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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023	L\$185.2855/US\$1.00	L\$187.1933/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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VOL. 13 NO. 130 MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

One person shot, several hospitalized

-In execution of Search Warrant



Weah outshines rivals

-Says CDC National Campaign Spokesman



Cllr. Gbala

CDC supporting McGill to please Weah

-Lester Tenny alleges



Mr. McGill

The National Campaign Spokesman for the Coalition for the Weah Intellectual Democratic Change (CDC), Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala, has declared that no Liberian politician can match the political and developmental resume of President Weah.

Cllr. Gbala who was recently named CDC's National Campaign Spokesman in a move that received praise from both partisans and independent external watchers, was speaking when he appeared as a guest presenter alongside members of the Weah Intellectual Concerned Intellectual Association on the VP Road in Monrovia.

Cllr. Gbala asserted that President Weah is the most successful Liberian leader since 1847 as evidenced by his achievements.

He cited key achievements under

CONT'D ON PAGE 6

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Continental News

Kenya Says It's Ready to Lead Multinational Force in Haiti

Kenya is ready to lead a multinational force in Haiti and will deploy 1,000 police officers to the strife-torn Caribbean nation

"Kenya's commitment is to deploy a contingent of 1,000 police officers to help train and assist Haitian police restore normalcy in the country and

Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, has seen compounding humanitarian, political and security crises, with gangs controlling most of Port-au-Prince.

Guterres said this month that violence had continued "to escalate and spread," citing killings, kidnappings, rape of women and girls, looting, and the displacement of thousands of people.

Guterres, relaying a request from Henry, began calling in October for an international, non-U.N. deployment to help support police in the troubled nation.

The Security Council this month adopted a unanimous resolution encouraging member states "to provide security support to the Haitian National Police," including through "the deployment of a specialized force."

But the text, which was focused on a one-year extension of the mandate for the special U.N. political mission to Haiti, BINUH, stopped short of making any direct plans for such a force.

The council has asked Guterres to present by mid-August a report on all possible options, including a U.N.-led mission. Earlier this month, Blinken said the U.S. remained active in its search for a country to head a multinational force in Haiti. VOA



Demonstrators fill the streets during a protest to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

once its offer is accepted, the foreign minister said Saturday.

Gangs control about 80% of the Haitian capital, and violent crimes such as kidnappings for ransom, armed robbery and carjackings are common.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry have for nearly a year sought international intervention to help support the police, but no country had stepped forward.

"Kenya has accepted to positively consider leading a Multi-National Force to Haiti," Kenya's Foreign Minister Alfred Mutua said in a statement late Saturday.

protect strategic installations," the statement said.

Its proposed deployment still required a mandate from the U.N. Security Council and approval from domestic authorities, he said. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke by phone Friday night to Kenyan President William Ruto, according to State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller. Kenya is seen as a democratic anchor in East Africa and has participated in peacekeeping operations in its immediate region including in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. No other details about the Haiti deployment were immediately available.

Spiraling violence

Morocco King Appeals for 'Normality' With Neighbor Algeria

Morocco's King Mohammed VI has expressed hope for a return to normality and reopening of borders with North African neighbor Algeria, which cut diplomatic ties nearly two years ago.

"We pray to the Almighty for a return to normality and a reopening of the borders between our two neighboring countries and our brotherly peoples," Mohammed VI, 59, said late Saturday in a speech to mark the anniversary of his accession to the throne in 1999. The borders have been closed since 1994, leaving families divided after Morocco accused its neighbor of involvement in a jihadist attack on a Marrakesh hotel that killed two tourists. Algeria then sealed the frontiers. Since then, tensions have persisted between the regional rivals, exacerbated

by their dispute over Western Sahara, where the Algiers-backed Polisario Front is seeking independence from Rabat's rule and has declared the territory a "war zone." Algeria severed ties in August 2021, accusing Rabat of "hostile acts," a move which Morocco said was "completely unjustified." Israel's recognition earlier this month of "Morocco's sovereignty" over Western Sahara added to tensions between

Morocco and Algeria, which called Israel's move a "flagrant violation of international law." In his nationally broadcast speech Saturday, Mohammed VI expressed reassurance to "our brothers in Algeria, their leadership and their people that they will never have to fear malice from Morocco."

The king calls annually for a rapprochement with Algeria. VOA



This handout picture provided by the Moroccan agency press (MAP) on July 30, 2023, shows Morocco's King Mohammed VI delivering a speech to the nation, marking the 24th anniversary of his accession to the throne

French Embassy in Niger Attacked as Protesters March Through Capital

Thousands of supporters of the junta that took over Niger in a coup last week marched Sunday through the streets of the capital, Niamey, waving Russian flags, chanting the name of the Russian president and forcefully denouncing former colonial power France.

The protesters marched through the city to the French Embassy, where a door was lit on fire, according to someone who was at the embassy when it happened, and videos seen by The AP. Black smoke could be seen rising from across the city. The Nigerien army broke up the crowd of protesters.

Russian mercenary group Wagner is already operating in neighboring Mali, and Russian President Vladimir Putin would like to expand his country's influence in the region. However, it is unclear

Soldiers Declare Niger General New Leader After Attempted Coup Days after the coup, uncertainty is mounting about Niger's future, with some calling out the junta's reasons for seizing control.

President Mohamed Bazoum was democratically elected two years ago in Niger's first peaceful transfer of power since independence from France in 1960.

The mutineers said they overthrew him because he wasn't able to secure the nation against growing jihadi violence.

But some analysts and Nigeriens say that's just a pretext for a takeover that is more about internal power struggles than securing the nation.

"Everybody is wondering: why this coup? That's because no one was expecting it. We couldn't expect a coup in Niger because there's no social, political or security situation that would



Nigeriens participate in a march called by supporters of coup leader Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani in Niamey, Niger

yet whether the new junta leaders will move toward Moscow or stick with Niger's Western partners.

On Sunday at an emergency meeting in Abuja, Nigeria the West African bloc said it was suspending relations with Niger and authorized the use of force if the president was not reinstated within a week.

"In the event the authorities' demands are not met within one week, take all measures necessary to restore constitutional order in the Republic of Niger. Such measures may include the use of force. To this effect, the chiefs of defense staff of ECOWAS are to meet immediately," Omar Alieu Touray, president of the ECOWAS commission, said after the meeting. In this image taken from video provided by ORTN, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani makes a statement, July 28, 2023, in Niamey, Niger.

justify that the military take the power," Prof. Amad Hassane Boubacar, who teaches at the University of Niamey, told The Associated Press.

He said Bazoum wanted to replace the head of the presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who is now in charge of the country. Tchiani, who also goes by Omar, was loyal to Bazoum's predecessor and that sparked the problems, Boubacar said. The AP cannot independently verify his assessment. While Niger's security situation is dire, it's not as bad as neighboring Burkina Faso or Mali, which have also been battling an Islamic insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. Last year, Niger was the only one of the three to see a decline in violence, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. Niger had been seen as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle the jihadis in Africa's Sahel region, where Russia and Western countries have vied for influence. VOA

SEE ALSO:

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Cecilia Elena Rouse

Stop the violence in Nimba

America's Higher-Education Financing Challenge

Increasing violence in Nimba County characterized by discharge of fire arm and destruction of government and company assets is taking a toll not only on that county, but the economy and should claim the attention of all peace-loving Liberians.

It is quite unfortunate that a country that is still reeling from 14 years devastated civil war would take delight in violence as a means of seeking redress to issues it is confronted with, as in the recent case at ArcelorMittal Liberia that left the company's assets stolen and vandalized. This raises serious psychological question about the behavior of Liberians.

