections because we see no confidence in NEC and we see no confidence in this government. As you can see, they say today, is blue day. The people have resolved that Weah is a one-term President."

'I think the closer of Spoon FM like the government rightly said, they don't know anything about it but if Spoon FM trusts the process they can go to court whatsoever that they will come up with they should be able to do the right thing because this country is being governed by rules and regulations. I think the head of Spoon FM should do everything possible to engage the court to see how best they can resolve the matter. But I think the



Reyes Wolee

government's hand is not inside and the government always promotes freedom of speech. It has happened before; people have criticized this government and the government had not gone after anyone that criticizes them, so I think the government will do the right thing to protect freedom of speech as a leader."



Mohhamed A. Dukuly

"The first thing I will register on the closure of Spoon FM is that the pace is politically motivated. You have a government that is not open to the press. Press Freedom has been a struggle in this



Sidiki Konneh

The closure of Spoon behind Mr. Wilmot FM is a game; the Smith, so people can government is say that Wilmot Smith aware of what is going sued Spoon FM. on. They are only hiding

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# Sen. Nuquay attacks McGill

# Presidential hopeful withdraws bid

By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr in Margibi

Margibi County Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay, who is strongly opposed to the senatorial bid of former Minister Nathaniel Falo McGill in the county, says the U.S. Embassy is a black snake for McGill or a no-go-area for

vehemently rejected by the people of Margibi at the ballot box. "They started going around and saying Nuquay went for visa, but they denied him visa. American Government did not deny me visa. The American Government gave me a visa for one year that

you, he has done a bad job and he cannot be our senator."

He also observes that the former minister was given an opportunity by the President to almost manage the country but he brought shame that the Americans had to use their taxpayers' money to focus on him, search and imposed sanction on him to leave government.

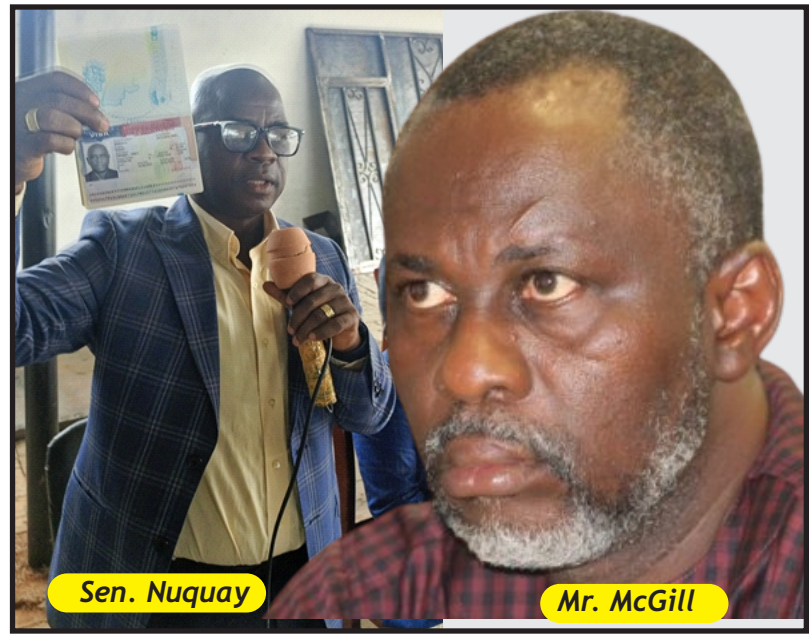
While speaking, the senator asked a series of questions to the audience: "Do you want any of your children to be sanctioned tomorrow by the American Government? Do you want to stand with a sanctioned man? Do you want bad luck to follow your children tomorrow?" To all of the above questions, they all responded "No" in their loudest voices.

Nuquay wonders whether it is fair for a person, who ended in disgrace, hails from a different county to come to Margibi and seek a senatorial seat because his own county does not want him.

He told Margibians that McGill is a stranger so he sees everyone in the county as strangers and believes that Margibi is an area for strangers, evidenced by the fact that he told residents of the county once that Margibi is a county of immigrants.

