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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023	L\$185.1358/US\$1.00	L\$187.0439/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

French Version Inside

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Continental News

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa Sworn In for New Five-Year Term

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa was inaugurated Monday for his second full term after a disputed national election in



which he defeated challenger Nelson Chamisa. The main opposition says Mnangagwa's re-election means another five years of economic stagnation and what they see as presidential illegitimacy.

An estimated 40,000 people saluted President Emmerson Mnangagwa as he arrived at National Sports Stadium in Harare Monday. In his speech, Mnangagwa thanked Zimbabweans for what he called a "peaceful" and "transparent" elections.

He promised to exploit Zimbabwe's natural resources to establish a manufacturing

base and turn around the economy.

"The numerous mineral resources in our country must be sustainably exploited to leap-frog our industrialization and

development," Mnangagwa said. "The lives of our citizens and the fortunes of our country as a whole must be improved... Riding on our abundant resources as well as skilled and hardworking people, Zimbabwe is poised to take its place as a competitive manufacturing jurisdiction." Mnangagwa appears to have a heavy task ahead of him, with his country suffering one of the highest inflation rates in the world, and possessing an almost worthless currency.

Unemployed 23-year-old Martin Chibeza says he had to drop out of school as his parents could not afford the fees. He wants the

president to spark the economy and create jobs. "He must re-open industries which are yet to reopen such as automotive and entrepreneurship that would be helpful for us," Chibeza said. "Some of us do not have education, so if some industries open, we will get employed, even when you did not finish school."

Back to the inauguration: That's a 21-gun salute and flyover by Zimbabwe Defense Forces forces to mark the beginning of Mnangagwa's new term. Mnangagwa supporters such as 69-year-old Marker Mugadzi were in a celebratory mood. "What has happened today is really great," Mugadzi said. "President Mnangagwa is our friend, we fought together the liberation struggle. I wish the government can provide water and repair roads, land and decent houses. That's my wish from Mnangagwa." Mnangagwa took power in a 2017 coup that unseated longtime ruler Robert Mugabe, then won the disputed 2018 election. In last month's elections, the 80-year-old politician beat 45-year-old Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens Coalition for Change party, according to official results which the opposition is protesting.

The CCC's vice president Tendai Biti sees a gloomy future for Zimbabwe if the election results are not reversed.

Pelted with stones - the life of Somalis with albinism

Referring to the stigma he faces in Somalia because he has albinism, 25 year-old Elmi Bile Mohamed says: "People tell me I am a cannibal and that I will eat their children. They are terrified of me."

Mr Mohamed has struggled to find a place to live in the capital, Mogadishu, since leaving his rural home in the central region of Hiraan. His brothers also suffer from the condition. "We were continuously insulted and tortured by our community. We were beaten up and mocked for the pale colour of our skin, hair and eyes," he says. "I thought I would find a better life in Mogadishu but I was wrong."

Mr Mohamed searched and searched for a room in a shared house but was rejected at every turn.

He ended up paying \$30 (£23) a month to live in a storage shed in Hamar Weyne district, the oldest part of the city.

cover his meals and rent, let alone the sunblock and glasses he needs to protect his sensitive skin and eyes. People with albinism have little or no melanin, the pigment that colours eyes, hair and skin and offers protection from the sun.

"I cannot afford to buy sunglasses," Mr Mohamed says. "There is so much dust and highly polluting traffic in the market where I beg. My eyes are constantly in agony and my sight is deteriorating rapidly." Sometimes people give me their leftovers to eat. Other times I have nothing. "Mr Mohamed's dreams of running away to Mogadishu to earn money to send back to his family, especially his albino brothers, have been shattered. It is not clear how many people with albinism live in Somalia as there is no data available. The country has been affected by conflict and instability for more than three decades so it is impossible to gather reliable information.

Earlier this year, about 80 families living with albinism in



"People think I am cursed," he says. "They often throw a mixture of salt water and raw eggs onto my doorstep because they believe this will protect them from me."

Mr Mohamed eventually found a job as a cleaner in a restaurant earning between \$1.40 and \$4 (£3) a day.

It didn't last long. He was fired after customers stopped going to eat there, saying they feared he would infect them with albinism even though it is not a contagious disease, rather a genetic condition.

"I went from restaurant to restaurant looking for another job but nobody would employ me," he says. "I ended up begging on the streets, holding up a placard with my phone number on it so people could make donations via mobile payments."

The money he earns from begging is rarely enough to

Mogadishu came together to form an association, Somali Albinos, which they hope will raise awareness about their plight and help reduce stigma. So far, they have been sent 86 bottles of sun cream from Somali women living in the diaspora.

It is recommended that people with albinism wear high-factor sunscreen, protective clothing and sunglasses to reduce exposure to sunlight.

Their lack of melanin means they are at increased risk of getting sunburn and skin cancer. It also leads to eye problems as melanin is involved in the development of the retina, the thin layer of cells at the back of the eye.

"Other Somalis with disabilities have formed organisations which lobby for help from the government and international organisations," says the group's chairman, 40 year-old Mohamed Abukar Abdiqadir. "

Kenya mourns independence heroine Muthoni wa Kirima

Kenya's top-ranking female freedom fighter, Muthoni wa Kirima, has died aged 92.

She was a pivotal figure in the struggle for Kenya's independence and the only woman given the rank of field marshal during the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s. Kirima was born in 1930 and endured a challenging upbringing filled with racial violence that fuelled her determination to fight for the freedom of her people. In 1952 she joined the Mau Mau, offering to provide its members with information. However, she quickly became a forest fighter and was highly respected for her combat skills, fighting alongside revolutionary leader, Dedan Kimathi, who led the armed military struggle against the British colonial regime. Kirima was nicknamed "the weaver bird" because of her talent at weaving great strategies.

She also supported the movement off the battlefield by taking care of the injured and securing food, which led to her promotion to the rank of field marshal. President William Ruto tweeted that he was saddened to hear of the death of a powerful figure who had such a great influence on the country's fight for freedom. "She was courageous, hardworking and

loved her family, served her community and sacrificed for our country, always with diligence from the frontline," he said.

"We honour her heroic contribution to the freedom and development of our country." The former freedom fighter will be laid to rest in her hometown of Nyeri. BBC



Muthoni wa Kirima was only woman given the rank of field marshal during the Mau Mau uprising

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Mahmoud Mohieldin, Bogolo Kenewendo, Reuben Wambui

Heeding early advice from ECOWAS and UN

How to Close Africa's Climate-Finance Gap

International partners, specifically ECOWAS and the United Nations are calling on the Government of Liberia to investigate reports of recent electoral violence in the country and hold those responsible to account.

“We bring attention to inflammatory rhetoric which has the potential to instigate violence. We therefore urge political leaders to be active peace messengers and promote issue-based campaigns and refrain from incitement of followers toward violent action, especially violence against women in elections and politics and, to resolve any grievance through established legal mechanisms. We further caution against the instrumentalization of the youth”, a joint statement issued in Monrovia on 31 August reads.

At the same time the International Partners are calling on signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023, particularly political parties and their leaders to abide by their commitment and promote the conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections, prior, during and after the polls.

We join ECOWAS and the United Nations in urging all Liberians, including the government to pay keen attention to this early warning call against violence in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections. We can do so with the help of the government by immediately bringing to book, those involved in instigating violence to disrupt the democratic process.

Whether they are from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or the opposition bloc, those involved in such behavior need to be told in clear terms that violence has no place in 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections so there should be no place for people bent on instigating violence on the ongoing campaign activities across the country.

We believe strongly that one way to stamp out violence is by promptly taking action rather than just sitting back and condemning. Unless someone is arrested, brought before the law and if found guilty, punish to deter would-be perpetrators, the beat will go on, which is dangerous for peace and stability of the state.

All signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023 should demonstrate leadership they are craving for by abiding by their commitment to promote conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections prior, during and after the polls.

There have spate of violence across the country since official campaign for the October elections started marred by injuries and deaths. These should not go with impunity. Someone has to be held responsible before the law. We cannot go to violence-driven elections and expect the outcome to be peaceful.

It would save this country a lot, given the wave of insecurity precipitated by military coups in the region by doing everything to keep the peace. Zealous party partisans should not be blinded by loyalty to engage in uncouth activities as if there is no tomorrow.

Therefore, we have an opportunity as Liberians to jealously safeguard our peace and democracy and serve as an inspiration for Africa and the rest of the world by heeding the call from international partners to stamp out violence from our elections.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

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

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

CAIRO/GABORONE - Climate finance is inefficient, insufficient, and unfair. With debt levels and borrowing costs soaring, climate action must be funded through more equity investments and concessional financing. That means focusing on the needs of African countries, which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing the least to creating the problem, in the creation and implementation of green-finance tools.

