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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2023	L\$186.5842/US\$1.00	L\$188.3001/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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P11

Teahjay backtracks home

-Endorses Amb. Boakai




Amb. Boakai Sen. J. Milton Teahjay

Joint security requests campaign schedules

-For CDC & UP




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Continental News

Colonial abuses hang over King Charles's Kenya trip

King Charles and his wife Camilla are on a four-day state visit to Kenya, where he will acknowledge "painful aspects" grown next to her husband's grave. Elijah Kinyua died two years ago, aged 93. He was also known as General Bahati, and like his wife was a fighter during the bloody

colonial rule, the couple continued to live in the shadows - like many former Mau Mau fighters. The resistance group remained outlawed. It was designated a terrorist organisation by the colonial government and subsequent administrations in independent Kenya did not overturn the ban. "Three Mau Mau members could not meet; it was an offence," says Kenyan lawyer and politician Paul Muite. "It was atrocious."

It was only in 2003 that the law was changed, and members of the Mau Mau were finally recognised as freedom fighters. But this also meant that post-independence generations knew little of the past. "So many children and grandchildren had no idea about the roots of the country's suffering that gave birth to independence," says historian Caroline Elkins, who conducted interviews on the topic in the 1990s. Her observations are echoed on the streets of the capital, Nairobi, today. Many young people hardly know about the detention and torture of the Mau Mau. They are more concerned about the economy and wonder if King Charles's visit will have any impact. Ms Muthoni's 36-year-old grandson, Wachira Githui. BBC



Agnes Muthoni lost her husband Elijah two years ago. Both had fought against the British Empire in the 1950s

of the UK's colonial past. More than 10,000 people were killed and others tortured during the brutal suppression of the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s, one of the British Empire's bloodiest insurgencies. In 2013 the UK expressed regret and paid out £20m (\$24m) to more than 5,000 people - but some feel that did not go far enough. One of those is 90-year-old Agnes Muthoni.

With a steady stride despite a stoop, she leads us to the grave site at her home in Shamata, central Kenya.

She plucks weeds that have

uprising against the British Empire's colonial government in the 1950s. She held the rank of a major in the Kenya Land and Freedom Army - more commonly known as the Mau Mau. Ms Muthoni breaks into a radiant smile as she shows us her wedding ring. They only met after the revolt ended and he was released from detention. "He said if there were women fighters who survived, he would like to marry one of them because she would understand his problems and not call him Mau Mau." The struggle united them. But even after Kenya gained independence from British

Facebook algorithms 'supercharged' Ethiopia hate speech

Facebook has been accused by rights group Amnesty International of contributing to violence during the brutal two-year conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region. The social media site's algorithms "supercharged" the spread of harmful rhetoric, Amnesty said in a report. It failed to take adequate steps to curb the spread of such rhetoric, Amnesty added.

Facebook's parent company Meta has previously denied similar allegations.

It said it had invested heavily in content moderation, and removing hateful content from the platform.

Facebook is a popular and a major source of information for many Ethiopians.

But its role in allegedly spreading hate speech increasingly came under the spotlight during the conflict between federal government and allied forces on the one side and Tigrayan forces on the other.

The African Union's peace envoy, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, estimated that around 600,000

people died in the conflict. Researchers put the deaths down to fighting, starvation and lack of health care.

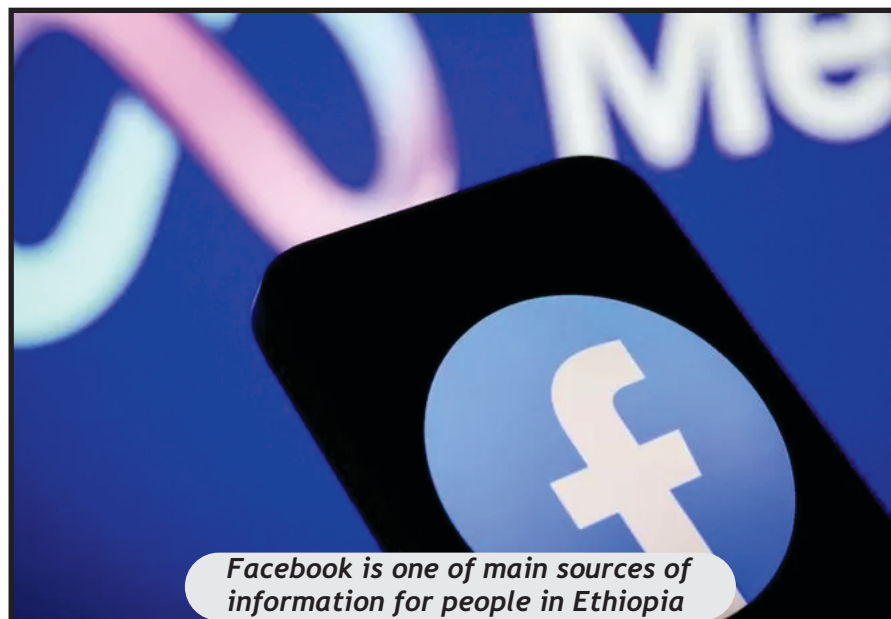
The conflict ended almost a year ago following a peace deal between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which controls the region made up mostly of ethnic Tigrayans.

Ethiopia is still plagued by other conflicts - including in the vast Oromia region and in the Amhara region.

The Amnesty report said Meta's

"data-hungry business model" continued to pose "significant dangers" to human rights in conflict-hit areas. This is not the first time Facebook has been accused of spreading messages of incitement against ethnic Tigrayans. Meta is currently facing a lawsuit over its alleged failures to deal with harmful content by two petitioners who are seeking more than \$1.5bn (£1.2bn) in damages.

Amnesty said it had reviewed internal documents from Meta, including communications the company received between 2019 and 2022. BBC



Facebook is one of main sources of information for people in Ethiopia

US to remove four African countries from trade deal

US President Joe Biden has revealed plans to expel Uganda, Gabon, Niger and the Central African Republic (CAR) from a special US-Africa trade programme. The countries were either involved in "gross violations" of human rights or not making progress towards democratic rule, the president said. The US introduced the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) in 2000. It gives eligible sub-Saharan African countries duty-free access to the US for more than 1,800 products.

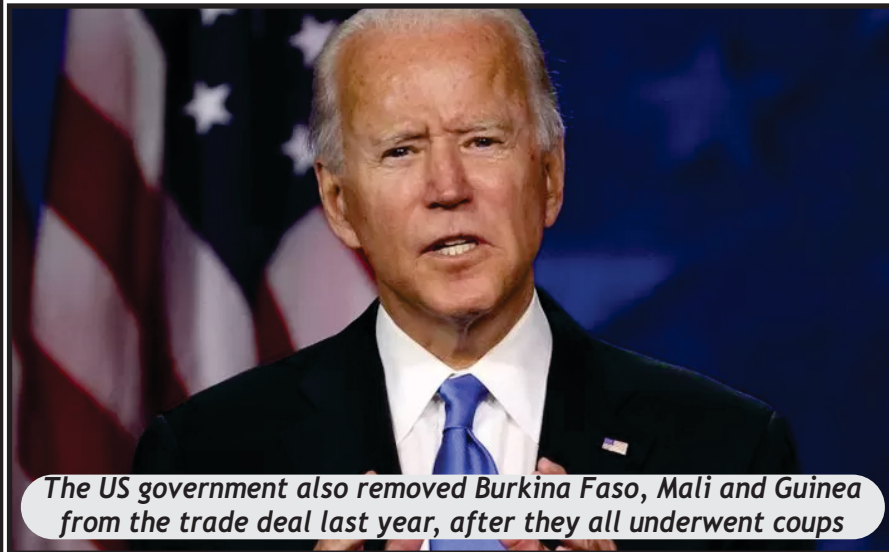
President Biden said that Niger and Gabon - both of which are currently under military rule following coups this year - are ineligible for Agoa because they "have not established, or are not making continual progress toward establishing the protection of political pluralism and the rule of law".

He also said that the

comes just before South Africa is due to host the 20th Agoa forum from Thursday this week. Their expulsion from Agoa is set to take effect from the start of next year and is likely to impact their economies, as Agoa has been credited with promoting exports, economic growth and job creation among participating countries.

CAR is likely to be the least impacted by the Agoa expulsion, as it only recorded \$881,000 (£722,300) in US exports in 2022, according to US government data. The country, however, imported goods worth \$23m from the US in the same year, creating a massive trade deficit between the two countries. US data also show that Uganda exported goods worth \$174m to the US last year, while Gabon and Niger recorded US exports of \$220m and \$73m respectively in the same period.