The People's Unification Party or PUP Political Leader averred that every county has two senators so voting for McGill will mean that Gbarpolu County will have three senators and Margibi will have one who is he and he alone cannot do a senatorial job for Margibi. He cautioned them to vote for any of their sons of Margibi who is contesting for the senate instead of a sanctioned man who is seeking refuge.

"Nobody should leave their county and come in our own of job," he maintained. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Sen. Nuquay

Mr. McGill

the senatorial aspirant.

He made the statement while denying rumors that he was denied U.S. Visa recently. Serving as guest speaker at the induction ceremony of the Dinning-ta Clan Youth Leadership in Yarnwullie-District#5, Margibi County on the theme: "Using your current leadership opportunity as a stepping stone for future leadership opportunity",

Senator Nuquay told the young people that the life they lived yesterday is making a way for them today to be successful.

He stated that the former Liberian official who was sanctioned along with others by the U.S. in August last year, considers the road leading to the American Embassy as an area where snake will bite him.

According to him, when someone tells McGill about the road to the Embassy, he will warn such person not to cause a snake to bite him (McGill). Sen. Nuquay now rallies support in every public gathering for President Weah's reelection, but seriously denounces McGill as an embarrassment and trouble to the future of Margibi and should be

any time I want to go to America, I should go there. They also gave my wife visa for one year. My wife will be traveling next month so any time I want to travel, my wife wants to travel, she can travel and myself can travel any time. After 18 years of service, I can go to the US Embassy and can get visa but this man just after 5 years of service, when you tell him about the road to the American Embassy, he will say, my man, don't make that snake bite me ooo. He will think that's black snake," he stated.

A day before his assertion, the senator publicly displayed his multiple entry visa issued to him by the U.S. Embassy Monrovia for a year beginning July 18, 2023, to July 16, 2024, bragging that he can go to America every month if he wants to.

But notes McGill failed himself, the people of Gbarpolu, President George Weah, and the country through his action and cannot be trusted with the senatorial position of Margibi. Nuquay, who is regarded by many as Margibi County Political godfather, adds "For you to work and for the Americans to sanction

By Lincoln G. Peters

Dr. George Parkinson Gonpu has relinquished his ambition to contest for the Liberian presidency in the pending October 10 presidential and legislative elections. At a press conference Saturday, 22 July 2023, the African Democratic Movement of Liberia (ADML) standard bearer said he had suspended his desire of contesting for the presidency. He said the decision followed his party's assessment of the political landscape, some consultations and debates held among the ADML leaders, and in light of the information gathered. In attendance at the press conference were ADML Chairman, Vice Standard Bearer, and party leaders in Fiamah. "Despite this decision, our party shall continue to be an active player in helping to ensure that Liberia stays on a path of consolidating democracy, which includes peaceful,

District #6, Montserrado County; and Usher P. David of District #1, Bong County. He indicated that ADML will not be a ruling party in 2024 and therefore will not have the political authority over the management of Liberia's resources required to fully implement its vision. However, he said the party will look at its platform and determine the portion that it can implement as a vibrant opposition party. He urged partisans, supporters, and sympathizers of the party to continue to unite, remembering that ADML has come a long way and has compelling grassroots history and a great vision for Liberia. "Let's move forward together, dedicated to our principles of unity, integrity, and creativity. Let us continue to invest in ADML and make it stronger and better ready for other possible future



Dr. George Parkinson Gonpu

fair, and transparent elections, accountable leadership, and the rule of reasonable and good laws," he noted. Dr. Gonpu explained that although the party will have no presidential candidate, it has five nominees in the elections for the House of Representatives who have submitted all of their paperwork to the National Elections Commission (NEC). He emphasized that the party will continue to support them to win in their districts. The nominees are Andrew M. Wongeh of District #4, Montserrado County; Joseph W. Jallah of District #17, Montserrado County; Trokon B. Lewis of District #1, Montserrado County; and Jasgbah A. Jasgbah of

opportunities to lead in Liberia," he stated. Meanwhile, Dr. Gonpu has historicized that on January 16 this year, he formally announced his interest in seeking the presidency. He said the decision was influenced by the increasing challenges facing the country. Among them, he said, are the challenges of disunity, job creation deficits, rising poverty, corruption, rising cost of living, and high inequality. He said all of that is made worse by the problems of ineffective leadership at the presidency and other branches of government in the country.