The sooner that leaders of advanced economies and international organizations understand what Africa needs to achieve a just energy transition and provide the required financing and technology transfers, the greater the chance that the world will reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

This week, Kenya is hosting the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, as well as Africa Climate Week, with the goal of increasing commitments and pledges to support climate-adaptation efforts and scale up renewable energy on the continent. That makes this an opportune time for governments, the private sector, and multilateral lenders to begin removing the systemic barriers to investment and development in African countries.

To meet the emissions targets set by the Paris climate agreement, Africa will need \$2.8 trillion by 2030 - roughly equal to 93% of the continent's GDP. But, with the continent's combined public debt reaching \$1.8 trillion in 2022, many African countries lack the fiscal space to mobilize domestic resources.

International investors should fill this gap by providing financing and technology transfers that will help build capacity and develop local industry, rather than merely continuing to exploit the continent's natural resources. To that end, starting in Kenya this week and leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in November and December, governments and financiers must begin implementing five critical reforms to ensure that Africa's funding needs are met.

First, lenders must offer more concessional finance to emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). The World Bank and regional multilateral development banks (MDBs), supported by the climate-finance contributions of advanced economies, should provide loans to low- and low-middle-income countries at an interest rate of 1% and with a ten-year grace period and a 20-year repayment term for initiatives that boost climate resilience. Moreover, lending mechanisms such as the World Bank's International Development Association, traditionally available only to low-income countries, should be extended to low-middle-income countries, and adopted by various multilateral institutions.

Interested in learning more about the sustainable development challenges faced by the Global South? Check out our latest virtual event, Africa's Climate Agenda.

Governments and development agencies should also establish large and flexible pools of concessional capital earmarked for climate projects. And they should explore new avenues for international taxation to provide grants, rather than loans, when traditional private or public funding falls short.

Second, MDBs can implement credit-enhancement and credit-guarantee schemes to incentivize private-sector participation. Such assurances would mitigate project risks and bolster investor confidence, attracting much-needed private capital to Africa.

Third, creditors, including in the G20, must provide debt relief to low- and middle-income countries. Given that around 60% of low-income countries are in or at high risk of debt distress, suspending debt payments or, even better, canceling debts would greatly improve their ability to respond to the damaging effects of global warming. MDBs need to implement Climate Resilient Debt Clauses in loan contracts for poorer countries, which the World Bank announced this year. Moreover, debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps could enable recipient countries to repay their debts by investing in biodiversity protection and climate action.

Building on its recent efforts to provide \$100 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs) to climate-vulnerable countries, the International Monetary Fund should allocate an additional \$100 billion in paid-in capital and redirect SDRs to MDBs, starting with the African Development Bank this month. This would be in line with the Marrakech Declaration, an initiative to reform the global financial architecture which is being developed at the request of African finance ministers.

Fourth, a multi-partner fund must be established to help mitigate foreign-exchange risks for private investors by providing cost-effective currency and country hedges for climate investments in Africa. Such a fund would significantly reduce the perceived risks of investing in EMDEs, even in the face of currency fluctuations.

Lastly, lenders should support the creation of a facility that accelerates existing projects and programs on the continent, especially those that preserve nature and help communities adapt to extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves. Multiple funders and investment instruments that already operate in Africa could set up such a facility, which would avoid the cumbersome process of establishing a new fund.

Progress on these five reforms has already been made. At the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held in Paris in June, Senegal secured \$2.7 billion from developed countries to invest in renewable energy, and Zambia struck a deal to restructure \$6.3 billion in debt.

Meanwhile, the African Risk Capacity Group, which offers parametric insurance against natural disasters, has already provided \$720 million in coverage for 72 million people since 2014. We can substantially increase such assistance by quickly putting money into the Loss and Damage Fund established at last year's COP27 climate summit in Egypt.

Innovative financing measures will help African countries recover from climate disasters, build resilience to future shocks, and complete the transition to cleaner energy - all of which can bring sustainable-development gains. But the continent needs a dramatic increase in funding to reap the full benefits of climate action.

OP-ED

By Jaynisha Patel

What Yevgeny Prigozhin's Death Means for Africa

LONDON - The recent deaths of Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and several of his top lieutenants in an airplane crash north of Moscow will likely have far-reaching implications for Africa, where the private military company has established a significant presence in recent years. After all, if Russian President Vladimir Putin is responsible for Prigozhin's death, as many suspect, African leaders who have tied their political fortunes to Wagner must wonder how credible Prigozhin's promises to them now are.

The military ties between the Kremlin, Wagner, and African governments have always been shrouded in uncertainty. But the death of Prigozhin and Wagner co-founder Dmitry Utkin, presumably orchestrated by Putin as punishment for Prigozhin's short-lived June rebellion, has increased the risks facing those African leaders who have relied on Wagner's mercenary army to strengthen their hold on power.

Sudanese warlord Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti, is a case in point. Hemedti, the commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group, spent years cultivating a relationship with Prigozhin. But with Prigozhin dead and Wagner's future uncertain, the supply of weapons to RSF will likely be disrupted, potentially shifting the balance of power between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces. This shift comes at a precarious time for Hemedti, whose bid to lead the country seems to be faltering.

Partnering with Wagner, always a risky proposition, is now fraught with even greater peril. With coups erupting from Niger to Gabon, African governments or rebel groups considering an alliance with Wagner cannot count on business as usual. Without Prigozhin's access to Kremlin resources, Wagner is almost certain to become a mere shadow of its former self.

Prigozhin, who was reportedly in Africa days before his death, was the driving force behind Wagner's African activities. His unique character, rapport with African leaders, and control of commercial channels were crucial to his paramilitaries' growing clout. Finding a successor who can deliver the same results would be a daunting (perhaps impossible) challenge, potentially impeding Wagner's operations across the continent.

To the extent that Wagner's troops believe that Putin ordered their leader's assassination, he would be unwise to expect their continued allegiance, particularly from Wagner units far from the Kremlin's reach. And if Wagner comes under the command of Russia's Ministry of Defense (MoD), which appears to be Putin's goal, its transformation from a private militia into a state actor would likely limit its operational flexibility and tactics.

Moreover, maintaining the discipline, merit-based hierarchy, and mission-driven reward system that Prigozhin instituted could prove challenging. While Prigozhin was known to share the spoils of Wagner's African ventures with his men, such largesse is not typically associated with Russia's MoD.

Then there is the critical issue of operational autonomy. Prigozhin trusted his commanders, delegating decision-making power to them for on-the-ground operations, a practice the Kremlin has traditionally frowned upon. Already wary of Wagner's independence, the MoD is unlikely to adopt Prigozhin's decentralized model, which has been a key factor in the group's ruthless effectiveness in Africa.

Many commanders have been with Prigozhin since Wagner's inception. For example, the group's top commander in Mali, Ivan Maslov, operates almost like an independent CEO, exemplifying Wagner's operational approach across the region. It remains to be seen whether the MoD can secure the loyalty of these experienced officers, without whom Wagner is likely to lose its competitive edge.

Given the deep distrust between Wagner and the Russian military establishment, many mercenaries might quit the group altogether. Some may join other non-state militias, private military companies, or criminal organizations, while others may directly serve African leaders with whom they have built relationships, as some have already done in the Central African Republic. Such shifts could further destabilize some of the world's most fragile countries, heightening the risk of regional turmoil.

The imminent classification of Wagner as a terrorist group by the United States and the United Kingdom, together with Putin's divide-and-rule strategy, could also cause the group to splinter. The mercenary company Redut, headed by Prigozhin's arch-nemesis, Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu, will likely vie for control over some of Wagner's operations on the continent. But Redut lacks the necessary cultural understanding, established relationships, and on-the-ground experience. So, even if Shoigu manages to take over some or all of Wagner's African positions, Redut might struggle to hold on to them.

African leaders who have relied on Wagner and similar mercenary groups (and those contemplating such partnerships) must use this moment to reassess their strategy. Aligning with groups like Wagner, characterized by internal strife, egregious human-rights records, and uncertain futures, is a perilous choice at best.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson

Great Power Competition Today

WASHINGTON, DC - The recent BRICS summit in South Africa marks the start of a new phase of Great Power competition. At the apparent urging of China, the BRICS group (which also includes Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa) invited six other countries to join: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. By some measures, the economic output of this expanded group will rival that of the G7 (the major developed countries: the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy).

According to public statements by Russian President Vladimir Putin and, more importantly, by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the goal is to build a group that can stand up to Western influence and create the foundation for an alternative international order, with less reliance on the US dollar.