Last Friday's (July 28, 2023) violence in Zolowee, electoral district two, Nimba County during execution of a search warrant by Police that left a 20-year-old man shot, a Police officer wounded and several others hospitalized, was totally unwarranted no matter what grievance citizens had.

Even worse, this is coming at a time when Liberians are just less than 80 days away from general and presidential elections on October 10th that has left the entire country politically charged with violence languages everywhere.

We hasten to remind that persistent violence by aggrieved citizens in Grand Cape Mount County for land and other concerns was one key reason why the Malaysian oil palm company, Sime Darby, folded and left Liberia, leaving several thousand Liberians jobless.

Today, similar actions are taking place in the same county, this time around, against Bea Mounting mining company, particularly in Kungbor and other districts marred by running battles that left a lawyer brutally attacked recently.

Aggrieved citizens of Zolowee town along the Sanniquillie -Yekepa route in Electoral District Two, Nimba went on the offense last Friday during execution of a Search Warrant issued by the Yekepa Magisterial Court on several homes in the town for missing assets that belong to ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Citizens had no reason to become violent if their consciences were clear and convinced that they had no stolen or missing items hidden inside their various homes.

Liberians who reside near concession areas across the country should be reminded in no uncertain terms that investors come here for a win-win agreement with government that provide employments for jobless citizens.

But when concession grounds become battle grounds, real money take flight and leave the economy as we experienced during the Civil War. Lest we should forget, government along cannot provide employment. It needs investors to generate revenue for development that all Liberians yearn for.

Rather than resorting to persistent violence, vandalizing both private public assets, discharging fire arms and wounding people, we encourage citizens with concerns no matter how grievous, to choose roundtable in seeking redress to their grievances because we need foreign investors to keep the economy out of the toilet.

PRINCETON - Some 44 million Americans currently owe \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt, and more than seven million of them were in default prior to the pandemic repayment pause. Since this crushing burden is associated with reduced homeownership, degraded credit ratings, and delayed marriage and child-bearing, lawmakers and advocates have pushed for blanket student loan forgiveness. However, a recent effort by the Biden administration to cancel \$430 billion of student-loan debt was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

While much of the public focus has been on the Court's ruling, a one-time loan cancelation was never going to be a lasting solution to the ongoing challenge of financing higher education in the United States.

We still need to figure out how to help students invest in their education without saddling them with crushing debt in the first place. A critical step forward would be to replace the existing system with a standard repayment plan that aligns payments with a borrower's ability to pay.

Funding for post-secondary education in the US comes from the public sector (state and local appropriations and federal grants and contracts) as well as from private gifts and contracts, with the remainder covered by student tuition and fees. But an underappreciated fact is that state and local contributions have not kept pace with the increase in cost. In 1980, tuition and fees paid by students represented only 13% of the cost of education at public institutions; by 2020, this share had risen to nearly 20%. Students and their families have increasingly borrowed to cover the cost.

There are many proposals for making higher education more affordable, such as offering free (two-year) community college or eliminating student loans altogether. Given that post-secondary schooling yields benefits for all of society - through greater tax contributions, higher productivity, reduced dependence on the social welfare system, and so forth - some public subsidization of the cost of higher education makes sense.

At the same time, it also makes sense for students to bear some responsibility for a share of the cost of the education they acquire. After all, post-secondary education and training are well known to increase the likelihood of being employed, boost lifetime earnings, improve health outcomes, and offer other benefits to the individual. Given the substantial private return, it is appropriate that loans remain in the financial-aid portfolio.

But the standard federal student loan under the existing program does not align with the economic realities of post-secondary schooling and the labor market. And, though education is a risky investment that does not pay off for everyone, students face complex and limited options for reducing repayment burdens and are prohibited from discharging the debt through bankruptcy.

Equally important, the standard repayment plan expects students to repay their loans over the first ten years of their careers, before most have hit their peak earnings. Even for those whose investment pays off

over time, the financial burden may be too high during the repayment period.

Aiming to solve these problems, Congress and the Department of Education have, over time, created several income-driven repayment (IDR) programs - a bipartisan idea that dates to the mid-twentieth century, when it was endorsed by economists Milton Friedman and James Tobin alike. Unlike a mortgage, which requires borrowers to pay a pre-determined amount each month, IDR plans set the payment at a percentage of borrowers' income. Set optimally, borrowers repay their loans on average, but should they fall on hard times or select an occupation that does not pay well (such as working in the public sector), they can repay what they can of their loans without undue financial hardship.

Given these merits, it is not surprising that many economists have advocated for such programs. But the existing plans are not optimally designed. Borrowers must opt into an IDR over the standard repayment plan. Payments are based on the prior year's income, which means they do not seamlessly adjust to changes in borrowers' earnings and employment circumstances.

Nor do they automatically adjust to borrowers' current hardships, necessitating complicated forbearance and deferment rules and requiring annual recertification. Further, the plans have different eligibility rules, payment rates, repayment periods, and definitions of discretionary income. As a result, choosing a plan is so confusing that to date only a minority of eligible borrowers take advantage of them.

As a stopgap measure, the Biden administration has introduced Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE), an even larger, more generous IDR plan than the existing options. The hope is that the new program will be so obviously advantageous that more students will sign up for it, rather than stick with the traditional plan. But SAVE is far from perfect. It will not be the default plan, and it still bases payments on the past year's income. As a result, it is not clear how effective it will be at addressing the country's student-debt crisis and higher-education financing challenges.

More to the point, SAVE is an expensive plan layered on top of a labyrinth of other student-loan options. That brings us to the larger problem: the Department of Education cannot simply eliminate plans created by Congress. Genuinely transforming federal student loans requires Congress to phase out all existing IDR plans and replace them with a well-structured IDR plan as the default.

Ideally, such a plan would be administratively straightforward and designed to encourage students to assume a responsible level of debt to pay for valuable education programs.

Structured properly, an IDR plan helps to address one of the biggest challenges in higher-education financing in a way that need not unfairly burden taxpayers or saddle students with unmanageable debt. While even a well-designed IDR would not solve all the problems in the financing of higher education in the US, making IDR the default repayment plan for student loans would be a huge improvement, and is a reform that both parties should be able to get behind.

OP-ED

Actions say more than words - illustrations of the EU-AU partnership

Every day we are working to make the EU-AU partnership stronger and closer to the people of Africa and Europe. Our day-to-day engagement testifies that the relationship between Europe and Africa is made of unparalleled human, cultural, geographical and economic links, not incantations, promises and affirmations. At the 6th European Union (EU) - African Union (AU) Summit in February 2022, over 80 leaders from Africa and Europe met in Brussels to adopt an ambitious agenda and to sustain a partnership of peace, security, solidarity and prosperity based on equality, respect and mutual understanding.

Europe and Africa need each other to build a solid and lasting response to global and common challenges, from climate change to peace and security or economic development that affect us all. The partnership between the European Union and the African Union, rooted in dialogue and multilateralism, is solution-oriented and forward-looking.

Europe and Africa are joint stakeholders in a multilateral, rules-based international system. The EU and its Member States were among the first to express full support for the integration of the AU within the G20; the EU supports Africa in its ambitions to become a key global player. Together, the AU and the EU can be pillars in the defence of a rules-based world, where sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination are safeguarded.

The European Union is deeply committed to the safety and prosperity of its neighbours, as it is also a condition for our own security and prosperity and we strive to be a reliable and predictable partner. In times of rising global food insecurity, the EU stands by its commitment to facilitate the export of grain and other agricultural products from Ukraine. We would like to repeat that from day one, the EU has exempted food and agricultural inputs (including fertilisers) from its sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation. Complementary to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the EU has set up the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes through which almost 61 million tonnes of cereals leave Ukraine by land. While it is often quoted that only a minor percentage of agricultural products exported from Ukraine has reached African consumers directly, the combined economic effects of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the Solidarity Lanes have resulted in a 23% decrease in the price index for grain on the global market.