Starts from page 5

## Businessman accuses Customs

those that are produced in Liberia, Mr. Saahmoi brought [a] whole lot of delay tactics, causing the expiration and damage of the juice," he alleged further.

and Indians. Mr. Saah Saahmoi's phone rang endlessly without any response when called to address the allegations.

LRA Director of Communication Kaiyeneh Sengbe said Mr. Saahmoi was not in the position to respond now and promised to get to the media.

He maintained that Mr. Saahmoi is harming Liberian-owned businesses in favor of the ones owned by Lebanese

He did not also reply to text messages sent him up to the publication of this story.

JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA. SITTING IN ITS MARCH TERM A.D. 2023 BEFORE HIS HONOURABLE J. KENNEDY PEABODY, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE. IN RE: THE PETITION OF JOSEPH Y. MORRIS, SR. OF RESIDENT OF BASSA TOWN, CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR COURT DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE CALLED, REGARDED AND KNOWN AS "JOSEPH M. GBEMELÉN, II." COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME. WHEREAS, Petitioner herein named in the above entitled cause of action, having filed a petition with affidavit attached thereto, requesting an order from this Honorable Court to have the change of Petitioner's name to formally and legally change from "Joseph Y. Morris, Sr." to "Joseph M. Gbemelen, II". DURING THE HEARING, the Petitioner Petition that the change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute. After Concluding the Necessary Requested by Law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the change of name is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name. THAT THE PETITIONER, having shown with just cause and satisfaction that he was born on the 21st day of November, A.D. 1995 in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the change of name (jurisdiction) is therefore ordered decreed as follow. THAT the petition already heard be approved and we now order that the name "Joseph Y. Morris, Sr." to be legally changed to "Joseph M. Gbemelen, II." beginning this April, A.D. 2023. THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds and other Documents for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and will also be publish twice in any recognized newspaper, operating in the Republic of Liberia, within Twenty (20) days from today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2023. COURT'S SEAL: J. KENNEDY PEABODY, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT. REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 04-022, PAGE(S) 1-0016. REGISTRAR NATIONAL ARCHIVES, MONT.CO, R.L \$3.00 Revenue stamps affixed on the original.

## Respect press freedom

### -EU and US warn Liberian stakeholders

Barely two weeks following the closure of Spoon Network, members of the international

(RSF) Press Freedom Index. But called on all citizens and stakeholders to respect the exercise of press freedom.

liberal democracy and free society in Africa. All citizens and stakeholders do have a responsibility in this regard," they added.



It could be recalled that the Spoon Network was recently closed on the orders of the Liberia Civil Law Court. The Network owns a television and couple of radio stations and was shut down on July 14, 2023.

The Court orders were predicated on a defamation lawsuit filed by the former acting Director General of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS), Mr. Wilmot Smith, against Spoon Network and its former Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Stanton Witherspoon.

On June 20, 22, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) accused and forwarded to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for prosecution several local vendors and senior officials of the Liberian government including Mr. Smith for alleged acts of corruption. In November 2022, President Weah dismissed Mr. Smith for administrative reason.

community in Liberia have urged stakeholders here to respect the exercise of press freedom.

In a joint statement issue by the European Union and its Member States represented in Liberia (Germany, Ireland, France, and Sweden) and the Embassy of the United States of America, the partners noted that they welcome the positive trajectory of increased press freedom over the past five years, as demonstrated by the Reporters Without Borders

"At the same time, we call on all citizens and stakeholders to respect the exercise of press freedom and to exert proportionality in, and refraining from, measures that could indirectly prevent media stakeholders from carrying out their work," partners said in their joint statement.

"We trust that Liberia will carry out the electoral process without any incidents against media stakeholders, thereby reaffirming and strengthening its reputation as the oldest

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