This effort will no doubt gain greater attention in the coming year, especially when the expanded membership meets for the first time in October 2024 (in Kazan, Russia). But BRICS+ is unlikely to reshape the world, for three reasons.

First, the extent of common interest among its members should not be exaggerated. India has plenty of reasons (based on a great deal of recent history) not to want China to become too powerful. And any group that includes oil and gas producers (Brazil, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE) and energy importers has a fundamental fault line. For example, South Africa, where energy shortages (and rolling power cuts) are having serious negative effects on the economy, has no interest in paying more for energy; but selling oil to the world is what keeps the oil and gas producers' public finances afloat.

Second, the idea of replacing the dollar with other currencies for trade and for financial transactions has been around for decades. The problem is that you cannot replace something with nothing. If the alternative involves the Chinese renminbi, it will require putting a great deal of faith in the Chinese economy, which currently looks more than a little shaky. When the going gets tough, would the Chinese authorities really allow foreigners to sell their renminbi holdings without restriction?

Third, any alliance with Russia is obviously fraught with dangers at this point. Russia's leadership looks unstable and unpredictable. Rather than backing down from his war of aggression against Ukraine, Putin seems determined to continue disrupting global energy markets (bad for energy importers) and grain markets (very bad for countries such as Egypt).

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has been a disaster for both countries, but Putin is the type of dictator who cannot admit a mistake. The current cascade of coups across Africa reminds us (and him) how such regimes end.

For centuries, Great Power competition was based on formal empire (ruling other countries) and exercising de facto control through military means, bribery, and unequal trading relationships. From the early 1700s until the 1940s, the British Empire led the world with both types of machinations, but other European countries also had their spheres of influence.

The global system changed after World War II, because the United States took over as the leading Western industrial power, determined to replace formal empire with much more equal trading relationships. To be sure, there continue to be plenty of complaints about the fairness of that system. But Western Europe did well, and countries such as Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and (in recent decades) China prospered under a relatively open international trading system that encouraged exports of manufactured goods from lower-wage countries to high-income markets. The Soviet Union's alternative post-war bloc, based on military control over Eastern Europe, fell apart in 1989, two years before the demise of the Soviet Union itself.

The latest phase of Great Power competition, however, is much more about technology than it is about trade. In retrospect, this shift began during WWII, when the British shared key developments (particularly radar and early thinking about atomic weapons), and the Americans' Manhattan Project went further and faster than anyone could have imagined. Digital computers, semiconductor chips, jet aircraft, life-saving drugs and vaccines, and the internet all came from the West (boosted significantly by US government investments).

In October 1957, the Soviet Union shocked the world by launching the first artificial satellite, Sputnik. But its rigid and repressive system could not sustain enough creativity or turn good ideas into products that people wanted (other than weapons).

Now China wants to challenge the West for leadership in new technology, with a view to tightening social control through a combination of artificial intelligence and surveillance. This, not the expanded BRICS, is the real potential threat to the West.

There is now an active bipartisan discussion in Washington, led by US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, regarding how much AI we want to develop and with what safeguards. This is healthy and will likely lead to better outcomes (although no doubt with imperfections in terms of consumer protection, alongside ongoing concerns about job losses).

In contrast, an open discussion about the technologies China wants to develop and how it directs innovation is not allowed in that country. As was true during the Cold War, a rigid and repressive system is bidding to lead the world in knowledge creation, application, and dissemination.

Will China succeed where the Soviet Union failed? As long as the West continues to nurture innovation - and manages that innovation responsibly - China is unlikely to win out. In this sense, the West controls its own destiny.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Tiawan Saye Gongloe Is the Best Candidate for A Better Liberia

By. S.Karweaye

Former Minister of Labor, Tiawan Saye Gongloe is one of the most respected Liberian politicians of the Nimba extraction. He is one of the few past government officials in the country who is still adored by his people even though he resigned from the government and left the public sector in 2010.

Some of the major factors that will not be ignored in the forthcoming 2023 general elections are antecedents and what every candidate has to offer. The last eighteen years under the Unity Party (UP) administration and the Coalition of Democratic Change administrations have not been quite rosy for the nation as a whole.

The massive corruption, huge debt, unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, infrastructure deficits, high maternal mortality, insecurity, and the standard of living of ordinary Liberians is gradually depreciating. Many Liberians cannot afford to live average lives anymore because of the high cost of living. We need to look at why the Liberian People Party (LPP) presidential candidate, Tiawan Saye Gongloe (TSG) is the best for Liberia now. The first issue that comes to mind is the challenge of halting the continued bleeding of Liberians by corrupt politicians and public servants through various forms of corruption.

Corruption is the leader of a litany of problems that brought Liberia to her knees with the attendant weeping that is heard all over the country. It was the bleeding that gave rise to a military coup, two civil wars in Liberia, and almost all the hardships facing our citizens. Corruption is so deeply entrenched in Liberia that the Supreme Court of Liberia has reaffirmed the National Elections Commission's (NEC) decision to qualify former Minister of State, Nathaniel McGill to contest for the Margibi County Senatorial Seat. The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Nathaniel McGill for involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia. Yet, the Supreme Court has reaffirmed the NEC decision to qualify McGill.

Of all the presidential candidates, Tiawan Saye Gongloe is the best candidate to halt the bleeding of Liberia. Let us not make any mistake about it or try to muddle things up; the moment the bleeding of Liberia stops, funds will be available for the government to tackle all the other problems. Only a man endowed with integrity can handle Liberia as of today and change things for the better. Gongloe has demonstrated adequate capacity to deal decisively with corruption through the rule of law and has proven to live above money and its overwhelming corruptive influence. He has also proven to live above greed and ostentation and has demonstrated in all practical ways that he cannot be pushed around against stated nationally beneficial goals.

Now consider these: A few months after his appointment as Solicitor General in 2006, he started going after corrupt individuals. Two former government officials who served as Minister and Deputy Finance Ministers respectively in the former National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) were arrested. Mr. Lusinee F. Kamara (who is now running for President) and Tugbeh Doe (deceased) were charged with "theft of government property" in a probe into the alleged theft of millions from the coffers of an interim government after their names were in the ECOWAS audit report as liable for the disappearances of millions of dollars between October 2003 and January 2006.

As Solicitor General, and determined to hold those accountable for bleeding state coffers, Gongloe charged Liberia's former transitional leader Gyude Bryant for allegedly embezzling \$1.4 million while in

Liberian government/ In July 2010, the CEO of the UK-based CHC, Mike Foster was arrested by the City of London Police Overseas Anti-corruption Unit (OACU) following an investigation by Global Witness into a deal involving the trade of carbon credits in Liberia.

Embarrassed and under pressure, President Sirleaf constituted a three-man Special Investigative Committee, chaired by Cllr. T. Negbalee Warner, to investigate the CHC deal in June 2010. After working for five months, engaging all of the parties, and intelligence sources as well as accessing documents relating to the negotiations/agreement, and released its findings and recommendations to the President for action in October 2010.



office. Mr. Bryant was arrested and sent to Central Prison after Mr. Bryant failed to show up in court twice. Gongloe also arrested Samuel Wlue (current Minister of Transport), and others after evidence of corruption was uncovered in the ECOWAS audit report.

As Minister of Labor, he published Regulation Number 17, which increased the cost of a work permit for non-Liberian workers from US\$400 to US\$1,000 forcing employers to hire more Liberian workers while laying off their non-Liberian workers. He worked tirelessly to put into action the Liberalization policy to benefit Liberians and Liberia in general. Gongloe resigned from his ministerial post in November 2010 over a policy disagreement with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia.

In 2007, Carbon Harvesting Corporation (CHC) approached the Government of Liberia to negotiate the allocation of a 400,000-hectare forest carbon concession - a fifth of Liberia's rainforest- to sell carbon credits to clients who want to offset their carbon emissions. According to Global Witness, the CEO of the UK-based CHC, Mike Foster made irregular payments to Liberian government officials and a politician via a middleman for the proposed deal. Global Witness investigation revealed the proposed deal could have cost the Liberian government a potential financial loss of over US\$2 billion to the

According to Warner's committee report, the negotiations on the proposed agreement violated the Public Procurement & Concession Commission Act which created the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), and that bribes were offered, solicited, paid, or promised to several current and past government officials for their consents and support for the agreement.