Last month, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said that several American companies had already stopped importing textiles - which fall under the Agoa trade deal - from Uganda because of the



The US government also removed Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea from the trade deal last year, after they all underwent coups

removal of the CAR and Uganda from the programme was due to "gross violations of internationally recognised human rights" by their governments. In May, the US government had said it was considering removing Uganda from Agoa and introducing sanctions on the country after it passed a controversial anti-homosexuality law.

The law, which imposes a death penalty on people found guilty of engaging in certain same-sex acts, has faced global criticism. "Despite intensive engagement between the United States and the Central African Republic, Gabon, Niger, and Uganda, these countries have failed to address United States concerns about their non-compliance with the Agoa eligibility criteria," President Biden said on Monday, in a letter addressed to the speaker of the US House of Representatives. The four countries are yet to react to the announcement, which

passing of the anti-homosexuality law. "The homosexuals in the US are interfering with our export of textiles. Some of the orders have been cancelled there," Mr Museveni was quoted as saying by the privately owned Daily Monitor newspaper.

In August, Mr Museveni banned the importation of second-hand clothes, a move thought to target the US, which is a major supplier of the used garments to Uganda and other African countries.

The threat to exclude Niger and Gabon from Agoa is the latest US government action against the two junta-led countries.

The US State Department announced last week that it had suspended most foreign aid to Gabon and would only resume assistance if Gabon's transitional government establishes democratic rule.

In August, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced a similar measure against Niger, saying that the US "is pausing certain foreign assistance programs benefitting the government of Niger". BBC

EDITORIAL

Talk is good, collaboration is better

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the main opposition Unity Party (UP) in the runoff are out and about, knocking on doors, talking to parties and individuals for support at the poll on 14 November. The current spirit across the political spectrum should be encouraged by all, who means well for Liberia.

This is important because there is unity and strength in not just talking rather than fighting but collaborating to achieving a common goal - whether it is about winning an election or any sphere of human endeavor is better.

Both the CDC and UP have been receiving endorsement from parties and political leaders and individuals to boost their chances in the runoff. Lest we forget, there are no permanent enemies in politics, but common interest. Enemies today in the eyes of the public may become best friends tomorrow once they find a common ground to tread.

The current exercise says a lot about how challenging politics has become in Liberia today, only if we foster and maintain collaboration more than tearing one another to pieces and splintering into selfish, personal egotistic groups that often do not see beyond the horizon because of narrow-minds driven by greed.

Imagine what politics and election would become in Liberia if we have few parties - say at least three or four better organized and well-funded that are issues-based! This would save the country a lot of headache instead of spending precious times on naming, throwing jives and destroying one another, as if we will never co-exist again after election.

We encourage the ongoing exercise because it is healthy not just for peace, but unity and development. If there are more like-minded politicians and political leaders the job would be done half-way far before Election Day.

Let's review the opposition playbook for the 2020 Special Senatorial Election when four parties came together under the banner, Collaborating Political Parties (CPP). The CPP proved strength at the poll against the ruling CDC when they swept most of the counties, including Montserrado.

Parties should turn down the rhetoric and rather talk, talk and collaborate more as they are doing now. Never should we allow our diversity to take this nation to the brink of collapse as Liberians had suffered in 14 years of brutal civil war.

In all that we do and say, we should keep in mind that only one person can occupy the highest office of the land. But this does not mean one politician or political party should struggle alone to get there. If it is truly about service, as those seeking public offices continuously claim, then all hands should be brought on deck.

If the ultimate goal is sincerely to work toward improving Liberia and well-being of Liberians, then we must talk and collaborate to derive the best for the Motherland instead of fussing and fighting.

COMMENTARY

By Tsitsi Masiyiwa

How Africa Can Make the Most of Diaspora Finance

LONDON - The African diaspora is the biggest funder of change on the continent. Since remittances are informal, often unreported, and narrowly targeted, they tend to be overlooked. But their scale is large, sustained by diasporic Africans' powerful commitment to improve the lot of family members and communities they love. Formal givers like me should not only learn from this, but also seek opportunities to collaborate with the diaspora to strengthen its members' impact.

In 2022, the 160 million Africans who live outside of the continent sent home more than \$95 billion in remittances. Of that, about \$53 billion went to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Zimbabwe the top destinations. This compares with \$30 billion in foreign direct investment and just \$29 billion in official development aid for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Notably, FDI and aid declined last year, as global challenges, such as surging inflation and the Ukraine war, caused donors to reduce or redirect their giving. But remittances increased for many of the same reasons: Africans in the diaspora knew that their families and communities were grappling with food insecurity, as well as natural disasters like floods and severe drought.

After ensuring that families are fed, remittances are used mostly to fund health and education expenses. There is good reason for this: investments in health and education are the single best means of putting people on a path toward prosperity. Unfortunately, African countries still face a huge financing gap for human-capital development.

Africa's health financing gap amounts to at least \$66 billion. When it comes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal targets of delivering universal pre-primary, primary, and secondary education by 2030, Sub-Saharan African countries face a shortfall of \$70 billion per year, on average. Remittances will not close these gaps, but they can go further.

Members of the African diaspora have often shared with me their desire to expand their giving beyond their immediate family or community. The problem, they explain, is that they do not know which local organizations they can trust. That is why credible actors should be connecting the diaspora with community-based organizations that need and deserve support.

Like the diaspora, those running community-based organizations in Africa are often motivated by love for their communities and a deeply held commitment to catalyzing lasting change. Thanks largely to this passion, they have often proved adept at leveraging limited resources to achieve impressive results.

But with more funding, community-based organizations could do even more. As it stands, they often lack the know-how to engage in effective fundraising or reporting - a shortcoming that severely limits their ability to raise funds from structured philanthropies. The newly created Masana wa Afrika foundation - of which I am a funder and board member - is committed to helping organizations overcome this weakness, by providing them with small grants and tailored support.

More efforts of this type are needed. We know that the community-based organizations we support are trustworthy and engaged in hugely important work, from supporting disabled children in Lesotho to providing life-saving nutrition to babies in Uganda. What if - through Masana wa Afrika or a similar organization - members of the African diaspora could find out about such organizations, and support them directly?

The benefits of such an approach would extend beyond the communities being directly targeted. If the diaspora is doing more to finance cost-effective, community-based projects, big funders and structured philanthropies can focus their attention and resources on tackling larger-scale problems, such as eradicating neglected tropical diseases, closing the gender gap, and improving food security.

But truly maximizing the impact of remittances requires more data. Part of the reason why diaspora giving has been overlooked for so long is that little concrete data on inflows and impact are available. We have estimates of total funds sent to particular countries. But we lack a complete picture of volumes, preferred channels, and frequency.

The good news is that the World Bank is already working on filling gaps in the data on incoming remittances. But more robust ways to track and measure the impact of remittances on communities are still needed. The challenge will be to find ways to capture, collate, and share people's stories - of children educated, medication acquired, and crops planted thanks to diaspora giving - in a form that can guide decision-making.

Giving by the African diaspora might lack the structure and formality of traditional philanthropy, but it plays a central role in keeping people out of poverty and advancing community prosperity. Moreover, given the personal motivations behind it, diaspora finance is support people can count on. If philanthropic organizations commit to enhancing its impact, we might be surprised by what we can achieve.

OP-ED

By Zhang Jun

How China Creates Its Own Market

SHANGHAI - It has become increasingly clear in recent years that China has begun to shift away from its export-driven economic-development model to an "internal circulation" strategy that emphasizes expansion of domestic demand. Though this seems like a natural step, creating a domestic market large enough for a country of 1.4 billion people has proven to be a more complicated undertaking than many economists and analysts anticipated.

Over the past few decades, China's economic growth depended heavily on manufacturing exports and capital investment. Between the 1990s and the early 2010s, the country's successful export-promotion strategy facilitated China's integration into the global economy and fueled rapid development. While China did not abandon the strategy of import substitution during this period, its "outward-oriented" approach combined "go global" and "bring in" strategies to attract foreign investment, foster joint ventures, focus on labor-intensive exports, and amass huge foreign-exchange reserves.

China's vast size has enabled it to solidify its position as the world's manufacturing hub. But its remarkably successful growth model is yielding diminishing returns. Over the past decade, China has experienced a profound demographic shift akin to those previously seen in Japan and South Korea. Alongside a rapidly declining birth rate, the generation born during the baby boom of the 1960s and 1970s - a key pillar of China's rapid growth since the 1980s - is now approaching retirement, with roughly 20 million people expected to exit the labor force annually over the next decade. The combined effects of population aging and the one-child policy (which was abolished in 2016, after 36 years) have resulted in increased household savings, complicating China's efforts to boost domestic consumption.