Looking beyond the immediate need to mitigate price volatility for foodstuffs on the global market, the European Union will have mobilized by 2024 almost 7 billion Euro to improve food security in Africa; more than 3 billion Euro has already been disbursed. This includes the EU's contributions to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. Other initiatives, such as the Alliance on Sustainable Cocoa (EU, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana) are enhancing the resilience of food systems and the sustainability of agri-value chains.

As agreed at the 6th EU-AU Summit, to strengthen quality infrastructure, nearly 150 billion Euro of investments will be mobilized by 2027 in Africa as part of the "Global Gateway Investment" strategy. These investments are already taking place today and the European Union is translating commitments made at the Summit into reality. In Kenya, support is provided for the installation of fibre optics and the development of a rapid bus system in Nairobi. In Burkina Faso, the EU is the main partner for rural and renewable electrification projects, in particular the Yelen project, which benefits 110,000 households. Investments in health (the Global Gateway flagship initiative MAV+ on manufacturing and access to vaccines with over 1 billion Euro of investment in Rwanda, South-Africa, Senegal, Ghana) and digital (investment of up to 820 million Euro in Nigeria's digital transformation) are just two other examples.

The concrete and tangible results are here. They confirm the European Union as Africa's prime partner at all levels, on trade, investments and development. Europe has been and will remain a long-standing partner of Africa - the recent renewal of the agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, in existence since 1975, is just one more demonstration of our commitment.

On peace and security, notwithstanding multiple crises across the globe, the EU has sustained its support to AU and African-led peace support operations. Again, this translates commitments made at the 6th EU-AU Summit into action. For the period 2022-24, 600 million Euro is being allocated to these missions via the European Peace Facility (EPF), complementing support under other development instruments. An example is EU support to the African transition mission in Somalia (AMISOM/ATMIS) amounting to 2.7 billion Euro since 2007. The eleven training and assistance missions on the continent are another testimony of EU's support to African partners' peace and security objectives. Africa has and will continue to remain a key area of operations with EPF support. The total Team Europe's commitment for Conflict Prevention, Mediation, Peace and Security initiatives at national and regional level is expected to amount to 1.5 billion Euro from 2021 until 2027.

While others seek to divide, the EU in its partnership with Africa seeks to deliver and foster cooperation. The commitments made by some countries do not stand up to the test of time. Conversely, the EU and its Member states have consistently invested in Africa and facilitated the duty free access of African exports in the EU.

As a tangible sign of our willingness to engage in a partnership that concretely benefits Africa, 33 of the least developed African countries have benefitted from the most favourable customs regime, removing tariffs and quotas for all imports of goods - except arms and ammunition. As of today, the EU is by far the main trade partner of the African continent, with a total volume of 268 billion Euro in 2021 and 90% of African exports entering the European Union duty free. The EU is encouraged by the potential of the AfCFTA and has been supporting it since the beginning, contributing, under a Team Europe approach, with expertise, institutional capacity and exchanges on lessons learned.

The EU has its share of responsibility in global warming and is investing heavily to curb emissions in Europe. It also stands by the side of the countries that are victims of or are suffering from the consequences of global warming and need support in their climate transition. We are supporting the AU's Great Green Wall initiative for climate adaptation with 700 million Euro and are driving forces behind the decision to allocate 100 billion USD in special drawing rights (or equivalent contributions) to the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa. The Summit for a new global financial pact held in Paris at the end of June, to which 25 African heads of states participated along with both AU and EU leadership, effectively contributed to reach that target and has paved the way to the next Africa Climate Summit to be held in Kenya in September. Thanks to the Common Framework of the G20 and the Paris Club, an agreement has been reached on the treatment of Zambia's debt, a historic step for this country and the Zambian people.

In all these developments, Europe is delivering. The overall funding for development cooperation by Team Europe went up by almost 30% in 2022 worldwide, with EU assistance to Africa increasing by 11% for the period 2021-2027, when compared to 2014-2020.

While we are working on the organisation of the next Ministerial meeting between the African Union and the European Union, where we will take stock of our joint achievements to date, we wish to reaffirm our continued determination and commitment to strengthen our partnership in solidarity with Africa, with a view to contributing together to global peace, security and prosperity.
Signed: Ambassadors of the European Union and its Member States to the African Union

OPINION

By Lucia Reisch

Defaulting to Plant-Based Foods

CAMBRIDGE - The catastrophic effects of climate change are here: blistering and deadly heat waves are scorching Europe, and the poles are melting, with sea-ice growth in Antarctica reaching unprecedented lows. Is there anything individuals can do about it?

The answer is a resounding yes. What we eat, in particular, matters a great deal. The claim that "cows are the new coal" may seem hyperbolic, but it is essentially accurate. Roughly a third of all demand-side greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions are from food systems, and beef alone accounts for a quarter of emissions produced by raising and growing food.

Moreover, the real price of animal-based meals does not reflect their carbon footprint and the resulting cost of mitigation efforts. Research shows that a shift toward plant-based diets, or to less environmentally harmful meats such as fish and chicken, would be better for people and the planet.

Recently, a global consortium of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and others concluded that to achieve sustainable and healthy dietary patterns, food systems will need to be transformed - and fast. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has also shown that decarbonizing food systems can play a significant role in combating global warming.

Behavioral research has identified ways to influence decision-makers of all types - including farmers deliberating what to grow, retailers seeking to sell more climate-friendly foods, and consumers ordering in a restaurant. In the United States, the latter has significant potential, considering that Americans eat, on average, six meals outside of the home per week. Presenting sustainable meals as easy and attractive, including changing the order and scale of plant-based options in buffets, has been shown to influence food choices. This approach is also relatively palatable, whereas bans and rules are typically viewed as overly paternalistic, and taxes on specific products like meat or sugar negatively affect the poor.

Given this, default policies in restaurants, cafes, and canteens could be a game changer. As powerful yet freedom-preserving "nudges," they change the context of choice while still allowing individuals to decide. Defaults should not act as a standalone policy; rather, they should be part of a large-scale curation of those parts of the food system to which consumers are exposed, with industry and retail playing a large role. Wherever people decide, behaviorally informed policy tools could be applied.

Politicians may prefer supporting climate pledges, implementing food-waste laws, or calling for corporate sustainability practices, with some insisting that "people should make their own decisions around the food they eat." But they can nudge food retailers to enlist their sophisticated marketing arsenal to make sustainable and healthy options (or in today's lingo, a "planetary health diet") more attractive, affordable, available, and socially acceptable. This would go a long way toward reducing GHG emissions worldwide.

Obviously, policymakers should never manipulate their constituents, no matter how important the goal. But powerful behavioral tools also work when made fully transparent. Built on insights derived from economics, consumer research, and decision science, such policies put people's emotions, habits, biases and heuristics, social norms, and preferences center stage, and can be designed to mitigate climate change.

Most criticism of nudges - particularly that they are ineffective and crowd out more useful policy tools - does not hold water. Policymakers strive for "good governance of nudging," and cities like New York and Copenhagen and regions worldwide are employing choice architecture to help transform food systems. By harnessing the power of suggestion, people's inertia, and their quest for convenience, defaults are one of the most important tools to change people's behavior.

When the plant-based option is the default, and the non-vegetarian option becomes the "other" choice, meat consumption declines. A systematic review of 15 independent intervention studies published between 2012 and 2020, conducted in different settings in six European countries and the United States, concluded that vegetarian default interventions did substantially decrease consumers' choice of meat dishes, with 53-87% fewer meat options selected.