In the Warner committee's report, it was revealed that Amara Konneh (who is now running for the Senate Seat in Gbarpolu County), then Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs violated the PPC for the issuance of a concession certificate for the CHC contract. Warner's report also revealed the then Minister of Internal Affairs Ambullai Johnson, a senior influential cousin of President Sirleaf was the gravest and most significant as a very influential official of the FDA board who benefited as well as the FDA Managing Director John Wood, and others. The Warner committee's report recommended the dismissal, prosecution, or reprimanding of nine former and active public officials associated with the granting of 400,000 hectares of forest to a British company, Carbon Harvesting Company (CHC).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Montserrat Districts #9 & 10 response to UP Rescue Rally

- as Amb. Boakai vows to abolish "brown envelope"

By Lincoln G. Peters
Montserrat County Districts #9 and 10 overwhelmingly

who dance to campaign music and shouted pre-victory slogans. Supporters also sang anti

M. Weah face down with a resounding one-round victory because he has failed the Liberian people and the people has decided to overwhelmingly reject him.

Though is with a crowded political field the likelihood of any of the candidates winning a first round victory remain very slim. All three front runners: Weah, Cummings and Boakai have all predicted a first round victory.

Boakai, who has repeatedly said that the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime in which he served as vice president squandered opportunities has vowed to audit the Weah and prosecute members of the administration for corruption if elected president comes October 10. He assured that under his leadership, Liberians will live better lives because he will lobby and ensure that they are given better pay jobs through the attraction of investment.

At the same time, Mr. Boakai also cautioned lawmakers that there will be no brown envelopes under his administration, urging them

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responded to opposition Unity Party's Standard Bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's "Rescue" campaign Rally on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The "Rescue Rally" appears to have attracted thousands of supporters of the former ruling UP, sympathizers and well-wishers.

The rally was held at the old Susan Berry School football field and brought together supports from both districts

establishment songs, with lyrics such as "We thank God, we get our voting cards. Our one vote can make Boakai win" and Boakai, we love you, and it's you we want".

Addressing the gathering, former Vice President Boakai extolled the districts for the huge turnout and expressed optimistic of a resounding "one-round victory".

Boakai promised to beat incumbent President George

419 presidential candidates ordered arrested

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

The electoral magistrate of Upper Nimba County, Milton Paye, has instructed Police in Sanniquillie City, to arrest and bring to justice, two Presidential Candidates from the Poor People Party (PPP) whose photos have been placed on walls at various public places in the county. According to Magistrate Paye, the National Elections Commission qualified only 20 Presidential Candidates, not 21, as the PPP wants the public to believe. A letter from the National Elections Commission reads: "As you may be informed, the nomination process for the 2023 general and presidential elections is over, with the total of twenty (20) presidential candidates in the presidential category of the elections.

What appears to be a serious undermine of our peace process is publicly being displayed by some unauthorized people, as far as the National Elections Commission is concerned; there are some people to be recognized who are passing around and distributing flyers and asking people to vote for them in their campaign messages.

They are also confusing

electorate by telling them that they Eric B. Nuahn, Presidential Candidate and Eric Tiawuah, Vice Presidential Candidate, are on Number 21 on the Presidential Ballot Paper of the 2023 Elections.

Based on the foregoing, we write to request your good office to arrest them and to bring them to public attention for misleading campaign messages and everything they have done criminally to put the credibility of the National Elections Commission to question." According to Magistrate Paye, the NEC is ready to conduct free and credible elections come October 10th. Meanwhile, Police in Nimba have arrested and charged two persons for recent violence in

Electoral D#4 that led to one death. Nimba County Police Commander, Dixon P. Kemokai, says the recent incident that occurred in Soe Vanyenglay town was not politically motivated or an electoral matter, but rather confusion ensued among residents that led to the death of one person.

Earlier the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change had accused the opposition Unity Party of involvement in violence, but the Police say no political party was involved, and the incident transpired at 12:00 in the morning.

Those charged and sent to court are Anthony Saye and Parlay Flahn, ages 14 and 17, respectively. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Senate confirms LACC nominees, But...

By Ethel A. Tweh

The plenary of the Liberia Senate on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 unanimously voted to confirm Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) nominees. But the Senate plenary also mandated that ex-commissioners be compensated by the Government of Liberia.

The plenary mandated the Pro-Tempore Albert Chie to communicate its decision with the Executive Branch.

The plenary mandates that all financial obligations for the unexpired portion of the tenure of former commissioners who were not maintained on the new board of commissioners should be settled by the Ministry of Finance.

During the voting process, 14 senators voted in favor of the confirmation of the nominees, two senators abstained, and two other senators voted against their confirmation.

Cllr. David A.B. Wilson.

It can be recalled that after the nominees' communication was sent to the Liberian Senate, several senators, many of whom were from the opposition bloc, kicked against the appointment during the electoral process.

They argued that while the president has the constitutional right to appoint, Senators also have the power to confirm nominees. Senators Abraham Dillon, James Biney, Jonathan Kaipay, and Conmany Wesseh, among others, raised concerns about the timing of President George Manneh Weah's decision to appoint the officials at this time.

They noted that it was not politically prudent to confirm nominees at tenure positions when the country was just four months away from the October 10, 2023, presidential and legislative elections at the time of their nomination.

However, some senators of the



The LACC commissioners confirmed by plenary include Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe, Chairperson; Mr. Ernest R. Hughes, Vice Chairperson; and Mr. Randolph E. Tebbs, Monitoring and Investigation.

Other confirmed officials are Miatta Jeh, Monitoring and Investigation; Atty. Samuel F. Dakana, Monitoring and Investigation; Cllr. Oretha Snyder Davis, Prosecution; and

ruling party including Numene Bartekwa, Augustine Chea, Simeon Taylor, and Gbleh-bo Brown said it was more convenient for the Pro-tempore to continue the confirmation proceedings of the nominees.

The senators said once the Senate enacted a new law creating the current Commission, it gave rise to the nomination of the new Commissioners of the LACC.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WADEMOS identifies vices inimical to free, fair elections

By Naneka Hoffman

The Acting Coordinator of the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) for Anglophone countries Paul Osei-Kuffour, says disinformation, hate speech,

efforts in election conflict mediation. Trust and neutrality of the key intermediary actors, most importantly traditional leaders and clergy is critical for intervening and mediating election violence, he underscores.

order to allow for enough time for election stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the stipulations of the manual.

He says the NEC should endeavor to engage political parties more on sensitive and pertinent issues in order to mitigate perceptions of impartiality, adding that together with political parties and the security agencies, the NEC must work to ensure the security for the people's votes.

Mr. Paul Osei-Kuffour urges that all security and safety measures should be deployed on polling day to ensure that polling precincts and the data center are transparent, accessible and well-managed.

He cautions that election-related violence has a tendency of suppressing voters especially, women and first-time voters, calling on security agencies to respond to emerging threats of violence and prosecute perpetrators of violence as the Election Day draws closer.

He notes that the Farmington River Declaration is a good-will instrument that is not legally binding, but quickly adds that those found in breach of the pledge should be sanctioned by the NEC in line with relevant electoral laws.

He also wants CSOs and the media to collaborate in promoting Declaration at grassroots level.

Meanwhile, Mr. Osei-Kuffour says verbal and physical attacks on female candidates should be appropriately addressed by political parties, calling on security agencies to re-evaluate their strategies for the election, considering the absence of the UN Mission in Liberia, as there are concerns around the capacity of the Liberia National Police for security of the polls.

He emphasizes that State institutions and civil society should sustain the vibrant campaigns aimed at discouraging violence during the forthcoming elections,

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Hate speech, disinformation inimical to free and fair election

--Says Paul Osei-Kuffour

By Naneka Hoffman

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) Ag. Network Coordinator, WADEMOS and Anglophone Coordinator Paul Osei-Kuffour, says disinformation, hate speech, and misinformation are inimical to the conduct of a free and fair election. Speaking at a news conference on Monday, 4 September 2023 in Monrovia, Mr. Osei-Kuffour said it restricts the civic space and undermines healthy political debates and dialogues.

"We note the emergence of inflammatory and incendiary language through radio and social media as a weapon to intimidate candidates," he said.

Mr. Osei-Kuffour explained that the regulations around post-election dispute regulation involves a three-tier structure - the chief hearing officer of the National Elections Commission (NEC), NEC's Board of Commissioners, and the Supreme Court.

a tremendous challenge to the functioning of the NEC.

He added that to the extent that the activities of the NEC are hindered by money, there is an urgency for the government to release all outstanding funds owed to the NEC to enable the smooth performance of its functions.

Mr. Osei-Kuffour continued that all security and safety measures should be deployed on election day to ensure that polling precincts and the data center are transparent, accessible, and well-managed.

He mentioned that election-related violence has the tendency of suppressing voters, especially women and first-time voters.

"The security agencies must respond to the emerging threats of violence and prosecute perpetrators of election violence as the election day draws closer," he suggested.

Mr. Osei-Kuffour, note that the Farmington Declaration is a good will instrument that is not legally binding.