Crucially, China's enduring commitment to the export-promotion strategy has slowed the development of the domestic market much more than expected. To maintain the country's competitive edge, the export model requires state interventions in pricing, including reduced land rent, favorable exchange rates, and slower wage growth. Despite China's massive foreign-exchange reserves, the government maintains its exchange-rate mechanism, which benefits exports but hinders the growth of a vibrant domestic market.

A similar dynamic is evident in China's interest-rate policy. Real interest rates in China have remained below the GDP growth rate for a long time, resulting in capital misallocation and the absence of adjustment mechanisms to balance investment and consumption.

Wage rates, too, have been affected by the last vestiges of China's planned economy. The government's efforts to strike a balance between low wages and affordable prices are a prime example. Although labor compensation has increased as a share of GDP just in recent years, average wages remain significantly lower than in most countries at a comparable income level. Excessive government intervention has resulted in segmented labor markets and an underdeveloped employment system.

Consequently, China lacks an adjustment mechanism that aligns wages with the pace of productivity and economic growth.

Moreover, government spending has long been skewed toward physical infrastructure development and capital formation, with only limited funds allocated to supporting households or expanding social-welfare programs. This is why Chinese families maintain high levels of precautionary savings.

To facilitate robust domestic circulation, China must shift away from its export-centric model and focus on import promotion. As a major global player, it is crucial to maintain strategic neutrality while pivoting to such a model, which requires the continuous development of the huge domestic market.

While import promotion is arguably a natural next step for any country that has achieved early success through export promotion, it is particularly crucial for large economies. Central to this shift is the recognition that an economy cannot rely indefinitely on exports to boost growth and improve living standards. By adopting an import-centric strategy, China could address its long-standing trade imbalances and adjust the interventionist mechanisms that have historically affected exchange rates, interest rates, and wage formation. Aligning wage growth with nominal GDP would boost household incomes and stimulate the rapid expansion of China's service sector, which had previously been constrained by the authorities' export-driven approach.

Moreover, by promoting imports through currency appreciation and tariff reductions, China could reduce the price of imported consumer goods and dramatically increase household spending. Raising real interest rates would prevent capital misallocation, reduce investment's share of GDP, and enable the economy to rebalance aggregate demand. Most importantly, by enabling the government to break the cycle of heavy investment and debt, this transition would free up more budgetary resources to meet citizens' needs and minimize the heavy burden on households struggling to pay for health care, childcare, and education while saving for retirement.

Import promotion holds the key to realizing the potential of China's domestic consumption demand. Unlike import substitution, this strategy does not stifle the tradable sector. On the contrary, expanding the domestic market and fostering internal circulation would enable Chinese companies to focus on technological innovation and develop the technical skills and know-how required to export more complex, high-value-added products.

Japan and South Korea offer a cautionary tale. While Japan paid a heavy price for delaying its strategic adjustment, South Korea's rapid economic development between 1987 and 1996 was facilitated by policy adjustments that aligned wages with productivity growth, thereby boosting domestic consumption. But South Korea failed to build on this momentum before a wave of financial liberalization altered its economic trajectory. By heeding the lessons of other East Asian economies, China could avoid a similar fate, rebalance its economy, and achieve sustainable growth.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

On 2nd Thoughts: Liberia's emerging warring factions

Last August, Liberia celebrated two decades of peace since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement 20 years ago in the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

From the surface, the guns have been long silenced, and the people are focused on consolidating their democracy which has witnessed successive elections, changes of power from one regime to another through the ballot boxes and a prospect for economic growth and development semblance of stability from a volatile history.

However, despite decades of peace and transition of power from one regime to another, Liberia remains fragile. The country is currently sitting on a time boom that could soon explore beyond everyone's imagination.

Yes, the country faces a clear and present danger from two emerging warring factions: Pen-Pen Riders and At-Risk Youth, commonly referred to as Zogoes.

These two groups, one primarily dominated by ex-child soldiers and street dwellers most of whom are drug addicts (Zogoes), and the other because of weak systems have placed this once troubled West African country on a time boom that both politicians and policymakers have continued to ignore.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, there are well over 75,000 disadvantaged youth or zogos in Liberia and can be found mainly in the urban areas. This figure could be higher as new members join daily. There are no exact figures for the Pen-Pen Riders who provide transportation services in both urban and rural communities. However, this group is made up of mostly school dropouts, former combatants, and young family heads.

While this last group of Pen-Pen riders are part of the informal sector and making little contributions to society, their outlaw behaviors outweighed their meager contributions.

For example, they drive recklessly and obey no traffic rules. They are quick to set vehicles on fire whenever there is an accident involving one of their members with impunity too. They have even gone further to set Police Depots ablaze because of accident cases, again with impunity. They are terror on the road because of their recklessness. The Liberian Government has yet to come up with any law that would put this group of people in check. And if there are any, they are soon relaxed to the detriment of commuters and vehicle owners.

Recently, one Pen-Pen rider between Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Kaweaken, River Gee County, threatened that they would set President George Weah's remaining convoy ablaze if one of their members was harmed.

What was the issue: two vehicles had gotten stuck in the mud and all other vehicles including motorbikes were asked to wait till one of the vehicles was pulled out of the mud. While the process was ongoing; another motorbike rider came running through. When he was told to stop like all others he refused. While drivers and passengers tried talking to him, one of their colleagues remarked: "If anybody touch (sic) any motorbike rider here, we will burn all the cars in this convoy."

This is how far, these Pen-Pen riders have gone because they believe they have the numbers to hold citizens at ransom. There are times they even set up roadblocks in communities to proffer their demands.

But if you thought the Pen-Pen Riders had become law and gospel unto themselves, then think again, the Zogoes are the most dangerous of the two.

Often armed with broken scissors, machetes, clubs, and other dangerous weapons, they parade the streets and inflate pains, while rubbing their victims.

Just last week between 1:30 and 2 AM, over 100 of these Zogoes armed with all kinds of weapons to inflate pains invaded this Newspaper offices, while staff were printing the Wednesday, October 18 edition of the paper wounding two staff and making away with a motorbike and cellphones. The motorbike was later retrieved by officers of the Anti-Robbery Unity of the Liberian National Police. No arrest was made.

Last year, the same group armed with similar weapons invaded this newspaper office after one of their men was caught stealing. That night one of the paper's staff was wounded. The newspaper was advised by Police Investigators who came on the scene that morning around 3 AM to armed staff members in case of repeated similar attacks.

On December 24, last year, these same Zogoes invaded the city's main shopping center during the eve of the festive season forcing sellers and buyers to run helter-skelter. Businesses and shopping centers closed as early as 2 PM on that day. The members of the Liberian National Police are ill-equipped to face these Zogoes thereby leaving citizens to repel their attacks.

This situation is becoming rampant, leaving the Zogoes and Pen-Pen Riders to feel like they are in charge of the situation.

Sadly, it is alleged that most of these police officers are in cohort with these criminals particularly the Zogoes. This allegation is based on the premise that these Zogoes soon appear back on the streets two days after their arrest.

Meanwhile, in the case of the New Dawn newspaper, the Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue has yet to respond to an official complaint filed before it by the management of the New Dawn.

With this growing level of impunity, it's time that the government takes a decision to address the situation from the beginning before it develops into a bigger crisis that could plunge the country into chaos.



USAID | LIBERIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-23-000027

ISSUANCE DATE: October 27, 2023

CLOSING DATE/TIME: November 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Solicitation for a Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC) Project Management Specialist (Inclusive Development).

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with **Attachment 1** of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

USAID will evaluate all offerors based on the stated evaluation criteria. USAID encourages all individuals, including those from disadvantaged and under-represented groups, to respond to the solicitation.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offers.

Any questions must be directed in writing to the Point of Contact specified in the Attached 1.

Sincerely,

Marc Griego

Marc Griego
Contracting Officer

Digitally signed by Marc Griego
Date: 2023.10.27
10:57:58 Z

U.S. Agency for International Development
Embassy of the United States of America
602 Benson Street
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 776-777-000

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000027
- ISSUANCE DATE:** October 27, 2023
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** November 10, 2023; 11:59 P.M. GMT
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Inclusive Development).
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$40,344 – \$64,550 FSN-11 equivalent to FSN- 11 In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Non-Liberian citizens must possess a valid Liberian work permit in compliance with host government laws and regulations prior to application. The Embassy cannot sponsor applicants for work permits.
Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**
BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION -
The USAID Project Development Specialist (PDS) – Senior Inclusive Development position is established in the Program and Project Development (PPD) Office in the USAID/Liberia Mission and will work under the supervision of the Deputy Program Office Director. The purpose of the position is to help the Mission advance the Agency's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility goals in Liberia, with a particular focus on empowerment

of women and girls.