A study conducted in Denmark showed over 84% of 300 participants approved of changing the default lunch option to a vegetarian buffet. Further evidence strongly suggests that such defaults are a promising tool to test in different food choice settings. Supported by earlier studies, the University of Cambridge's El-Erian Institute of Behavioral Economics and Policy (of which I am director) is currently running a similar field experiment in collaboration with 13 college cafeterias at the university.

Given these outcomes, it is possible to imagine "default vegetarianism" in restaurants, grocery stores, schools, and offices. As for how to introduce such defaults, the non-profit Better Food Foundation offers a wide range of resources and suggestions. "Meatless Mondays" gained traction worldwide and became a successful movement supported by many people and organizations. Terminology on menus could also play an important role: unlike "vegan," words like "planetary" or "plant-based" allude to how food choices affect sustainability.

Transforming food systems as a form of climate action can begin with top-down policy change. At the UN Food Systems Summit, held two years ago in New York, activists, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers adopted this approach to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

But while implementing these changes, policymakers must remember the importance of the human factor in food choices. Fortunately, many stakeholders are cooperating to test new policy tools and redesign food-choice funnels and norms.

There is no denying that consumers will need to switch to a more plant-based diet to reduce food systems' GHG emissions. Together with other behaviorally informed policies that employ nudges, plant-based defaults promise to bring about a large drop in meat consumption while maintaining freedom of choice. They could lead us all to play a more active role in conserving the planet's resources and mitigating climate change.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

One person shot

Starts from page 11

The statement added that the gang ransacked and damaged valuable mining assets, including vehicles and other equipment, but the Police responded swiftly and restored calm.

The statement added that the Ministries of Justice and National Defense were also contacted for a full investigation into the attack on its operations and the prosecution of those involved. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Loving Memory of the late



Mrs. Yvonne Harris

Sunrise: May 18, 1958 | Sunset: July 27, 2023

This is to announce the sudden death of Mrs. Yvonne Potter Harris. This sad event occurred on July 27 of 2023 at her Du-port Road residence.

She lives to mourn her husband Mr. Edwin C. Harris, her daughter Lisa Garber, her sons; Momo Harris and Oscar Harris, her families; Hodges, Potter, Dennis, Crusoe and host of other relatives in and out of Liberia.

Anyone wishing to sympathize with the families can do so by visiting her Du-port Road residence or contact these numbers 0776916616/0880919867/0777841297 or 0770402917. This death announcement was brought in by Edwin C. Harris and Families

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Simeon Freeman locks down Buchanan -Provides L\$5 million women empowerment loan scheme

By Lincoln G. Peters

principal streets of Buchanan and taken to the fairground for the indoor program.

are here to launch our five Million Liberian dollars Women Empowerment Loan," said Mr. Freeman.

"This is intended to help my mothers, sisters and struggling

During the parade, the locals sang in the Bassa vernacular a series of songs.

Presidential hopeful Mr. Simeon Freeman over the weekend locked down and demonstrated



Simeon Freeman in Bassa

numerical strength in his hometown, Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Tens of thousands of women and youths embraced the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) standard bearer when he visited the city on Saturday, 29 July 2023.

His visit was in appreciation of the people and to launch a five-million Liberian dollars women empowerment loan for marketers. The opposition politician launched the loan to beef up the capacity of struggling business women and single mothers in the county.

Ninety-eight registered susu clubs were given the five million Liberian dollars women empowerment loan for onward distribution to their members for six months without interest.

After the six months, the money will be given to other members for investment and productivity. Mr. Freeman and his entourage were escorted by jubilant women groups on the

Some of their songs interpreted suggested that "Simeon Freeman will beat them [his opponents] and shame will catch them."

"Take it, Freeman, take it. For one Freeman business, the whole country worries. Freeman is talk and do. He's our son and it's he we want," they continued.

Addressing his supporters in the Bassa dialect, Mr. Freeman expressed excitement and happiness over the huge turnout. He stated that he is concerned about the plight of women in Liberia, especially single and struggling business women. According to Mr. Freeman, he went to give back to his county through loans because he envisioned a government of inclusive contribution where all Liberians will be able to independently provide for themselves.

"I appreciate you being here today and the love and commitment shown [to] me. We

single parents. Today, you will receive three million of the five and the last two will be given to you."

Mr. Freeman said his vision is to run a government where all can contribute instead of few just enjoying.

The MPC standard bearer disclosed that it's frustrating that Liberia, after 176 years of independence, is still importing rice and several other agricultural commodities from other countries.

Mr. Freeman believes that if the country prioritizes investment in the agriculture sector, it can be food-sufficient and reduce food insecurity.

He argued that the country has fertilized soil and abundance of land.

"Who says Liberia can't feed itself? Is there any nightmare that [prevents] us from doing so? The answer from my angle is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

"Voting for new breed without greed" - Kingdom Legislators

An estimated 1,000 Pastors from over 500 churches under the banner of the Kingdom Legislators in Gbarnga, Bong County, have committed to voting a new breed of leaders. They vowed to rally the Christian community in support of Mr. Alexander Cummings and Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine as the best and most trusted alternative to assume the mantle of leadership come October 10.

At a special program attended by hundreds of citizens from the seven electoral Districts of Bong County, held at the Gbarnga Methodist School campus, on Friday, July 28, the Pastors pledged to mobilize Christians nationwide to vote on their motto "voting new breed, without greed," for one

family orientation, and fitness of Mr. Cummings and Counsellor Brumskine to assume leadership.

Pastor Roberts urged churches and religious communities to get actively involved in helping to provide moral guidance and inspiration to their members on the accrued benefits of electing competent, qualified and responsible leadership that will be sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the Liberian people, come October 10.

The Pentecostal Prelate urged Liberians to carry the conviction that Liberia will rise again, with the understanding that it is dependent on choices Liberians will make come October 10 general and presidential elections.

Cummings, accompanied by his wife, Teresa, and CPP stalwarts, expressed special thanks and appreciation to the leadership of Kingdom Legislators, and Senator Henry Yallah, former Bong County



Members of Kingdom Legislators

President, one Senator and one Representative.

Kingdom Legislators, established nearly two years ago, is a Christian faith-based political organization, with membership in six of Liberia's 15 counties, including Margibi, Nimba, Lofa, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Bong as their stronghold.

Kingdom Legislators spokesman, Pastor Dominion O. Roberts, said the Church has a moral responsibility to provide divine guidance to its congregations in choosing visionary leaders that fear God, are morally upright, and are fit to work and guarantee economic prosperity for its people. Pastor Roberts said Kingdom Legislators' decision to support the ticket of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) followed series of engagements, interactions and facts check on the past records, achievements, capabilities,

Senator, for the impressive program and massive turnout by the Pastors, church representatives and workers, as well as citizens and supporters from the seven electoral Districts of Bong County.

Cummings underscored the critical and significant role of the Church and religious communities in the transformation of any country. The CPP Standard Bearer reaffirmed upholding the tenets of good governance, and resuscitating the ailing economy, giving equal rights and access to jobs and opportunities, irrespective of political and religious affiliations or ethnicity.

Cummings vowed to lead by example, without discrimination, noting that "whether you are members of the Coalition for Democratic Change, (CDC), Unity Party or the CPP, there will be no special preference, except based on qualifications, competence

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Weah outshines rivals

Starts from front page

President Weah such as the establishment of Liberia's first dialysis center at JFK, the digitization of the University of Liberia, the opening of Liberia's

first oxygen plant as well as construction of over 500km of roads in 5 years as groundbreaking and unmatched. Cllr. Gbala further opined that many ordinary

Liberians whose lives have gotten better as a result of President Weah's policies will repay him emphatically by a massive 1st round victory.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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UP damns Independence Day Orator

By Naneka Hoffman

The orator for the 176th Independence of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Karwor, has come under sharp criticism from the opposition Unity Party (UP)

public. According to him, the July 26 Independence Day Orator has desecrated the sanctity of the traditional council, exposed it to public ridicule and caused it to

taken a side in the political divide," says Tweh and adds, "We have lost confidence in the council under the leadership of Chief Zanzan Kawor."