"We find the process very cumbersome and complex, especially regarding appeal and final determination of election-related disputes in the situation of a run-off for the presidential election," Mr. Osei-Kuffour stated.

He further said that he finds incidents of the clergy and traditional leaders openly expressing support for political parties as a threat to strengthening local mediation efforts at the grassroots and national levels to complement regional efforts in election conflict mediation.

"Trust and neutrality of the key intermediary actors, most importantly traditional leaders and clergy is critical for intervening and mediating election violence," he said.

However, he explained that the availability of funds remains

However, he suggested that those found in breach of the pledge should be sanctioned by the NEC in line with other relevant electoral laws. The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network election solidarity missions provide an opportunity for civil society to reflect and advise on key aspects of elections.

Over the duration of the mission, several indicators were assessed, including the readiness of the NEC and preparedness of all stakeholders for the election.

This is in relation to voter education, voter registration, election day deployment, vote tallying and transmission regulations.

It also looks at campaign finance regulations, political participation and inclusion, election security and violence,

▶ CONT'D page 11



and misinformation are inimical to the conduct of a free and fair election.

Addressing a news conference on Monday, September 4, in Monrovia, Mr. Osei-Kuffour said these vices restrict the civic space and undermine healthy political debates and dialogues, adding "We note the emergence of inflammatory and incendiary language through radio and social media as a weapon to intimidate candidates."

He explains that post-election dispute regulation involves a three-tier structure: the chief hearing officer of NEC, board of commissioners, and finally at the Supreme Court.

"We find the process very cumbersome and complex, especially regarding appeal and final determination of election-related disputes in the situation of a run-off for the presidential election", he notes.

The WADEMOS Acting Network Coordinator Anglophone Coordinator says incidents of clergymen and traditional leaders openly expressing support for political parties is a threat to strengthening local mediation efforts at grassroots and national levels to complement regional

However, he explains availability of funds remains a tremendous challenge to the functioning of the National Elections Commission, and to the extent that activities of the NEC are hindered by money, there is an urgency for the government to release all outstanding funds owed the NEC to enable smooth performance of its functions.

According to him, the NEC should expand its campaign to educate voters not only on election rules and regulations ahead of the polls but must also ensure that voters are aware that despite the biometric voter register, there will be no biometric verification on Election Day, and that voting will be conducted just as it has been in past elections under the optical manual registration system. He also notes that NEC should enhance its communication strategy in its engagement with election stakeholders in order to not just communicate its achievements better, but to improve stakeholders' appreciation of the rules and regulations governing the elections. He stresses a need for speedy and timely production of the manual on collation and tabulation of results that will replace rules and regulations on result collation and tabulation in

Montserrado Districts #9 & 10

to be warned of transparent and accountable leadership.

" My leadership will not condone any brown envelope bribe. I am warning lawmakers

that if you will need brown envelope before doing the Liberian people job then don't be elected because I will not be your President.

This country will change for the betterment of all of us and it will begin with the house by discouraging brown envelope" he concluded.

Starts from page 6

Français

Campagnes électorales : Cummings attire une dizaine de milliers de supporters dans le district n°4

Plus d'une dizaine de milliers de citoyens, dont principalement des femmes, ont promis leur

et de nouveaux électeurs sont venus des 17 districts de Montserrado.

La « W-Force Women for Cummings » est un mouvement

CPP, qu'il décrit comme le meilleur candidat pour apporter des changements au Libéria.

Élégalement vêtus de T-shirts Cummings-Brumskine, avec des banderoles de leurs différents districts, l'énorme foule a rempli le terrain de Soul Clinic F-Sham.

S'adressant à la multitude de partisans dimanche 3 septembre depuis un podium monté sur un conteneur de 40 pieds à l'intérieur d'un camion, il a exprimé sa gratitude aux libériens, qui, selon lui, ont dû faire fi de leurs emplois du temps certainement chargés pour prendre part à la cérémonie et pour lui apporter leur soutien.

L'ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola a remercié la « W-Force Women for Cummings » pour la mobilisation massive des femmes, des filles, des hommes et des nouveaux électeurs. Il s'est engagé à ne pas les décevoir ni anéantir leurs espoirs d'un Libéria meilleur.

Une résidente identifiée comme Ma Musu Gibson, 49 ans, a déclaré qu'elle avait dirigé un groupe de 200 femmes de sa communauté du district n° 4 pour assister au programme, parce qu'elle a de l'admiration et du respect pour M. Cummings et son programme pour un réel

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Le chef du conseil traditionnel du Maryland a été limogé pour son soutien à l'ANC

Le pouvoir public libérien a licencié le président du conseil traditionnel du comté du Maryland, le chef Nelson Neal, pour avoir accepté d'être le directeur de campagne de l'opposant Alexander Cummings dans ledit comté.

S'exprimant lors d'une émission sur une radio locale le weekend dernier, le surintendant du Maryland, George A. Prowd, a fait croire que le licenciement du chef Neal aura un effet dissuasif sur les autres responsables du gouvernement local, en particulier les membres du conseil des chefs traditionnels du comté.

Il a déclaré que les chefs ne sont pas des politiciens et qu'ils ne devraient jamais servir de directeurs de campagne pour des partis politiques.

Selon lui, ils sont nommés dans des bureaux du gouvernement local pour soutenir le gouvernement central dans la gestion des conflits, et non pour devenir des hommes politiques.

"Permettez-moi de dire

ceci : que se passera-t-il si un chef qui devrait être une personne neutre devient maintenant un homme politique, qui gèrera ces questions s'il y a des conflits entre les partis politiques et si le parti qu'il soutient est impliqué ?" » a demandé le surintendant Prowd.

"C'est donc une erreur de la part d'un chef de faire cela, car en tant qu'autorités locales, en particulier membres du ministère de l'Intérieur, nous ne permettrons pas que cela se produise à notre époque."

Il a déclaré que le limogeage du

chef Nelson Neal n'avait jamais été politiquement motivé car il avait été invité à une réunion suite à sa récente nomination par l'ANC mais aurait refusé d'écouter.

Le surintendant a précisé que Nelson n'a pas été démis de ses fonctions de chef général de la ville, mais de président du conseil traditionnel, et que le véhicule qui lui a été donné par le président Weah a été remis au président par intérim

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Éditorial

Il faut tenir compte des conseils de la CEDEAO et de l'ONU

Les partenaires internationaux, en particulier la CEDEAO et les Nations Unies, appellent le gouvernement du Libéria à enquêter sur les récentes violences préélectorales dans le pays et à demander des comptes aux responsables.

« Nous attirons l'attention sur les discours incendiaires susceptibles d'inciter à la violence. Nous exhortons donc les dirigeants politiques à être des messagers actifs de la paix, à promouvoir des campagnes thématiques et à s'abstenir d'inciter leurs partisans à des actions violentes, en particulier la violence contre les femmes lors des élections, et à résoudre tout grief par le biais des mécanismes juridiques établis. Nous mettons en outre en garde contre l'instrumentalisation des jeunes », peut-on lire dans une déclaration commune publiée à Monrovia le 31 août.

Dans le même temps, les partenaires internationaux appellent les signataires de la Déclaration de Farmington River 2023, en particulier les partis politiques et leurs dirigeants, à respecter leur engagement et à promouvoir les conditions d'élections pacifiques, transparentes et crédibles, avant, pendant et après les élections.

Nous nous associons à la CEDEAO et aux Nations Unies pour exhorter tous les Libériens, y compris le gouvernement, à prêter une attention particulière à cet appel précoce contre la violence lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023. Nous pouvons le faire avec l'aide du gouvernement en traduisant immédiatement en justice ceux qui incitent à la violence pour perturber le processus démocratique.

Qu'ils appartiennent à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir ou au bloc d'opposition, ceux qui sont impliqués dans de tels comportements doivent être clairement informés que la violence n'a pas sa place lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023 et qu'il ne devrait donc y avoir aucune place pour les personnes déterminées à inciter à la violence lors de la campagne en cours à travers le pays.

Nous croyons fermement que pour éradiquer la violence, il faut agir rapidement plutôt que de simplement rester les bras croisés et condamner. Tant que quelqu'un n'est pas arrêté, traduit devant la loi et, s'il est reconnu coupable, puni pour dissuader les auteurs potentiels, le massacre continuera, ce qui est dangereux pour la paix et la stabilité de l'État.

Tous les signataires de la Déclaration de Farmington River 2023 devraient faire preuve du leadership dont ils rêvent en respectant leur engagement à promouvoir les conditions d'élections pacifiques, transparentes et crédibles avant, pendant et après les élections.