The PDS provides Mission-wide strategic leadership and guidance on inclusive development, gender integration, the rights of people with disabilities (PWD), other vulnerable populations identified by the Mission, gender rights, diversity, equity, accessibility and the analysis and measurement of programmatic and policy impacts in this context. They serve as the Mission's Gender Advisor. In this role, they lead the Mission gender integration working team, advise Mission leadership, and guide the entire Mission in its mandate to ensure that all programs address relevant gender gaps and promote gender equality and the rights of all vulnerable populations. In addition, they serve as the Mission's Inclusive Development Advisor, guiding the entire Mission in its mandate to ensure that programs address diversity, equity, and accessibility gaps and that programs reach all Liberians, including religious and ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable populations identified by the Mission. The Specialist will also help ensure that the Mission's workforce is representative of Liberia's population and that marginalized groups have equal access to employment opportunities in the Mission.

The Specialist is an expert in their field and provides high-level technical and strategic guidance. They build relationships with high-level GOL and private sector leaders in Liberia including but beyond the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare. They normally work as a member of task-oriented teams or lead such teams in areas of substantive expertise. They work closely with senior staff of the Mission and other members of USAID/Liberia to ensure integration of inclusive development, gender equality, female empowerment, diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility mandates into general policy, program, and budget guidance. The Inclusive Development Advisor will be based in the PPD Office but will provide cross-cutting assistance to all Development Objective teams.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES -

1. Technical Advisory Service and Program Analysis 40%

- Provides expert technical guidance and analysis to ensure that analyses of social and gender difference and inequalities and of diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility inform the development of programs.
- Leads integration of the Mission's policies, programs, and impact analyses in gender equality and female empowerment to embrace as appropriate the policy guidance of related Agency policies and strategies, including but not necessarily limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, gender-based violence, women, peace and security, trafficking in persons.
- Conducts extensive external liaison, outreach and communications. The Specialist will reach out to groups representing marginalized populations of all types and establishing relationships with stakeholders supporting them.
- Serves as Mission POC on people with disabilities (PWD).
- Provides recommendations on how projects may be better designed to ensure that both women and men and members of sexual minorities all benefit equitably from USAID investments.
- Provides recommendations on how projects may be better designed to ensure that they are inclusive of all of Liberia's population, including religious and ethnic minorities.
- Designs and conducts gender analyses of proposed strategies and programs, providing substantial input into social/gender assessment in policy analysis, research, program design implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Develops, assesses or works with strategies, approaches, and tools for gender integration, including impact assessment in large-scale international development programs. Provide expertise in relevant sector activities, e.g., agriculture, water and sanitation, health, education, democracy, human rights, and governance.
- Conducts desk reviews of social/gender issues; provides documentation in issues relevant to social/gender impact assessments. Develops indicators and provides expertise to staff regarding monitoring, assessing and evaluating social and gender performance, outcomes and impacts of USAID-funded projects.
- Develops and reviews scopes of work for social/gender analyses and country-level social and gender assessments.
- Develops, assesses or works with strategies, approaches, and tools for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility integration. Provide expertise in relevant sector activities, e.g., agriculture, water and sanitation, health, education, democracy, human rights, and governance.

2. Capacity Building and Program Support 25%

- Designs and delivers inclusive development, gender equality, and female empowerment training to the mission; including the development or sourcing of resource materials, as necessary, or required.
- Assists Mission staff in assessing the soundness of proposed programs in the context of gender equality, female empowerment, LGBT, and related human rights analyses.
- Monitors compliance with gender equality and female empowerment requirements.
- Facilitates knowledge management through exchange of program-cycle related information and ideas, to collaborate on cross cutting issues and to promote program/project synergies.
- Advise technical teams on activity and project design, policy, and program processes in accordance with the ADS, Mission Order, or other standards.
- Serves on the activity design teams for new mechanisms.
- Assists technical teams with portfolio reviews, including preparing for the portfolio reviews, taking notes, and tracking action items.
- Serves as Activity Manager for an activity valued at \$5-10 million over 4 years. This management will require expertise in the area of Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility.

3. Program Guidance, Documentation, and Reporting 25%

- Leads development of gender sections of strategic planning documents, the annual Operational and Performance Plans, Congressional presentations, and other reports describing the methods to accomplish its development objectives.
- Leads development of the diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility sections of strategic planning documents, the annual Operational and Performance Plans, Congressional presentations, and other reports describing the methods to accomplish its development objectives.

- Ensures integration of gender and rights of vulnerable populations in project and activity documentation and works with Technical Offices and teams and to participate in development of gender and inclusion-related indicators and targets to monitor the effectiveness and impact of program/project/activity implementation.
- Ensures integration of issues pertaining to people with disabilities (PWD) in project and activity documentation and works with Technical Offices and teams and to participate in development of PWD related indicators and targets to monitor the effectiveness and impact of program/project/activity implementation.
- Actively participate in and/or lead relevant program cycle-related Mission and/or Agency Teams and communities of practice to promote and strengthen the adoption of gender and inclusion related best practices and emerging program approaches for the achievement of and scaling up of development results.
- As the Mission's Point of Contact for gender, persons with disabilities, and LGBT issues, other vulnerable populations identified by the Mission, and religious and ethnic minorities s/he develops and maintains active dialogue and relationships with key counterparts at the local and national level, including other donors and donor groups, civil society organizations, and others as relevant. Represent USAID and the USG with internal and external audiences as required.

4. Promotion of Inclusive and Representative Workforce 10%

- Collaborates with USAID/Liberia's Executive Office (EXO) to integrate equity and inclusion into USAID/Liberia's recruitment efforts.
- Advise EXO on strategies for increasing access to vacancy announcements for underrepresented groups.
- Serve on employment selection committees, as appropriate.
- Report to Front Office on the inclusivity of recruitment and conduct analysis of inclusiveness compared to the general population of Liberia.

Supervision controls: The individual exercises no administrative supervision.

Supervisory Relationship: The Specialist will report to the Deputy Office Director who is currently chair of the Diversity Equity Accessibility and Inclusion Council. The supervisor will provide overall supervision to the Specialist; however, the Specialist will exercise independent judgment in planning and carrying out tasks, resolving problems and conflicts, and taking steps necessary to meet deadlines.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A Minimum of Master's degree in development studies, international affairs or political science is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of demonstrated successful experience in international development, international relations, focusing on gender, inclusive development, or empowerment of marginalized populations is required. Experience in the Liberian context is required. The Specialist must have an understanding of the dynamics and demands of political and institutional changes in developing countries that are essential to the generation of sustainable positive impacts in gender and rights of vulnerable populations and associated public attitudes towards gender equality and female empowerment is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factor/s will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: In 500 words or less, describe your experience in advancing gender, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility issues in Liberia. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Capacity Building and Program Support: In 500 words or less, describe your experience with providing training and information sharing related to gender, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

FACTOR #3: Program Guidance, Documentation, and Reporting: In 500 words or less describe your experience in developing gender, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility sections of strategic planning documents, donor reporting documents, and other reports.

FACTOR #4: Knowledge Management and Relationship Development: In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government, civil society, private sector, and donor-community counterparts. Experience should include knowledge sharing, consensus building and the coordination of activities.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows

Evaluation Factors points

Factor #1 10 points
Factor #2 10 points
Factor #3 10 points
Factor #4 10 points

Written Test 20 Points

Interview Performance 40 points

Reference Checks: Pass/Fail

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's fit for the position as described in the statement of duties.

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the form AID 309-2 (Offeror Information for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals) (please copy and search on your browser); and a current resume that provides detailed information as contained in the AID 309-2 form.
- Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-23-000027 – USAID Project Management Specialist (Inclusive Development)** to LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- AID 309-2 Offeror Information for Personnel Services Contractors with Individuals form
- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UP Grand Bassa District#5 Candidate seeks justice

By Kruah Thompson

Precinct (Code 09007) and reruns in Zono Precinct (Code 09013) and Gbowee.

night, resulting in many voters having already left the polling centers.