He says the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders was established to solely serve an advisory role in the maintenance of peace, coordinating traditional activities, and to work along with the religious community to promote harmony and unity "When such a personality is given a national platform to speak, he is expected to speak on national issues and policies that will guide the country on the path in which the country should go", he argues further.

But the UP chief scribe notes that the national orator's speech was dominated by choruses of praise for President Weah for purchasing motorbikes and vehicles for traditional leaders as well as being the first Liberian President to select a traditional chief to address the nation on such historic occasion while denouncing opposition political parties for not cooperating with the government in undertaking development across the country. Liberia, under President Weah, is plagued with dangerous drugs, secrete killings, corruption, and mismanagement of public funds, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Chief Zanzan Karwor

for what it terms preaching lose its moral authority to serve divisiveness, tribalism and as a custodian of peace to raining praises on President George Weah, rather than discussing the real issues confronting the country. Addressing a news conference over the weekend at the UP headquarters in Monrovia, National Secretary General Amos Tweh, said Chief Karwor should instead, account for the funds received as head of the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia other than misleading the

lose its moral authority to serve as a custodian of peace to resolving national crisis. Mr. Tweh calls on members of the council to ask Chief Kawor to immediately step down from the chairmanship because he has overstayed so that another traditional leader can take over especially, during these crucial moments in the nation's history. "The council, under the leadership of Chief Zanzan Kawor, can never play the role of resolving any crisis in the country because he has officially

Violent gang attacks Arcelor Mittal Liberia mines

Reports reaching this paper from Arcelor Mittal Liberia Tokadeh Mines indicate that there has been an attack on the company's mine by armed gang injuring one of its employees.

The company confirmed in a statement Saturday, July 29 that the unknown men bearing machetes and guns attacked the mine on Friday July 28.

The mining giant has come under series of protests from both locals and some aggrieved employees in the past over pay arrears and other disputes.

Arcelor Mittal's locomotives have also been also coming under repeated attacks by unknown men.

unknown individuals bearing arms and machetes.

AML regrets to report that one of its employees was shot and wounded. Their condition remains stable, and they will continue to be closely monitored by the company's doctors.

The gang also ransacked and damaged valuable mining assets including vehicles and other equipment. The police were called and responded swiftly to the attack and restored calm to the Mines.

AML has contacted Justice Ministry and Ministry of Defence for a full investigation into the attack on its operations and the prosecution of those involved.

AML strongly condemns violence



Statement: "ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) can confirm that on 28 July 2023, its Tokadeh Mines were attacked by a group of

of any kind to its staff members and will continue to work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its employees remain its top priority."

Mrs. Cummings visits 12th Street flood victims

Mrs. Teresa Cummings on Saturday, July 29, toured and visited with residents of several flood-affected communities in the 12th Street area of Montserrado County, District #9.

Teresa Cummings is the wife of the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings. She was invited by a local based organization, identified as '4Runners, with the view of soliciting assistance for hundreds of citizens affected by flood and other adverse weather conditions, due to heavy downpours of rain last week in Monrovia.

Citizens in the affected 12th Street communities complained of lacking pipe-born water and said as a result of the flood, most sources of water in their communities, have been polluted and contaminated, with no relief assistance from government.

Mrs. Cummings accompanied by senior CPP stalwarts, partisans, and supporters toured and engaged with community leaders in Block-C, D, E, and surrounding areas and later addressed group of young people at the Roberts Kpadeh Intellectual Center.

Mrs. Cummings empathized with the plight of the residents and said as Liberians decide on October 10, there's need for sober reflections on the part of all Liberians to elect competent and qualified leadership that will be sensitive to the needs of its citizens. She assured Liberians that upon the ascendancy of her husband as President, come October 10,

Liberians will begin to experience wave of changes in their living conditions and the restoration of basic social services. 4Runners President Christopher expressed gratitude to Mrs. Cummings for the visit and assured her of his organization's determination to rally and mobilize young people in support of Mr. Cummings Presidential bid come October 10.



Starts from page 6 "Voting for new breed"

and strict adherence to the rule of law.

He said a critical part of his change agenda is the development of a strong and vibrant private sector, ensuring Liberians have access to loans to own their businesses. Cummings said a vibrant and thriving private sector will create massive jobs and opportunities for Liberians, that will reduce the heavy reliance on government for jobs. The program was followed by interactions with questions and answers on issues ranging from the CPP agenda for real change, economic policy, job creation, rising drugs abuse, especially among youths, growing insecurity, as well as the family orientation and marital life of Mr. Cummings.

The CPP Standard Bearer said ensuring access to finance

for Liberians to establish and grow their own businesses will be top priority, while at the same time creating the enabling environment to attract direct foreign investments.

He said Liberia will change by changing the processes and systems of government and breaking away from the centuries-old ways of doing things that have retarded progress and growth, resulting in massive suffering and extreme poverty.

Cummings said a CPP administration will decentralize the operations of government by pushing opportunities and responsibilities for job creation across the country. On drugs abuse, Mr. Cummings said a CPP Government will stop the influx of drugs, arrest and prosecute drugs smugglers and dealers, by properly equipping Customs and Immigration officers and paying them living wages, which will make them effective in robustly enforcing the laws controlling.

Français

« Le Libéria saigne », Cummings

Le Libéria saigne à profusion. Ce pays est trop vieux et mieux expérimenté pour

Politiques de l'opposition a exprimé sa frustration face à la 176^e célébration de l'indépendance du Libéria, le mercredi 26 juillet 2023. Lors d'un

de parti en octobre. Il nous faut élire les bons dirigeants pour inspirer un changement de mentalité si nous voulons vraiment sortir les Libériens de la pauvreté », a-t-il déclaré, soulignant la nécessité de faire du Libéria un meilleur endroit pour tous les Libériens.

« Le Liberia a 176 ans. Notre pays est trop vieux et trop expérimenté pour en être là où nous en sommes aujourd'hui. Mais avec la foi en Dieu et le soutien du peuple, le pays sera réparé et changé », a-t-il espéré.

« Nous avons 118 ans de plus que Singapour, 101 ans de plus que l'État d'Israël et 110 ans de plus que la République du Ghana. Le Libéria a inspiré ces pays et en a aidé d'autres à devenir indépendants », a-t-il ajouté.

Pourtant, a-t-il dit, alors qu'il célèbre son âge, le Libéria est classé parmi les nations les plus pauvres et les plus corrompues de la planète. « Bien que nous ayons la chance d'avoir tant de richesses naturelles, nous sommes pourtant pauvres. Trop de nos concitoyens vivent dans des conditions de pauvreté inacceptables et continuent de mourir de maladies évitables et traitables », a-t-il déploré.

L'opposant se veut toutefois rassurant. Il a tenté

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être là où il est aujourd'hui. C'est plutôt ce qu'a laissé entendre l'opposant Alexander B. Cummings lors de la fête nationale de l'indépendance de son pays.

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des Partis

point de presse qu'il a animé au siège de son parti à Sinkor le mardi 25 juillet, M. Cummings a fait valoir que le pays saignait et que les Libériens souffraient.