Il y a eu une vague de violence à travers le pays depuis le début de la campagne officielle pour les élections d'octobre, faisant des blessés et des morts. Ces crimes ne doivent pas rester impunis. Quelqu'un doit être tenu responsable devant la loi. Nous ne pouvons pas organiser des élections émaillées de violence et espérer que le résultat soit pacifique.

Sauvegarder la paix par tous les moyens permettra d'éviter beaucoup de choses à ce pays, face à la vague d'insécurité précipitée par les coups d'État militaires dans la région. Les partisans zélés des partis ne devraient pas être aveuglés par leur passion et se livrer à des activités grossières comme s'il n'y avait pas de lendemain.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Campagnes électorales :**

changement au Libéria.

Un groupe de filles vêtues de T-shirts du parti, qui se sont identifiées comme étant des personnes qui vont voter pour la première fois, se sont félicitées du choix de la jeune femme Charlyne Brumskine, en tant que colistière de M. Cummings. Elles ont promis de mobiliser les jeunes, en particulier les filles, pour soutenir le candidat de la CPP dans les urnes.

Dans le même temps, Cummings a promis d'accorder aux femmes la place qui leur revient en tant que partenaires dans les instances de décision avec la possibilité de partager

équitablement les richesses et les ressources du pays.

Il a affirmé que s'il est élu président, l'objectif principal de la CPP sera de relancer l'économie en difficulté du Libéria en établissant un secteur privé fort pour une création massive d'emplois qui profitera à des milliers de Libériens au chômage.

Cummings a promis qu'au cours des cent premiers jours de son mandat de président, il lancera un programme de prêt de 20 millions de dollars américains pour les opérateurs économiques libériens, surtout les commerçantes, afin de développer et de booster leurs entreprises.

Starts from page 8 **Le chef du conseil traditionnel**

du conseil.

Il avertit les chefs traditionnels et autres responsables du gouvernement local de renoncer à une telle attitude, car elle n'est pas bonne pour la politique du pays.

Dans le même temps, il a mis en garde les citoyens contre les actes de violence lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives.

Il a affirmé que les élections sont un événement

et ne devraient donc pas être une raison de diviser le peuple.

Le surintendant a révélé que malgré la sensibilisation, il y a encore des partisans d'autres partis politiques qui déchirent les dépliants des candidats.

Il a appelé les personnes impliquées à renoncer immédiatement car la meilleure façon de maintenir la paix au Libéria est d'accepter les points de vue et les préoccupations des uns et des autres malgré les divergences politiques.

Coup d'État au Niger : en France, le maintien de l'ambassadeur à Niamey divise la classe politique

En France, le maintien de l'ambassadeur au Niger, pays où un coup d'État a eu lieu le 26 juillet 2023, divise la classe politique. Les autorités françaises ont rejeté à plusieurs reprises les injonctions des putschistes : que Sylvain Itté quitte le sol nigérien. Un positionnement de Paris critiqué au sein d'une partie de l'opposition et qui semble commencer à susciter l'incompréhension jusque dans la majorité présidentielle. Explications.

Les autorités françaises restent sur une ligne de fermeté : pas question de rappeler leur ambassadeur en poste à Niamey comme le demandent les putschistes nigériens. Catherine Colonna, la cheffe de la diplomatie française, l'a rappelé le 3 septembre 2023 dans une interview au quotidien Le Monde.

Le bras de fer donc se poursuit entre les deux capitales. L'ambassade de France est aujourd'hui sous quasi-blocus. La nourriture n'entre plus au sein de l'ambassade. Une situation qui inquiète au sein de la classe politique française où l'attitude de Paris commence

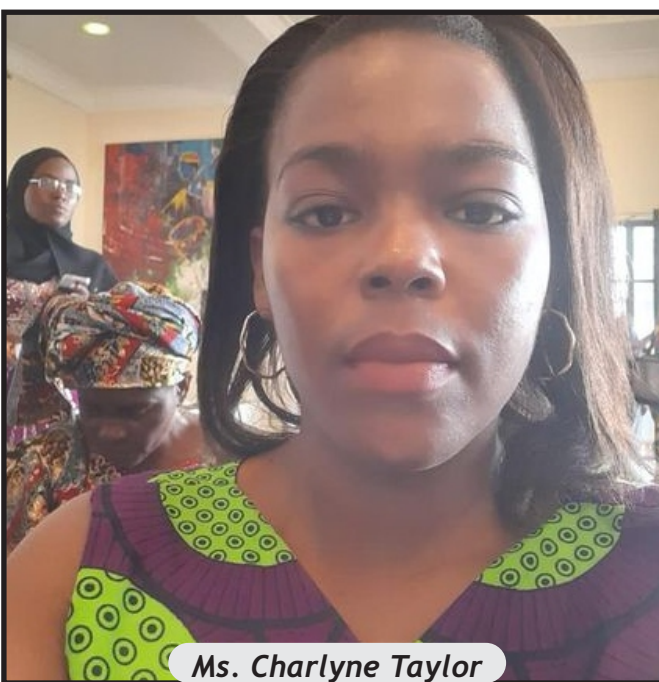
à susciter l'incompréhension jusque dans la majorité.

« Cette situation va se révéler intenable »

Maintenir Sylvain Itté à son poste, la décision est jugée « dangereuse » par Jean-Luc Mélenchon. Pour le chef de file du parti La France insoumise (LFI), « l'escalade est une erreur », comme il l'a écrit sur le réseau social X (anciennement Twitter). Un sentiment partagé par le député LFI, Bastien Lachaud : « Nous devons être très prudents. Nous ne devons pas nous retrouver pris dans un engrenage qui nous emmènerait dans une réaction qui serait incompréhensible et dangereuse. »

Les putschistes ayant décidé de retirer leur agrément à l'ambassadeur français, il sera de toute façon impossible à ce dernier de travailler, estime de son côté Christian Cambon, le président des Républicains de la commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense du Sénat : « Sur les plans des principes et de la légalité, j'approuve évidemment la décision de la France. Évidemment, après, se pose la question de l'efficacité, puisqu'il est à peu près condamné à l'inaction sur le plan

La fille de Taylor peut-elle devenir le choix des électeurs ?



Ms. Charlyne Taylor

Ms. Charlyne Taylor, la plus jeune fille de l'ancien président libérien emprisonné Charles Ghankay Taylor, a lancé une campagne politique de porte-à-porte pour représenter la circonscription électorale n°5 du comté de Montserrado à l'Assemblée législative.

Elle est également en mission pour soutenir l'héritage de son père, M. Taylor. Mais la question qui se pose est de savoir si Charlyne pourra devenir la favorite des électeurs lors de l'échéance électorale d'octobre dans le district 5 ?

Le Président Taylor a été reconnu coupable de complicité de guerre et d'encouragement pour

commettre des crimes de guerre alors qu'il était au pouvoir au Libéria de 1997 jusqu'à sa démission le 11 août 2003 lors de la deuxième guerre civile libérienne.

Pendant ce temps, Charlyne, la fille de M. Taylor, persuade les électeurs, s'appuyant sur la vision de son père de les représenter.

Si elle est élue représentante dans le district n°5, ce serait la première étape vers l'objectif de Charlyne d'acquérir le pouvoir politique sur les traces de son père.

Mlle Taylor a placé l'aide humanitaire et le bien-être social, la priorité à l'investissement dans le capital humain, la modernisation du district, la création de lois et de programmes bien intentionnés, en tête de son programme.

Pendant ce temps, elle fait face à une course difficile contre environ 12 autres candidats.

Parmi ses rivaux figurent le candidat de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, Eric Vaye ; le candidat de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) de l'opposant Alexander Suah, et la candidate de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, entre autres.

Dans une interview accordée au NewDawn le lundi 4 septembre 2023, Charlyne Taylor a juré de racheter la circonscription électorale n°5 du comté de Montserrado et de transformer la vie de son peuple.

Lundi, elle a mené ses partisans sous la bannière « Team Taylor », dans diverses communautés du district, dans une campagne de porte-à-porte pour convaincre l'électorat des raisons pour lesquelles elle est qualifiée pour ce poste.

Africa Climate Summit: des divergences entre chefs d'État sur la promotion des énergies vertes

Alors que le secrétaire général des Nations Unies a estimé que l'Afrique pourrait devenir « une superpuissance des énergies renouvelables » et que les Émirats arabes unis ont annoncé 4,5 milliards de dollars d'investissements dans les énergies propres sur le continent, plusieurs chefs d'États africains ont affiché leurs divergences sur la stratégie à adopter sur le sujet, au deuxième jour de l'Africa Climate Summit organisé à Nairobi, ce 5 septembre 2023.

« Les énergies renouvelables pourraient être le miracle africain. » C'est ce qu'a déclaré Antonio Guterres, le secrétaire général des Nations Unies, ce 5 septembre 2023 à la tribune du premier sommet africain sur le climat, à Nairobi.