She asserts that voters were unjustly denied their right to cast their ballots, highlighting several instances

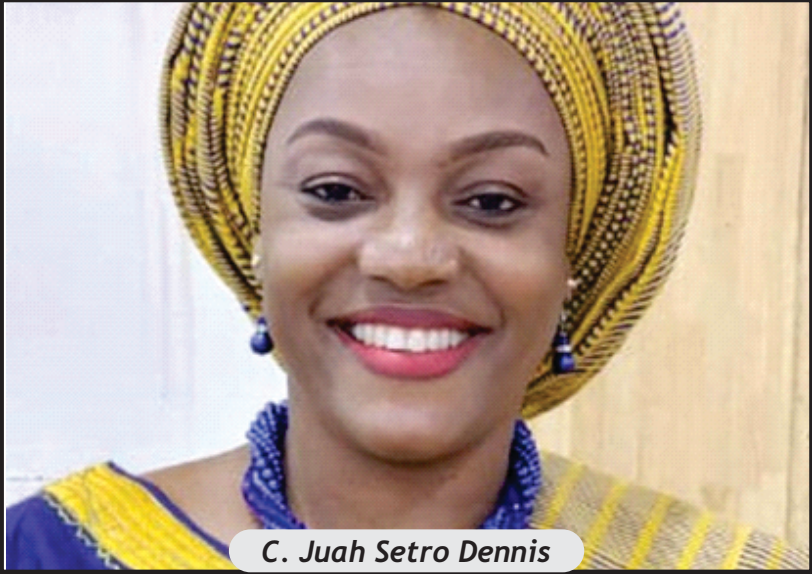
This situation left only election workers with the opportunity to cast their votes, raising serious doubts about the fairness of the electoral process in that region. In her pursuit of justice, Dennis initially filed a complaint with the local magistrate in Buchanan, Grand Bassa. However, she later transferred the case back to Monrovia for an official hearing by the NEC. The case is currently pending before the National Elections Commission.

In the face of her quest for justice, Dennis has faced alleged threats to her life by unknown individuals. These threats have compelled her to move the case from her district to NEC in the capital, Monrovia, in search of a fair resolution.

Despite the challenges and potential risks involved, she remains unwavering in her determination to press for a recount of the ballot boxes at the specified polling centers, emphasizing that she will not back down until justice is served. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

of alleged irregularities. In an exclusive interview on Thursday, October 27, 2023, Dennis detailed her complaints, stating that supervisors at these precincts prematurely closed the polling stations at 6 p.m., even though many voters were still waiting in queue, effectively disenfranchising a significant number of them.

Furthermore, she expresses concerns about the Gbowee area, where she claims that ballot boxes arrived late in the



C. Juah Setro Dennis

seat, remains resolute in her quest for justice, firmly stating that she will not back off until justice is served.

Candidate Dennis is fervently urging the National Elections Commission (NEC) to address her concerns regarding a recount in Old Camp and reruns in Zono and Gbowee, where she alleges malpractices and voter obstruction during the 10 October elections. Dennis has been vocal about her demand for a recount in Old Camp

CEMESP conducts roundtable on violence against women

By Lewis S. Teh

In a frantic efforts to curtail sexual gender base violence, and violence against women and children in the society, the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building or CEMESP with support from UN Women has ended two days intensive roundtable with media executives. The two days' dialogue, held from October 27-28, 2023, took place in Congo Town Back Road and brought together 30 media executives from two of Liberia's 15 counties including Montserrado and Grand Cape Mount.

CEMESP Executive Director Malcolm Joseph, lauded journalists for taking up time to attend the exercise, describing the roundtable as impactful and crucial to wellbeing of journalists. "As you gather here today, we expect you journalists to report on

violence against women and girls."

CEMESP program officer, Ms. Ruth Gbatoe, providing an overview said the objective of the roundtable is for journalists to report issues about violence against women and children.

The dialogue enhances journalists' knowledge and skills in reporting on gender-based violence issues through a gender lens.

With funding support from UN Women Liberia, the activity was also intended to address issue of under-reporting and how information is packaged for public consumption, involving women and girls victimized because of their gender.

The media dialogue emphasizes the mapping of SGBV stories, and ethical issues to consider when reporting on violence against women and girls online and



issues surrounding violence

against women and girls", Mr. Joseph underscored. He said the roundtable is first in a series that will host 25 journalists from Montserrado and five from Grand Cape Mount, adding that the next media dialogue will feature 40 journalists with five coming from both Grand Gedeh and Lofa counties, while 20 others are expected from Nimba County.

"We want to say thank you for coming and we look forward to having a fruitful discussion and subsequently the production of stories that have to do with

offline.

In remarks, Acting President of the Press Union of Liberia, Daniel Nyankona, thanked CEMESP for the roundtable, noting that the dialogue will help journalists improve in their reportage especially, in flagging issues of violence against women and girls.

"We are delighted that our partners CEMESP organized this two days roundtable which we believe will go a long way in helping our media friends how to report gender-related issues", he added. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Rep. Dopoh wants Fouani Brothers' investment bill recalled

By Bridgett Milton

River Gee County Electoral District #3 Representative Francis Saidu Dopoh has called on the leadership of the House of Representatives to recall from the Liberian Senate a US\$30 million Fouani Brothers oil palm refinery investment bill.

According to Rep. Dopoh, his motion to recall the Investment Agreement of Fouani Brothers Corporation bill forwarded to the Liberian Senate is intended to correct an oversight of the House of Representatives.

The Liberian Senate's Committees on Judiciary and Concession have commenced debating the US\$30 million investment by Fouani Brothers Corporation for the development of an oil palm refinery.

But Dopoh said he has noticed that Section 10 Sub-section C is inconsistent with the intent of granting the incentive to build and operate a palm oil refinery in Liberia. "Kindly notice that Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the Incentive Agreement are reasonable grounds for granting

such incentive. But Section 10.1 Subsection C has the propensity to undermine palm oil production in Liberia, by giving duty-free to Fouani Brothers Corporation to import vegetable oil in Liberia," said Mr. Dopoh.

According to him, Liberians are trying to build their industry and there is a very huge investment in palm oil plantations in Liberia by GVL and MOPP.

He noted that other companies would be destabilized if Fouani Brothers were given duty free for the

importation of finished oil in Liberia. The bill has since been forwarded to the Liberian Senate for concurrence, but it also raises concerns over the terms of the deal. A specific area of contention is the provision allowing duty-free importation of crude palm oil (CPO) into the country, leading some senators to label the agreement as detrimental to Liberia's economy.

When the bill is passed, Fouani Brothers is expected to benefit from a 15-year incentive



Rep. Francis Saidu Dopoh

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL Retains 20% Monetary Policy Rate

UN hails Liberia as best peacekeeping transitional nation

The Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), proxying for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), on Wednesday, 25 October 2023 resolved to maintain the existing monetary policy rate (MPR) of 20% and the reserve

2022 to 3.0% in 2023, while at the same time inflationary pressures eased from 8.7% to 7.0% in 2023 as result of interest rate hikes to reverse the rising inflation in several advanced economies. Unlike the CBL, some ECOWAS nations, for example

side, inflationary trends within the domestic economy have declined to 10.9% in the quarter under review, from an earlier 11.3% during the previous quarter, although the trade deficit has widened, mainly due to a decline in merchandise exports. Gross external reserves were relatively stable at 3.1 months, the same as for the previous quarter, slightly above the ECOWAS threshold of 3 months of import cover. Remittance inflows and outflows slumped during the quarter under review.

The exchange rate depreciated during the period under review, triggered mainly by the persistent trade imbalances, speculation, and other structural constraints. The end-period rate depreciated by 3.6% from 11.1% in quarter two to L\$186.76/US\$1.00, from L\$180.28/US\$1.0.

The Financial Sector The banking sector remains strong, well capitalized and liquid in the quarter under review, and continues to finance the private sector. Total loans and advances, total assets, total deposits, and total capital increased, although credits to the manufacturing and agriculture sectors remain low, coupled with high non-performing loans (NPLs).

The CBL Board assures the public and its partners that it will continue to monitor domestic and global economic developments with a view of ensuring financial and macroeconomic stability in Liberia, consistent with the Bank's core mandate.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Liberia, Christine N. Umutooni, says Liberia is the best example of Transitioning from a Peacekeeping-supported country to a self-dependent country.

She notes that the West African nation of less than 6 billion people is carrying out its duties and responsibilities on its own, without assistance from any international bodies, including the United Nations.

Madam Umutooni salutes the Government of Liberia (GOL) for its efforts in maintaining peace and democracy while improving livelihoods of the people.

The UN Resident Resident Coordinator made the commendation here Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at celebration of 78th United Nations

Liberia.”

On behalf of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, she read out a message in observance of the 78th UN- Day held under the Theme: “Rebuilding Trust and Reigniting Solidarity Accelerating Actions on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in Liberia towards, Peace, Prosperity, Progress and Sustainability for all.