« Notre pays saigne. Les Libériens souffrent. C'est pourquoi il ne suffit pas que nous changions

Coup d'État au Niger : au Nigeria, deux sommets pour tenter de contraindre la junte à rendre le pouvoir

Deux sommets « spéciaux » sont organisés ce dimanche dans la capitale nigérienne pour évoquer la situation au Niger. Les chefs d'États de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) et de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA) se réunissent. L'objectif affiché est de contraindre le nouvel homme fort proclamé du pays, le général Tchiani, à rendre le pouvoir.

Un nombre record de chefs d'État de la sous-région sont attendus au double sommet d'Abuja. Parmi eux sont déjà annoncés l'Ivoirien Alassane Ouattara et le Sénégalais Macky Sall... Ce sont les chefs d'État de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA) qui vont se réunir dans un premier temps. Le dirigeant nigérien renversé est le président en exercice de l'organisation. On s'attend à

une suspension du Niger et probablement à l'annonce de mesures pour contraindre la junte de Niamey à libérer le président Mohamed Bazoum et à rendre le pouvoir.

Suivra le sommet de la Cédéao. Mahamat Déby dont le pays n'est pas membre de la Cédéao est

également invité. Le Tchad partage une frontière commune avec le Nigeria, mais également avec le Niger. C'est peut-être une indication de ce qui sera au cœur des débats.

Bola Tinubu à la manœuvre

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Président mohamed bazoum

Éditorial

Pour résoudre notre problème alimentaire

Mardi dernier, c'est-à-dire le 18 juillet, la Banque mondiale, dans le cadre de la 4^e 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 Capenhart 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 4^e 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

« Le Libéria saigne »

d'encourager les libériens en disant que le Libéria se relèvera et que bien que fracturée, la nation peut être guérie, réconciliée et unie. « Les Libériens pourront enfin se parler non pas en tant qu'hommes et femmes d'un même groupe ethnique, mais en tant que citoyens égaux. Le pays a pris du retard sur les autres nations, mais le Libéria

peut courir plus vite non seulement pour les rattraper mais aussi pour les dépasser », a-t-il promis.

Mais encore faut-il que les libériens votent pour lui pour que cela arrive. Selon lui, le pays est en baisse mais les Libériens peuvent à nouveau relever le Libéria selon la décision qu'ils prendront le 10 octobre lors des urnes.

Starts from page 8

Coup d'État au Niger : au

À la veille du sommet d'Abuja, dans plusieurs capitales de la sous-région, le discours était clair : ne pas entériner le coup d'État et montrer plus que les muscles si nécessaire. Lorsqu'il prenait la tête, il y a quelques semaines la tête l'organisation sous-régionale, le président nigérian Bola Tinubu a été clair : pour prendre le pouvoir, il faut aller aux élections. Les coups d'États ne passeront plus.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu sera bien la voix principale de ce sommet, observe notre correspondant à Abuja, Moïse

Gomis. Quels mots préliminaires va-t-il prononcer en introduction au sommet ? Sera-t-il dans un rôle d'animation des débats ? Ou bien sera-t-il une locomotive pour impulser des décisions fortes ? Depuis son investiture, Bola Ahmed Tinubu répète sur tous les tons : « Le Nigeria est de retour. »

De son côté, à Niamey, le général Tchiani, cerveau du putsch, a réagi à l'annonce d'un sommet de la Cédéao. Samedi, à la télévision nationale, un porte-parole de la junte a lu un communiqué du général Tchiani dans lequel il a dit soupçonner la Cédéao de « préparer un plan d'agression contre le Niger ».

Sénégal : l'opposant Ousmane Sonko à nouveau inculpé

L'opposant instance hors sénégalais classe de Dakar, Ousmane Sonko, pour designer arrêté vendredi pour Ousmane Sonko vol de téléphone portable et appel à l'insurrection, par ces propos, de déferé au parquet toutes les violences samedi pour divers et les saccages qui autres délits et ont touché le crimes. Face à la Sénégal depuis presse, le procureur deux ans de la République du L'opposant est tribunal de Dakar a poursuivi pour une retenu sept chefs série de crimes et d'inculpations contre délits. Le magistrat le leader du parti Abdou Karim Diop Pastef. Quelques les liste : « Appel à échauffourées ont l'insurrection, éclaté après ce point de presse. Le point de presse du procureur de la République a démarré par la projection d'une vidéo de sept minutes dans laquelle sont compilés les propos en wolof et en français d'Ousmane Sonko : « Soyez mobilisés, le combat s'annonce mortel (...). Le mot n'est pas de trop (...). Le peuple va le sortir du palais et va le traîner dehors comme Samuel Doe [président libérien assassiné en 1990 par les rebelles de Charles Taylor, NDLR]... ». Des preuves manifestes, selon le procureur de la République du tribunal de grande

malfaiteurs en lien avec une entreprise terroriste, mais également vol de téléphone portable ». Selon le procureur, l'opposant était en instance d'être arrêté et c'est l'altercation de vendredi avec une gendarme, dont il a confisqué le téléphone, qui a précipité les choses. En réaction, le parti Pastef s'est vu refuser l'accès à son siège où il voulait tenir un point de presse et le domicile du porte-parole de la coalition au pouvoir a été pris à partie par des manifestants qui l'ont partiellement incendié. Ce samedi dans la soirée, des forces de l'ordre ont été déployées pour



Ousmane Sonko

à compromettre la sécurité publique de l'État et visant à créer des troubles politiques graves, association de

dispenser les quelques manifestations sporadiques qui ont éclaté en banlieue de Dakar.

« L'opposition pas assez préparée pour le pouvoir d'Etat », Mulbah Morlu



Mr. Morlu

Les membres de l'opposition sont mal préparés pour se voir confier le pouvoir d'Etat, estime en tout cas le président de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, Mulbah K. Morlu. Animant un point de presse le jeudi 27 juillet 2023, Morlu a laissé entendre qu'il serait très dangereux pour les électeurs de donner le pouvoir d'Etat à des individus "imprudents et mal préparés". « Rendre le pouvoir à ces individus téméraires et mal préparés qui ont soif du pouvoir est une mission risquée qui ne doit pas être autorisée », a déclaré M. Morlu.

Lors de la conférence de presse, Morlu a dévoilé les membres des équipes régionales de campagne de la coalition au pouvoir.

Il a appelé les partisans et les sympathisants de la CDC à ne pas se contenter du récent rassemblement dont l'objectif était de remercier le parti au pouvoir. Il faut plutôt se mobiliser et se rendre dans les urnes pour assurer la réélection du président sortant, car « le maintien du président Weah au pouvoir est une nécessité patriotique ». Il les a aussi appelés à toujours se préparer pour le prochain grand rassemblement qui les attend. « Il ne faut pas oublier de se vêtir du même esprit en octobre », a supplié le président de la CDC. Pour lui, tous ceux se dressent sur le chemin du président Weah à la présidence sont un groupe de personnes qui ont déjà échoué, car, en ce qui le concerne, le président Weah reste le seul candidat le plus expérimenté parmi tous ces adversaires. « Je dois dire qu'il est la seule personne qui a jeté les bases du changement au cours des six dernières années, plus que tout autre président dans l'histoire du Libéria », a déclaré Morlu. Il a cité la construction de routes, l'octroi de prêts aux commerçantes et la construction des marchés comme étant certaines des réalisations du président sortant, et a fait valoir que ces choses mettaient le président Weah sur la bonne trajectoire devant ses concurrents.

La CEDEAO et l'UA s'engagent à soutenir la NEC

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et l'Union africaine (UA) ont promis mardi de travailler avec la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour que les élections générales du 10 octobre se déroulent bien.

La délégation conjointe de l'UA et de la CEDEAO, composée de 13 personnes, a pris cet engagement le mardi 24 juillet, après une discussion d'une journée sur les faits avec les autorités de la NEC à Monrovia.