Cet Africa Climate Summit dure trois jours et doit se terminer demain mercredi. L'objectif annoncé par les 54 pays du continent, c'est d'afficher une unité dans la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique, notamment dans les moyens mis en œuvre.

Mais, pour le moment, les États du continent tentent surtout de mettre en avant leurs spécificités et leurs atouts respectifs pour obtenir des financements.

Dans ce type de sommet, les négociations se jouent jusqu'à la dernière minute. Une réunion, la veille au soir, de présentation du projet final de déclaration a ainsi entraîné de nombreuses divisions. Divisions qui se sont entendues à

nouveau ce mardi lors des discours des chefs d'État.

Président de la République du Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, estime que le cœur de la lutte pour obtenir des financements et la création d'un marché carbone mondial doit se faire autour des forêts du bassin du Congo, de l'Indonésie et du Brésil. « Les trois bassins concentrent 80% de la biodiversité mondiale et constituent le régulateur de l'équilibre carbone de la planète », a-t-il affirmé.

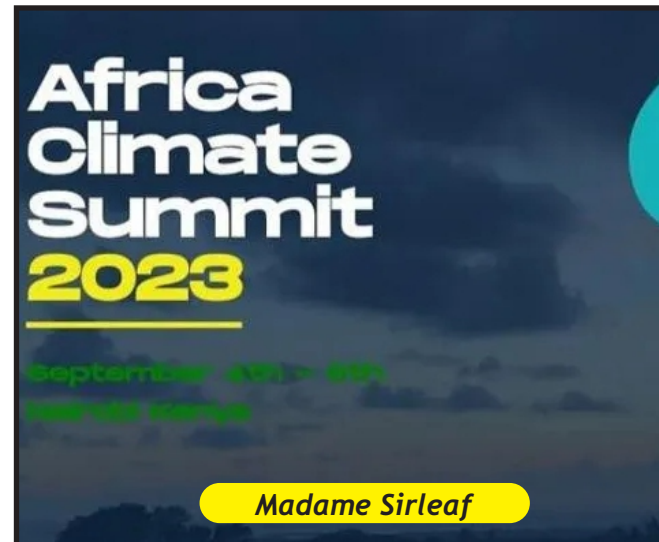
Autre lieu autre atout : président de l'archipel des Comores, Azali Assoumani, souhaite que la notion d'économie bleue qui détermine le rôle des océans soit mise en avant. « Nous plaidons pour un soutien pour une économie bleue durable et lançons un appel pour un nouveau partenariat et des collaborations », a-t-il dit.

Macky Sall, le chef de l'État du Sénégal, estime comme son

hôte, le président kenyan William Ruto, que le développement de l'économie verte est au cœur du combat mais que les

engagements de financements internationaux ne sont pas respectés. « Les pays africains réalisent leurs projets verts en recourant à la dette alors que le financement de l'adaptation devrait être soutenus par des dons, conformément aux engagements convenus dans l'accord de Paris sur le climat », a-t-il souligné.

La présentation de la déclaration finale de ce sommet de Nairobi est prévue ce mercredi matin.



Madame Sirleaf

SPECIAL

FEATURE

Getting Growth Figures Right: World Bank's 2022 Real Growth Figure for Liberia is not Accurate

By: Ambulah Mamey, Matthew Nyanplu, and Thomas B. Kanneh

The World Bank's latest report that says the Liberian economy grew in 2022 by 4.8% is inaccurate. In the report, titled: "Getting Rice Right for Productivity and Poverty Alleviation", the World Bank relied, in part, on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s forecast of projected increase, NOT actual increase, in rice and cassava production as the most contributing factor to Liberia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2022.

This reliance, as we indicated to the World Bank's report team, makes the 4.8% GDP growth figure concerning. GDP measures an economy's actual output in a given period. For 2022 (a year that has already ended), the calculation of Liberia's real GDP growth is to be based on the realized output of 2022; not forecast for 2022.

The agriculture sector, according to the report, contributed most (2.3 percentage point) of the 4.8 percent growth. The report furthered that the 2.3 percentage point contribution of agriculture was a result of a 5.9 percent growth in the agriculture sector which was made possible by a 13 percent increase in rice (paddy) production (or 32,000 more tons of rice) and 15 percent increase in cassava production (or 54,992 more tons of cassava).

Our review of the FAO's data bank found no evidence that rice and cassava production, respectively, increased in Liberia. Official agriculture data on Liberia are normally released by the FAO, but the institution does not have 2022 output data for rice and cassava produced in Liberia.

There is however a FAO forecast which was optimistic that cassava production would increase by 54,992 tons or 15 percent above the five year average and rice production would increase by 32,000 tons or 13 percent in 2022, compared to 2021. The World Bank's reliance on forecast, not output data for cassava and rice, to announce 5.9 percent agriculture growth and 2.3 percentage point contribution of agriculture to Liberia's real GDP renders the reported 4.8 percent real GDP inaccurate. Accurate growth figure for Liberia can be computed when output data are available.

When the authors of this opinion piece drew the World Bank's attention to the FAO estimates not being actual production numbers, the World Bank did not have realized production data to support the growth figures reported for the agriculture sector but promised to update their macro framework when new data become available. Like any other country, Liberia's real GDP growth should not be based on projections but realized output of each sector from the previous year.

Real economic growth figures are not mere numbers on paper. They provide the blueprint for strategic planning, policy formulation, investment decisions, and more expansive development undertakings that can jumpstart national progress. But they do so only if they are informed by credible data, and rigorous analysis. When they lack rigor and have significant data limitations, they can present misleading pictures, lead to erroneous prioritization, misguide national priorities, and potentially undermine progress, and adversely impact livelihoods.

Liberia does face challenges in data acquisition and analysis. This "data poverty" makes it challenging to assess macroeconomic performance reliably. However, substituting forecasts for actual output data when calculating real GDP growth is problematic and not a tolerable option.

Another layer of concern is the report's silence on the specific interventions and activities that led to the reported increase in rice and cassava production and agricultural growth in Liberia. Such information is crucial to validate and corroborate the growth figures presented. Given that the report is titled "Making Rice Right", stating the interventions and activities that contributed to the growth in the agriculture sector would have provided valuable insights into what worked, what did not, and what lessons are there to be learned. By not including this information, the report weakened its narrative, raising more questions about the drivers of this agricultural "boom".

The World Bank has acknowledged concerns about its report's silence on

interventions that might have led to the increase in rice and cassava production but named "several reforms including the adoption of an Act to Establish Seed Development and Certification Agency and the approval of a Seed Regulation in 2021" as potential growth catalysts. While the Seed Development and Certification Agency (SDCA) laid groundwork for the development of the seed sector, the SDCA is not yet operational and could not have contributed to growth in the agricultural sector in 2022.

Drawing from the African Union's 2021 bi-annual review of Liberia's agriculture sector, and considering the lack of any substantial intervention in the sector between 2021 and 2023, the growth of the agricultural sector painted by the World Bank is difficult to reconcile. Liberia fell short on 21 out of 24 progress indicators for agriculture transformation and has been classified as "not on track" to transforming its agriculture sector. Liberia scored a meager 2.4 out of 10 for access to essential inputs and technologies that improve yield, 3.3 out of 10 for farm productivity.

In a nation like Liberia, where a substantial proportion of the population depends heavily on agriculture for their livelihood, data inaccuracies are not just a statistical misstep—they translate into real-world ramifications. Overestimated figures might engender complacency, while underestimations could induce undue alarm. For potential investors, eyeing Liberia's agriculture sector, unreliable growth data do not instill confidence. A variance between actual numbers and estimates, when they eventually come to light, jeopardizes trust in any reports



that paint a picture of the economy that is not based on the actual output of the economy.

The World Bank's report on Liberia does more than just offer figures—it suggests a trajectory. But for Liberia to truly harness its potential, these trajectories need to be rooted in concrete realities, not just optimistic projections. Towards the future, we hope for assessments that are rigorous, more transparent, and reflective of the on-the-ground realities because in these numbers lie Liberia's hope, direction, and potential. Liberia must invest in strengthening its capacity to collect and report data on a timely basis to support the meaningful work of the World Bank and others. For Liberia to overcome income poverty, it first needs to pull itself out of "data poverty" so that development planning and macro-economic outlooks are informed by credible and real time data.

Authors: Ambulah Mamey specializes in international agricultural development. Matthew Nyanplu specializes in economic development and human security. Thomas B. Kanneh is a public financial management specialist. Contact email: am0826a@alumni.american.edu.