Madam Umutooni describes the United Nations as a reflection of the world as it is - and an aspiration of the world we know it can be.

She reaffirms the UN's commitment to help in building a World of Peace, Sustainable Developments, and human rights while expanding on opportunities and ensuring that no one is left behind.



Anniversary (UN- DAY) held at One-UN Plaza in Monrovia.

She acknowledges hard work and courageous efforts of the National Security, “for maintaining the peace of the nation, in the midst of confronting challenges.”

“As You can see, there was no peace-keeping forces anywhere, no one was responsible for the management of security, during the elections, but the nation, was doing it on its own,” she continues, as the audience applauds the Liberian National Security She praises the security apparatus in Liberia for their selflessness in maintaining the peace, saying “You have shown exceptional bravery, dedication, and professionalism, and we must commend you for your service and your sacrifice.”

The UN Resident Coordinator reiterates that the country has made significant strides in archiving political stability, since the end of the Civil- War in 2003, noting “We share the joy of sustainable peace in this country and peaceful transition of power through democratic election - a plus to the Government of

She reminds United Nations officials of their commitment to building peace, healing divisions, ensuring justice, equality, employment of women and girls, as well as providing life-saving reliefs, while lifting the name of the indispensable organization.

Umutooni also tells her colleagues of their commitment to the principles outlined in the UN Charter that provides an opportunity to reflect on their collective journey as they envision a better world for future generations, adding “On this day, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fostering peace, development, and human rights.”

Subsequently, President George Weah commends the United Nations for its tireless efforts over the years in maintaining Peace and Security and achieving cooperation in solving economic-social and humanitarian problems, globally.

Mr. Weah reaffirms Liberia's commitment to the UN as a global organization that promotes and maintains peace while improving social economic conditions around the world. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



requirement ratios of 25% for Liberian dollars (L\$) and 10% for United States (US) dollars.

The Bank stated that it has retained these measures to contain any potential build-up of inflationary pressures in the economy over the medium-term.

The Board's decisions were made in the wake of the prevailing global economic developments that have trickle-down effects on the domestic economy. These developments were driven by the impact of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the effects of global climate change and rise in global consumer prices. Global and Regional Macroeconomic Developments

The Board observed mixed trends in the world economy. On the one hand, the global economy declined from 3.4% in

Nigeria, The Gambia, and the Central Bank of West African States, taking cues from global macroeconomic indicators, increased their MPRs also.

The Domestic Economy Like the global economy, the domestic economy also showed mixed trends during the period under review. The domestic economy grew cumulatively to 4.5% at end-quarter three 2023, induced by increased cement and beverages production, increased electricity generation and increased government services. However, developments in the primary sector, especially mining and panning, have not been favorable.

Given the overall growth trajectory of the economy, the Board was optimistic that the 4.6% growth projection for 2023 is achievable. On the bright

Brother cries out for help to save ailing sister

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The brother of an ailing women, Gayduo Wolobah, is pleading for help, lamenting that his sister has been battling this sickness for eight months.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Kolubah Zayzay said his sister Gayduo Wolobah, urgently needs financial help to seek medication. According to him, doctors have diagnosed her sickness as Ulcerated breast cancer, and other health issues, saying doctors handling her case are demanding US\$350 for treatment.

Kolubah continues that the family is struggling in raising such amount, so they are appealing to people of goodwill and philanthropists to come to their aid, as her sister is also developing urinary problem. He reveals that Madam

Wolobah lost her only daughter in an accident recently, who left her with three grandchildren.

A resident of S.D. Cooper Road, Kolubah says “Myself, I'm doing everything to raise this money but we it's difficult to get it. So I decided to use the media to get people to help to us.”



He discloses that doctors at the Rainbow Hospital in New Matadi diagnosed her sister of having Ulcerated breast cancer, and other health complications. Meanwhile, he says anyone desirous of proving help may contact the family via these numbers: 0777646100/0886464419 or 0775339396/ 0770375981 Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le président Weah affirme avoir redonné dignité à Benion Urey

Le Président George Weah a informé les partisans de la

second tour des élections présidentielles du 14 novembre, a exprimé son chagrin d'avoir

faisant référence à M. Urey) derrière moi, et le Chef Exécutif le sait ; lorsqu'il était sous sanctions, la seule personne qui était là, c'était moi. C'est pourquoi j'ai ressenti tant de chagrin de ne pas avoir pu m'approcher de ma famille, de ses enfants et de sa femme. Cet homme avec lequel j'ai lutté pour m'assurer que tout ce qu'on disait de lui n'était pas vrai. J'ai fait en sorte qu'il retrouve sa dignité", se souvient le Président Weah.

M. Weah, qui semblait triomphant lorsqu'il a pris la parole le dimanche au siège de l'ALP, a entonné des cris de bataille enthousiastes en disant : "Ayoooo... L'ALP est de retour, dites ouais ! Cette fois-ci, vous ne nous échapperez pas, nous vous attraperons comme le Buga (poisson tilapia) dit ouais ! Nous avancerons ensemble, dites ouais ! Ayoooo, l'arbre généalogique peut plier, mais ne se cassera jamais, dites ouais !"

Par ailleurs, M. Weah a qualifié l'approbation de l'ALP de bienvenue, en indiquant que la décision prise par le parti constituait une prélude à la victoire au second tour de l'élection présidentielle prévu le 14 novembre.

"Je suis ravi d'accueillir de nouveau l'ALP. Nous avons une longue histoire. Ce n'est pas seulement une question politique. Ces enfants qui ont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) et du Parti Tout-Libérien qu'il a joué un rôle clé dans la restauration de la dignité de M. Benoni Urey.

M. Urey, un ancien allié de l'ancien Président Charles Taylor actuellement emprisonné, faisait partie des nombreux responsables et alliés de Taylor soumis à de multiples sanctions des Nations Unies, notamment une interdiction de voyage et le gel de leurs avoirs, en raison de leur implication dans la guerre civile libérienne qui a coûté la vie à plus de 250 000 Libériens.

Le Président Weah, en réponse à l'approbation de l'ALP de M. Urey en vue du

perdu le contact avec Urey et sa famille pendant leur longue période de désaccord politique au sein des alliances. L'ALP d'Urey a rejoint la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) après une rupture avec la CDC en 2017. Il s'est retiré ensuite de la CPP pour engager des poursuites judiciaires contre l'un de ses membres, M. Alexander Cummings de l'ANC, et annoncé son soutien à l'ancien Vice-Président Joseph Boakai.

Quelques semaines avant les élections présidentielles et législatives du 10 octobre, Urey s'est éloigné à nouveau de l'Ambassadeur Boakai, laissant entendre qu'il retournerait à la CDC, qu'il avait quitté après les élections de 2011 pour former l'ALP. "Mon grand frère (en

KanaCash veut redynamiser le secteur financier du Libéria

Dans le but de stimuler le secteur financier du pays, KanaCash, une entreprise de technologie financière, a ouvert son tout dernier centre à la Rue 14 à Sinkor, Monrovia. L'investissement vise également à réduire le stress public en répondant aux besoins financiers des personnes qui rencontrent des difficultés extrêmes pour effectuer des transactions financières, que ce soit au niveau national ou international. KanaCash est une application web et mobile innovante créée par des Libériens et adaptée aux besoins de paiement mobile de l'Afrique subsaharienne et des personnes de la diaspora. Elle s'intègre à l'infrastructure locale existante et offre à la population un accès accru ainsi qu'un meilleur contrôle sur la manière, le moment et l'endroit où elle dépense son argent.

Lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture officielle à

Monrovia le lundi 30 octobre 2023, le directeur général de KanaCash, McSwain Forkoh, a révélé que l'entreprise a été fondée par deux Libériens ayant eu l'idée de créer une entreprise financière destinée à faciliter les services de transfert et de paiement.

"Il est important pour nous de comprendre les défis auxquels vous êtes confrontés lorsque vous envoyez de l'argent à vos familles, amis et proches. Désormais agréés

par la Banque centrale du Libéria en tant que prestataire de services de paiement, nous sommes à même de déplacer de l'argent dans tout le pays", explique-t-il.

Il a ajouté que KanaCash s'engage à résoudre les problèmes de transactions financières transfrontalières en Afrique subsaharienne, ainsi qu'à relier la diaspora

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La parole est bonne, la collaboration est meilleure

La Coalition au pouvoir pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) et le principal parti d'opposition, le Parti de l'Unité (UP), sont actuellement en mouvement, frappant aux portes et dialoguant avec d'autres partis et individus pour obtenir leur soutien en vue du vote du 14 novembre. L'état d'esprit actuel au sein du spectre politique devrait être encouragé par tous ceux qui veulent du bien pour le Libéria.