Le chef de mission, le professeur Attahiru Jega a exhorté les membres du Conseil des commissaires à faire preuve d'unité, de cohésion et à travailler ensemble afin que les politiciens qui veulent tout mettre en œuvre pour atteindre leurs objectifs personnels ne réussissent pas à saper le processus électoral.

Le professeur Jega a révélé que certains des membres de la délégation feront partie des missions d'observation qui seront déployées au Libéria, et qu'ils attendaient avec impatience de célébrer les meilleures élections jamais organisées au Libéria.

La présidente de la NEC, Madame Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a qualifié les discussions de fructueuses et a remercié la



Madame Davidetta Browne Lansanah

délégation d'être venue. Elle a déclaré que la discussion a donné à la Commission l'occasion de fournir des informations de première main sur ses activités, y compris les défis et les stratégies prospectives qu'elle entend mettre en œuvre pour assurer un meilleur processus électoral.

Les autres membres de la mission sont l'ambassadeur Calixte Mbari, chef de mission de l'UA, le Dr Abdel Fatu Musah, commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité et les présidents des commissions électorales du Ghana et du Sénégal.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

4life Zoe CEO wins Lonestar Cell MTN MoMo Heroes of Change L\$2 million

By Lincoln G. Peters

Mr. Francis A. Varney, founder of 4life Zoe Company, a human resources development and

and vetted thirty names that were later reduced to five persons after the online voting.

All nominees were researched and investigated by the governing council and the

partners.

Thirty of the nominees were awarded certificates of participation with a motivation to continue their good works and keep trying.

The grand finalist, Mr. Varney was awarded a certificate, Lonestar Cell MTN MoMo Heroes of Change Golden Award, and L\$2 million as the grand winner.

Also, Ms. Lela P. Dolo was awarded L\$1.5 million and Brenda B. Moore was awarded six hundred thousand Liberian dollars as third winner.

Giving his acceptance remark, Mr. Francis A. Varney, 4life Zoe CEO said he was very excited that Liberians are celebrating and recognizing his little impact he and his team are making to transform Liberians through technical and vocational skills.

According to him, establishing the company was not an easy task and it all started from a wheelbarrow and on the buses to the University of Liberia, Fendell campus where he motivated friends to take advantage of technical skills to create their own jobs instead of waiting for government.

He extolled Lonestar Cell MTN MoMo Heroes of Change initiative for the recognition and social service impact.

"I am excited and [I] lack words tonight. Today, I am celebrated here means that success has no geographical location."

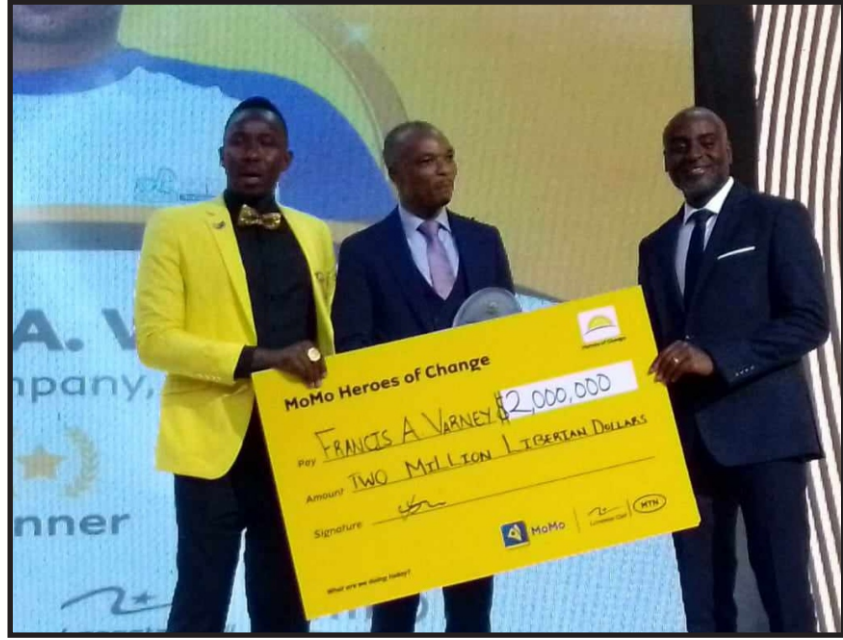
"I am from the slum of Logan Town, but today I am on [the] national stage. My institute today has graduated thousands, and thousands of

technical vocational institute, board of judges headed by Leymah Gbowee and Carter Center Liberia Executive James Dorbor Jallah, among others.

The five individuals that made it to the grand final include Brenda B. Moore, Executive Director of Kids Education Engagement Project, Luther D. Jeke, Founder of I-Campus Liberia, and Jarius A. Greaves, Founder of YONER Liberia.

Also, Ms. Lela P. Dolo, emerging health practitioner and Co-founder of Help a Mother and Newborn Initiative, and Mr. Francis A. Varney, founder of 4life Zoe Company, a technical human development institute.

The grand indoor program was held at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, and graced by huge participants and entertainers as well as



technical vocational institute, board of judges headed by Leymah Gbowee and Carter Center Liberia Executive James Dorbor Jallah, among others.

Mr. Varney, after defeating over six thousand applicants, was awarded L\$2 million as first winner of the initiative.

On Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at a local hotel in Monrovia, the giant GSM company Lonestar Cell MTN officially launched the "MoMo Heroes of Change" initiative in Liberia.

The project aimed at celebrating the resilient spirit of Liberia and Liberians who are making a tremendous impact on the society and community.

The program was graced by several diplomatic partners, social media influencers as well as entertainment promoters, and integrity icons.

The initiative also seeks to showcase, celebrate and promote Liberians who are making a change in their community through health, education, youth development, women empowerment, and tech-solution.

People were nominated as MoMo heroes of change when they were recommended by individuals through Lonestar Cell MTN's pages, or any of its service centers across the country.

The categories of nomination include health, education, youth and women empowerment, tech or local solution, community impact, and youth development.

After the nomination process, the governing council and board of judges received over six thousand nominations



GoL condemns coup in Niger

law and peace.

The Government of Liberia has condemned in no uncertain terms the unlawful, illegal, and unconstitutional action perpetrated by some elements of the armed forces of Niger and sees it as an affront to the democratic will of the peaceful people of Niger who chose their leaders in a democratic process.

The Government of Liberia in a statement issued over the weekend calls for the immediate withdrawal from the presidency, the military forces that have cordoned off the presidency and the unconditional release of President Bazoum and his family.

The soldiers on Wednesday, July 26, staged a military coup to the constitutional and democratically elected

The Liberian Government in its statement said Liberia fully aligns itself with the position of the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations, and all friendly democratic governments



Minister Rennie

government of President Mohamed Bazoum.

condemning the event in Niger.

The event occurred as Liberia, one of Africa's growing democracies, was commemorating its 176th Independence anniversary, signalling to the rest of the continent the benefits of democratic governance, rule of

The Liberian Government has made it unequivocally clear that it stands opposed to any act of unconstitutional means of ascendancy to power, while reiterating its zero tolerance to any and all forms of unconstitutional and undemocratic means of ascending to power.

Simeon Freeman

Starts from page 6

a big no."

"We have the land, and we can grow what we eat in this country. My plan is for us to grow what we [eat] in order to stop the importation of goods that we can produce," Freeman continued. Speaking on behalf of the women's group and the various susu clubs, Mrs. Mamie Janjay expressed appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Freeman for the kind gesture. According to her, women in Grand Bassa County are suffering, especially those that are doing business. He stated

that they are finding life difficult due to the high exchange rate, prices and tariffs. "We tell you thank you for coming to our rescue. We as business people are suffering and dying," Janjay said.