Weah gets rural women endorsement

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

More than five thousand rural women from Zoe-Gweh, Nimba County have endorsed the 2nd

maintained. Zoe-Gweh youth chair, Joe K. Giah, on behalf of young people of the area toward the re-election of President Weah.

thanked the women for building such convenience in the leadership of President Weah.

He noted that the women's resolve to give Weah a second chance in office, clearly indicates they believe in the administration.

"Don't vote for any of them from Nimba County, but rather President George Weah, who has the heart and love, compared to the rest of them in the race," he urged.

Gblinwon continued that the Nimba people's votes should not be shared with others, but only with CDC representative candidates alongside Senatorial Candidate Roland G. Duo, and incumbent President George Weah so that the ruling establishment can complete its commitment to the people of Liberia.

Senatorial Candidate Duo has promised to unite the people of Nimba if elected in October.

"I want to be your Senator, who will speak for the county and help to impact the lives of Nimbaians, including good representations, among others", Duo said.

He noted that President Weah can't work along but needs his presence and the presence of others.

According to him, the pending elections will tell the world if the people of Nimba are grateful or not.

At the same time, he accused Senator Prince Johnson for not seeking the welfare of Nimbaians, but rather his personal interest.

"Such a leadership is not good for this county, you know many developments, including opportunities have been coming in this county, but Senator Johnson has not been able to allow Nimbaians to benefit", he alleged, and added, "If I'm elected, I will be your godson not father."

Meanwhile, county campaign manager Gblinwon is urging women of Nimba to get out there to rally more votes for President George Weah, noting that women are persuasive than their male counterparts. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Senate tables public health law debate

The Liberian Senate ended its special session on Tuesday, 5 September, as the body tabled the much anticipated revised public health law debate. There has been mounting pressure from religious and anti-abortion group calling on the Senate to scrab the portion of the bill which legalizes abortion. Senate Pro-tempore Albert Chie told fellow Senators that the revised Public Health Law was discussed informally by the Senate and that the debate will continue upon Senators' return in the last quarter of this year.

The Liberian Senate has adjourned its special session which was convened on 22 August 2023 to consider time-bound matters of national interest in line with Article 32(b) of the 1986 Constitution.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Tugbe Chie announced the closure of the special session Tuesday, 5 September 2023.

"We have now come to the end of the Special Session. I thank you, distinguished colleagues for attending the session and participating positively in the agenda items which were introduced," Mr.

to double up and deploy more manpower and logistics on the corridors," he said.

Pro-Tempore Chie detailed that the Public Works Minister also pointed out that most of the contractors on those corridors have failed in the implementation of the contracts despite receiving payments from the Ministry of Finance.

Further, he said complaints were filed over and over with the Ministry of Justice to investigate these complaints and pursue the relevant legal action. Mr. Chie said the Senate has ratified the Amended and Restated Mineral Development Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and the Bea Mountain Mining Company to continue to develop gold resources in Western Liberia.

The amendment contains improved revenue and benefits to the Government and people of the host communities.

He said the confirmation process for the seven nominated commissioners of the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission was concluded and they were



Sen. Pro Tempore Albert Chie

Chie said.

The Grand Kru County Senate explained that some of the crucial agenda items approved by the Senate Plenary for the Special Session were achieved. He said the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission was cited to provide an update on its readiness to conduct a transparent and impartial elections process in October.

Chie stated that the Senate was informed that the Commission is ready, and that the government has provided adequate funding for the process and deployment of personnel and logistics will be done on time.

He continued that the Senate received briefing from the Minister of Public Works regarding the progress on road rehabilitation of the primary corridors leading to the 'Southeast and other places around the country, which have become a national emergency. "The Senate noted that process is very, very slow and the roads are still very deplorable. The Minister committed

confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

"However, Plenary mandated me not to communicate the results to the Executive until all financial obligations for the unexpired portion of the tenure of the former commissioners who were not maintained on the new Board of Commissioners are settled by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning," Chie reported.

Further, Pro-Tempore Chie stated that the Senate also discussed the issue of security, mandated investigation of the reported breach of information dissemination protocol at the Roberts International Airport and deliberated on other issues of national interest.

On the sideline of the session, Chie said the remains of Senator Daniel Flomo Naatehn, were interred, with full participation of the Senate, with very heavy hearts.



term bid of President George Weah. The women of Zoe-Gweh gathered in Bahn City, Nimba on Sunday, September 3rd and endorsed the re-election of President Weah, to enable him carry out more developmental activities across the country.

The head of the women's groups, Madam Lydia Menwon, said Liberians stand to benefit more from the Weah administration in terms of development so he should be reelected.

She points to a modern school being constructed in Bahn district, pavement of roads across the country and recent donation of school buses to various institutions in Nimba, among others as reasons that motivated them to come out to support President Weah.

According to Madam Menwon, the people of Zoe-Gweh are currently benefiting the cross-border electricity program under the Weah administration.

Another official of the women's group, Madam Mamie Gbelee, praised the President for being a strong supporter of women in the country.

She said they are not ungrateful to President Weah for what he has done for the people of Nimba and the entire Liberia.

"We as rural women will continue to support President George Weah to enable him to achieve his dream of developing this oldest African country called Liberia; those who are going against our President, George Weah, like them wait small for him to finish his good leadership", the women

The ceremony was graced by several women groups and local institutions, including chief elder, Samuel O. Philip and Madam Mary Massaquoi, head of district#4 rural women, who are in full support of the reelection of the CDC Standard Bearer.

Chief Philip commended the Zoe-Gweh women for coming out in huge numbers to endorse the President for second term.

"Your decision today was not a mistake but rather a good and real one to do, so that the world, including Liberians, can know what is going on", he said.

At the forum, a prominent businessman in Bahn and strong supporter of President Weah, Prophet Elijah Wonlea, said his presence at the gathering will encourage more voters to change their minds and join him in supporting the re-election of Mr. Weah.

"I'm currently working with the rural women of Zoe-Gweh to change the narration of votes in the county; we will not vote because you from the county, but rather President George Weah, who has impacted the lives of every Liberian, including Nimbaians, so we are coming in to support him so that he can continue with his development."

Also speaking, CDC deputy campaign manager for Nimba and County Inspector, Mack Gblinwon and Senatorial Candidate Roland G. Duo,

organizations from Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria represented by Paul Osei-Kuffour, Anglophone Coordinator and Ag. Network Coordinator, WADEMOS and Head of Delegation, Mufuliat Fijabi.

Others were Dr. Victor

Massaquoi, Media Foundation for West Africa, David Asante-Darko, Research Analyst, WADEMOS and Joseph Frimpong, Program Officer, West Africa Election Observation Network /CDD-Ghana.

Starts from page 7 Hate speech, disinformation

CSOs capacity and engagement in the electoral process, political parties engagement, hate speech and disinformation, and post-election petition resolution.

The pre-election delegation was drawn from civil society

Cummings gets interactive with marketers in Dist. 2

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings on Tuesday, September 5, visited several market halls and places, in

guided tour of their respective markets, lamented the difficult business environment, and the deplorable and unsanitary conditions of the various market communities in District #2.

Omega Market is the most densely populated area with an estimated 10,000 marketers, predominantly women of the Kpelleh, Gio, Mano and Grebos ethnic groups mainly engaged in the sale of Agricultural produce.

The Mount Barclay Community Market, constructed by government and the Nimba United Community Market constructed by Bishop Nimely Donyen, have huge voting populations, followed by the Johnsonville market District.

Cummings empathized with the marketers over the deplorable state of affairs which, he said is negatively impacting their businesses, but said, there is great hope with his election as the next President to replace the inept leadership of President George Weah. Cummings assured Liberians that the CPP Leadership will prioritize economic recovery for massive job creation, through support for a strong and vibrant private sector, controlled by Liberians.

The CPP Standard Bearer's six-hour encounter with marketers, street peddlers, and ordinary citizens, in District #2, Montserrado County, distributing posters and sharing his vision for real change in Liberia, attracted hundreds of bystanders who hailed him for the new style of political campaign of person-to-person engagement.



District # 2, Montserrado County, with marketers everywhere complaining about the harsh business environment and the urgent need for relief.

Cummings' nearly six hours toured started from the Omega Market in Paynesville to the Mount Barclay Community Market, the Nimba United Community Market, and the Johnsonville Market districts, with marketers clamouring to see him and shake hands with him.

Marketers jubilated as they led Cummings and entourage on a

The CPP Standard Bearer change agenda for economic recovery includes a US\$20 million loan scheme for Liberian entrepreneurs including market women to sustain and grow their businesses which, he said, will start rolling out within the first one hundred days of his Presidency, beginning on October 10.

Mr. Cummings has also promised to enforce the Liberianization policy, which sets aside certain businesses exclusively for Liberians. The

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