C'est d'autant plus important car il y a de la force et de l'unité non seulement dans la parole, mais surtout dans la collaboration pour atteindre un objectif commun, que ce soit pour gagner une élection ou dans n'importe quel domaine de l'entreprise humaine.

Tant la CDC que l'UP reçoivent des soutiens de la part d'autres partis, de dirigeants politiques et d'individus pour augmenter leurs chances lors du second tour. N'oublions pas qu'en politique, il n'y a pas d'ennemis permanents, seulement des intérêts communs. Les ennemis d'aujourd'hui aux yeux du public peuvent devenir les meilleurs amis de demain s'ils trouvent un terrain d'entente.

L'exercice actuel en dit long sur les défis de la politique au Libéria aujourd'hui. Il est essentiel de favoriser la collaboration au lieu de se diviser en groupes égoïstes motivés par l'avidité et incapables de voir au-delà de l'horizon.

Imaginez ce que la politique et les élections pourraient devenir au Libéria si nous avions quelques partis - disons au moins trois ou quatre - mieux organisés et bien financés, axés sur les questions essentielles ! Cela épargnerait au pays bien des soucis au lieu de gaspiller du temps à se lancer des piques et à se déchirer, comme s'il était impossible de coexister après les élections.

Nous encourageons l'exercice en cours, car il est bénéfique non seulement pour la paix, mais aussi pour l'unité et le développement. Si davantage de politiciens et de dirigeants politiques partagent des objectifs similaires, une grande partie du travail serait accomplie bien avant le jour des élections.

Rappelons-nous la stratégie de l'opposition lors des élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020, quand quatre partis se sont unis sous la bannière de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP). La CPP a montré sa force lors du vote en remportant la plupart des comtés, y compris Montserrado.

Les partis devraient réduire les discours incendiaires et privilégier le dialogue, la discussion et la collaboration, comme ils le font actuellement. Nous ne devons jamais permettre que notre diversité précipite la nation vers l'effondrement, comme les Libériens l'ont enduré pendant 14 années de guerre civile brutale.

Dans tout ce que nous faisons et disons, gardons à l'esprit qu'une seule personne peut occuper le poste le plus élevé du pays. Cependant, cela ne signifie pas qu'un homme politique ou un parti politique devrait lutter seul pour y parvenir. Si l'objectif ultime est sincèrement d'améliorer le Libéria et le bien-être des Libériens, alors nous devons dialoguer et collaborer pour obtenir le meilleur pour notre patrie, au lieu de nous quereller et de nous battre.

Français

Starts from page 8

Le président Weah

grandi avec moi m'ont manqué. Leur père qui me connaissait quand j'étais jeune. Nous ne pouvions même pas parler pendant cinq minutes, cela me blessait, mais je suis content. Dieu merci, les sages évoluent. Je suis heureux qu'aujourd'hui nous ayons résolu non seulement les questions politiques, mais aussi les liens familiaux. Nous sommes prêts à travailler avec vous pour faire progresser notre pays", a

ajouté M. Weah.

"Parfois, votre père peut se fâcher avec ses amis, et cela peut retomber sur les enfants. Mais gardons l'amour dans nos cœurs. C'est en raison de l'amour et du respect que nous revenons aujourd'hui. Je tiens à vous remercier une fois de plus pour cette décision inestimable. Je suis prêt à relever les défis et à faire la différence. Une nation, un peuple, une destinée. À tous les partisans de l'ALP, je peux maintenant vous dire : Amanda", a-t-il conclu.

Starts from page 8

KanaCash veut redynamiser

africaine pour faciliter les transferts d'argent.

Selon lui, le lancement se concentre sur les transferts d'argent transfrontaliers au sein des pays de l'Union du fleuve Mano afin de renforcer les relations et de mieux se connecter au peuple libérien avant de s'étendre à d'autres pays.

"Nous souhaitons favoriser la transformation numérique et soutenir la vision de la Banque centrale du Libéria. Nous voulons offrir davantage d'emplois aux citoyens et contribuer à la génération de revenus du pays."

M. Forkoh se réjouit que l'entreprise fasse ses débuts au Libéria en se concentrant sur le lancement transfrontalier, et avec le temps, elle sera présente dans divers hôtels, pour le paiement des factures et pour l'exécution d'autres transactions financières. Il a révélé que l'ouverture du bureau KanaCash dans le pays vise à soutenir les efforts du gouvernement en réduisant le nombre de points d'accès pour les clients afin qu'ils puissent recevoir leur argent plus facilement.

Selon lui, KanaCash reversera un pourcentage de ses bénéfices pour soutenir le secteur de l'éducation au Libéria, affirmant que "nous ne pouvons pas toujours tout attendre du gouvernement. Nous devons donner en retour à la population." "Tout ce que nous proposons est authentique et fiable, c'est un service sécurisé dans lequel notre population peut avoir confiance. Lorsque vous envoyez de l'argent de l'étranger, soyez assurés que c'est en sécurité et garanti, pour la croissance du pays." Lors de la cérémonie, la directrice générale de KanaCash pour le pays, Mme Passion A.J DayoCollins, a encouragé les Libériens à profiter de la nouvelle entreprise financière, qu'elle décrit comme un moyen d'alléger la charge financière du public.

"Aujourd'hui est un jour

spécial pour nous, car nous offrirons des emplois à de nombreux Libériens. Tout ne peut pas être politisé. Cette entreprise est là pour résoudre tous les problèmes financiers que les gens rencontrent lorsqu'ils envoient ou reçoivent de l'argent de l'étranger", ajoute-t-elle.

Le directeur des opérations, Josiah P. Toe, a formé les participants sur l'utilisation de l'application et explique que les personnes intéressées peuvent obtenir l'application sur le Google Play Store, en la téléchargeant simplement et en saisissant tous les détails du bénéficiaire pour envoyer de l'argent sans tracas.

D'autre part, il a expliqué que lors de la réception de remises, un client n'a besoin que du code du bénéficiaire pour se rendre chez l'un de leurs agents et récupérer le montant exact d'argent qui a été transféré.

Cependant, s'il n'a pas l'application Kanacash, il ou elle peut facilement se rendre chez l'un de leurs agents et fournir des informations détaillées, et le destinataire en question recevra automatiquement l'argent.

Dans ses remarques, M. Isaac Vlah Tokpa a félicité les organisateurs pour l'ouverture de la nouvelle entreprise financière, qui contribuera à résoudre les contraintes auxquelles le secteur est confronté. Il estime que l'une des choses qui affectent les citoyens à travers le pays est l'inclusion financière, affirmant que "nos concitoyens des zones rurales n'ont pas accès à ces services, ce qui pose problème pour ce pays." M. Tokpa a souligné que l'extension financière est essentielle au développement de tout pays, ajoutant : "Si nous pouvons nous étendre au Ghana, en Guinée et dans d'autres pays, cela créera des emplois. Soutenons notre propre entreprise si nous voulons prendre la bonne voie."

Le lancement du produit de transfert d'argent transfrontalier CanaCash a été suivi par une large section d'institutions financières et bancaires, notamment la Guarantee Trust Bank (GTBank), la Global Bank, Orange Liberia et les opérateurs de bureaux de change.

En Guinée, la réhabilitation de l'ex-président Ahmed Sékou Touré par la junte provoque un vif débat



Ce 30 octobre en Russie, c'est la journée annuelle du souvenir des victimes de la répression politique, dans un pays où on accélère le retour des statues de Staline. En Guinée également, la réhabilitation d'Ahmed Sékou Touré par les autorités politiques de transition provoque un vif débat : l'ex-président du pays est considéré comme un tyran par certains et comme un héros par d'autres. Explications. Ahmed Sékou Touré, président de la Guinée, lors d'une conférence de presse, le 20 septembre 1982, à l'hôtel Marigny après sa visite officielle de cinq jours en France. Les tensions qui affectent la mémoire collective en Russie trouvent un écho dans un pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest : en Guinée, le père de l'indépendance fut aussi un dictateur brutal qui fit enfermer et exécuter ses opposants. Mais Ahmed Sékou Touré est aujourd'hui un personnage historique en pleine réhabilitation.

Depuis sa prise de pouvoir, le 5 septembre 2021, le colonel Mamadi Doumbouya multiplie les gestes symboliques en faveur de celui qui a été chef de l'État entre 1958 et 1984. Des décisions qui culminent au mois de décembre, lorsque, à la surprise générale, l'actuel président de la transition change le nom de l'aéroport de la capitale.