"We don't have means to save because our businesses are gradually breaking down due to the exchange rate," she complained.

Janjay promised that they will stand with Mr. Freeman and support him because he is their son.

"With the plan and vision you have for Grand Bassa and your county, we will stand with you until you get it," she concluded.

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One person shot, several hospitalized

By Thomas Domah / Nimba County

A 20-year-old man has been shot and several others hospitalized, including a police officer and an employee of ArcelorMittal after an attack by angry citizens resisting enforcement of a search warrant in Nimba County.

The aggrieved citizens of Zolowee town along the Sanniquillie -Yekepa route in Electoral District Two, Nimba went on the offense during execution of a Search Warrant issued by the Yekepa Magisterial Court on several homes in the town for missing assets that belong to ArcelorMittal Liberia. Several homes were destroyed during the riot as Police teargassed angry

Police delivered a search warrant from the Yekepa Magisterial Court to the town chief to conduct a search in some homes.

According to him, the Police requested some representatives of the town to form part of the search team during which several drums and gallons of fuel, yellow machine parts, and batteries, among others, were said to belong to ArcelorMittal were confiscated. Eyewitnesses said as the PSU officers left the scene following the search and seizer, some angry residents attacked the Police, destroyed their vehicle and wounded one officer, who is receiving medication currently at ArcelorMittal hospital in Yekepa along with one

Liberia's mines at Tokadeh that left several company properties vandalized.

Assets destroyed include yellow machines, batteries, lights, vehicles with license plates: 29Y, 56Y, 205Y, and 10Y, a police vehicle alongside a SEGAL vehicle and a system unit used by the company to prepare ores before they are transported to Buchanan port, Grand Bassa County for export.

The violence that started Friday at 5:30 pm at the Tokadeh mine paralyzed normal operations, causing employees, mostly expatriates to leave for Monrovia.

The level of damages inflicted may cause the company to not carry out

CDC supporting McGill to please Weah

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr in Margibi

Dr. Lester Zomatic Tenny has alleged that the rationality behind Nathaniel Falo

recently warned Margibians against electing McGill.

He said the future of the country is not just in the hands of the CDC and President Weah, but all Liberians. As such, Tenny said



Mr. McGill

McGill's nomination on the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) senatorial ticket was to please President George Manneh Weah.

Tenny, a stalwart of the ruling party, claimed that the CDC's National Executive Committee was never comfortable with that arrangement. McGill, a former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, lost the top job after the U.S. placed sanctions against him and two other officials of the Weah regime. There have been rumors that President Weah had ordered McGill and the U.S.-sanctioned Liberian former National Port Authority (NPA) Managing Director Bill Teah Twehway, to be featured on the CDC party ticket. Despite being designated by the U.S. for their involvement in alleged rampant public corruption, the two former officials are vying for senatorial seats separately in Margibi and Ricer Cess Counties on the CDC ticket in the ensuing 10 October 2023 elections. "I am most concerned [about] the county Margibi. I am from the ruling party and we decided to put in the race a U.S.-sanctioned [individual], Nathaniel McGill," said Dr. Tenny. "I was not comfortable with that arrangement. The National Executive Committee was never comfortable with that arrangement. The arrangement was only to please our standard bearer," Dr. Tenny alleged.

According to him, the unfortunate part of the decision is that he lives in Margibi and it is not possible that "a Dr. Tenny will live in Margibi then a Nathaniel McGill wins."

Though he didn't explain the details of the decision, Dr. Tenny

the decision they will make will be the decision they will live with for more than six years.

He added that "even though Nathaniel McGill will be on the ticket of the CDC, I will rigorously campaign against him." He called McGill a national thief who allegedly ruined the country for the last five years.

Dr. Tenny asked Liberians if they wonder why no auditors [are] dying in their cars anymore since McGill left government.

Sources from the CDC say after Jefferson Koijee and some officials of the party disagreed to feature the sanctioned officials, Nathaniel McGill ran to President Weah and cried bitterly to be featured on the CDC in the presence of Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, Prot-temp Albert Chie and Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe.

Sources say the officials who were at that meeting had suggested to President Weah that it would have been a betrayal to deny Mr. McGill.

They, according to the sources, threatened to withdraw their support from the president if he did not approve McGill.

Our sources further explain that Pro-temp Chie said he would have better contested as an independent candidate in protest for McGill's denial on the CDC ticket, had Weah not listened to them.

The sources also claimed that the president was under a very serious duress by some other top CDC officials to allow McGill and Twehway to run on the party ticket.



mob, leaving one Police officer and a private guard of the Security Expert Guard Agency of Liberia (SEGAL) injured, while 20-year-old Anthony was Saye shot and several persons hospitalized.

Victim Anthony Saye has been referred to the JFK Hospital in Monrovia for proper medication. It was not immediately established who discharged live weapon during the riot that led to Saye being shot.

But speaking to The NEW DAWN, the Youth Chairman of Zolowee, Hilton Nya Suah, narrated that the incident started on Thursday night, July 27 after officers from the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the Liberia National Police detachment in Yekepa, Nimba County barricaded several homes.

Suah disclosed that next day, Friday, July 28, the

employee of the company.

Police have arrested about eight people, who are being interrogated in Camp Four, Yekepa in connection with the riot. Some residents of the town, who witnessed the incident told this paper that they saw huge police presence in their community that began beating them up and discharging tear gas.

According to community leader, Erasnus Tokpah, Cynthia Zezah, Rancy S. Lablah and Colestine Messah, the Police took the alleged action without providing any reason.

They said following the Police action, they were constrained to escape into the bush where they slept.

The NEW DAWN gathered that there had been report of disappearance of huge quantity of fuel after gang attacks on ArcelorMittal

mining activities in the next six to ten months, some observers said.

According to report, some senior staffers and workers of the mine connived with some unscrupulous business people, supported by some citizens of Zolowee to steal fuel oil from the mine for sale.

Recently, the Management of ArcelorMittal Liberia dismissed ten operators from the mines for their involvement in fuel oil theft.

A statement issued by the management, confirmed that on 28 July 2023, its Tokadeh Mines were attacked by a group of individuals carrying arms and machetes.

Management said the

Cummings assures support to farmers

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has assured Liberian farmers of maximum

served as Guest Speaker at the end of a two-day agriculture farmers summit held in Goghen Town, Mana Clan, Bomi County.

finance, and equipment, that will accelerate farming activities and increase food production in Liberia.

The program was attended by a cross-section of citizens including chiefs, elders, youth and women groups, as well as local authorities, who expressed gratitude to the CPP Standard Bearer for his continuous assistance and always accepting their invitation to visit with them in Goghen Town. The citizens lamented the deplorable road conditions, poor health care delivery service, and their limited self-help initiative to renovate and improve the only elementary school in Goghen Town, Mana Clan, Bomi County. Cummings later empathized with the plight of the citizens and assured them that upon his ascendancy as President come October 10, Liberians will begin to experience systematic change in their living conditions. He said public resources will be used to address critical needs, that will bring maximum benefits and relief to the Liberian people, including road connectivity, improved health care delivery service, and a quality education system.



Mr. Alexander Cummings

support when elected President of Liberia comes October 10. Cummings said agriculture is the backbone of any economy. He promised that he will ensure that farmers are trained, equipped, and given the necessary finances and incentives, aimed at increasing food production and for farmers to reap the benefits of their hard work.

The farmers' summit organized by World Foundation International, an agriculture cooperative agency, brought together 3,000 farmers and representatives from Liberia's 15 counties, according to Ms. Precious Menkor, Program Coordinator. She said the Goghen Farmers Summit, held from July 28-29, was the second largest gathering of farmers and representatives to discuss critical challenges and needs including training,

The CPP Standard Bearer gave the assurance when he

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