Désormais, à Conakry, on atterrit à l'aéroport international Ahmed Sékou Touré. C'est une grande première dans le pays où aucun monument ne portait jusqu'ici son nom, excepté le palais présidentiel dont il avait lancé la construction.

Le Premier ministre apprend la nouvelle dans les médias et exprime publiquement son « mécontentement ». Il faut dire que Mohamed Béavogui n'est autre que le neveu de Diallo Telli, l'une des victimes emblématiques de Sékou Touré. Mais beaucoup de Guinéens soutiennent la démarche. La société est en manque de modèles, de figures fortes. Ahmed Sékou Touré incarne, notamment chez les jeunes, le combat pour la dignité et l'indépendance. La nostalgie pour Sékou Touré est de plus en plus perceptible.

Mais les défenseurs des droits humains demandent aux militaires de revenir sur leur décret concernant l'aéroport de Conakry. Le secrétaire exécutif de l'Association des victimes du camp Boiro se dit alors « consterné ». Sékou Touré a été, c'est vrai, le premier président de la Guinée indépendante, argumente-t-il, mais « nous parlons d'un tyran qui laisse derrière lui des milliers de victimes dans les fosses communes » : 50 000 morts et disparus, selon les organisations de défense des droits humains. « Comment la Guinée peut-elle oublier son histoire ? », s'interroge Abdoulaye Conté. Malgré les tentatives de réhabilitation, Sékou Touré conserve une image ambivalente. Il est, pour certains, celui qui « a honoré la Guinée et son continent, en donnant le signal des indépendances en Afrique francophone », écrit dans le magazine Jeune Afrique Rachid Ndiaye, ex-ministre guinéen de la Communication. C'est « l'homme du « non » au référendum du général de Gaulle, le 28 septembre 1958 », celui qui a tenu tête à l'ancienne puissance coloniale. Héros pour les uns, c'est encore un tyran pour les autres. Aucun travail de mémoire n'a été accompli par la Guinée et Sékou Touré reste une figure controversée. Mais pour combien de temps ? Sa réhabilitation menace aujourd'hui de réduire au silence ses victimes qui disparaissent les unes après les autres. De moins en moins nombreuses pour dénoncer les crimes de son régime, c'est l'image lissée du chantre du panafricanisme, du défenseur des libertés qui pourrait l'emporter au détriment de la vérité historique.

“Ne vous servez pas de la pauvreté pour avoir des votes”, le Sénateur Wisseh

Le sénateur défait du comté de Rivergee, Conmany B. Wesseh, condamne la l'instrumentation de pauvreté par les politiciens pour gagner des élections.

Il a affirmé que cette stratégie égoïste condamne le peuple à une souffrance extrême, nuit à la croissance et à la démocratie du Libéria, ce qui est injuste.

S'exprimant au micro du NEW DAWN le dimanche 29 octobre 2023, le sénateur Wesseh, qui a déjà reconnu sa défaite face à son rival Francis Dopoh lors des élections présidentielles et législatives du 10 octobre, a mis en garde les politiciens contre l'instrumentation de la pauvreté au Libéria pour des intérêts politiques. Il a encouragé les politiciens à respecter la volonté du peuple et à les contraindre à faire leur offre lors des élections.

Le sénateur a qualifié d'injuste le fait que l'on se serve de la pauvreté des gens, qui continuent en grande majorité de souffrir, lors des élections. "Ne transformez pas la pauvreté en une arme pour remporter des votes, car si vous le faites, la grande majorité du peuple souffre, ce qui est injuste pour la démocratie de cette nation."

Le sénateur sortant de Rivergee a mis également en garde contre la transhumance des électeurs", qu'il



considère comme l'une des principales causes de la crise actuelle dans le pays.

"Ne transformez pas la pauvreté en arme ; ne transportez pas les gens d'un endroit à un autre, simplement parce que vous voulez leurs votes ; et ces choses ne déterminent pas le choix du peuple", a-t-il ajouté.

Selon lui, le pays est en crise morale et cela doit cesser, en exhortant les nouveaux élus à mettre fin à l'exploitation de la pauvreté pour gagner des votes.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Action of the Joint Security is the Failure of LTA and MICAT

Writes Peter Quaqua

I am aware of the public sentiments, for and against the reported action taken against the owner of Freedom FM regarding the critical broadcast of the station about the Army and its Chief of Staff. Permit me not to restate that commentary, but the reported mistreatment of the station's owner by the joint security is one more reason why this country has been begging for an Independent Broadcast Regulator.

By law, the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) and the Ministry of Information are supposed to regulate the broadcast sector, but they appeared to lack the nerves to perform their regulatory mandates due obvious political thinking as most of the stations are owned or patronized by politicians. Under a normal and properly functioning regulatory environment, the inflammatory, outlandish and hate broadcast on the airwaves would not have gone unchecked.

I am not just talking about Freedom FM. Many of you would agree that the airwaves have been inundated with unwholesome and unprofessional broadcast, but we care less because some of you have benefited from those broadcasts politically. So, the action of the joint security seems justified because Freedom FM is a "progovernment station." Would you have felt the same way if said action was taken against an "opposition friendly station?" Did I hear the Attorney General of the Republic was there? I am finding it difficult to process that.

Some supporters of the Government have recently been calling for action against the Spoon Network in the wake of its coverage of the elections, probably because Spoon and Freedom are in the same league? Make no mistake; these kinds of arbitrary actions are counter-productive and should not be celebrated. Our crusade for the press freedom and free expression was to enable the civic space, not one policed by security people. Unacceptable!

The Chilling effect

When state security actors take on the role of a media regulator, it renders the media susceptible to censorship, interference and intimidation, with significant implications and chilling effects on press freedom and free speech.

In the aftermath of the chastening of the owner of Freedom FM, who is also thought to be a member of the security community, the station immediately went into panic and suspended all of its public affairs programs as announced on Facebook verbatim below:

Kindly be informed that the management of Freedom FM has suspended all political shows and news-related programs beginning this Friday, Oct 20, 2023, until further notice. Programs include:

FREEDOM MORNING RISE
FROM THE PRINT NEWS
FREEDOM HUB
FACE THE ISSUES
THE NIGHT-TIME SPIN
FREEDOM NEWS BASKET
FREEDOM NEWS HALF HOUR
FREEDOM NEWS ARCHIVE
FREEDOM NEWS INSIGHT

We will remain committed to commercial obligations and open for commercial purposes to include, the airing of Jingles, Announcements, and Social, Business, and Religious Programs. Thanks!

Self-regulation

I am a proponent of self-regulation. But when the media fails to take responsibility for its errors and excesses, it invites external control with consequences for both society and the media industry itself. It must be said quickly that media self-regulation is about preserving the freedom and independence of the press, not self-censorship. When journalists submit themselves to a professional peer review, they do not leave room for state and non-state actors to censure them first. The media must be pro-active in challenging its sins.

Admittedly, the spread of media companies across Liberia points to the changing political situation in the country. Further evidence of that change in the ecosystem is the enactment in 2010 of the Freedom of Information Act and the abolition of criminal defamation laws in early 2019.

Thanks to the media for contributing to this story of change. However, much is desired in improving the operating environment and raising the professional standards of practitioners.

There is reasoning among media stakeholders that the ownership of the growing number of media outlets presents a new kind of threat to professional and independent journalism in the absence of a proper regulator. The basic responsibility of media in a post-conflict-transitioning country such as Liberia is to strengthen democracy and consolidate peace. This cannot however be achieved if ethical imperatives are sacrificed at the altar of self-serving journalists and media owners pursuing political interests.

The Regulator

The LTA is the agency of government responsible to assign and manage frequencies under the Telecommunications Act of 2007. However, it seems the LTA has largely been concerned only with the issuance of license.

Other important parameters, such as ownership, content including the amount of time devoted to news and current affairs programs, percentage of local production, protection of minors, hate speech, etc are not of their business. The Ministry of Information is responsible for broadcast media content, under the heavily-loaded PRC Decree no. 46. As part of the licensing regime, MICAT must first issue a permit to a would-be operator before the LTA acts. I took part in study that discovered stations on the air that did not submit neither to LTA nor MICAT. How is that even possible? Meanwhile, there is a moratorium on the issuance of license in Montserrado - seemingly overstretched. I must restate calls for the establishment of an independent broadcast regulator, considering all the infractions we are experiencing in the sector. Crucially, I am convinced that if we had an independent sector regulator, perhaps the AFL/joint security could never have done what we are reading in the media about the punishment the Freedom FM owner endured.

I am wondering what would have happened if this man himself was not a security personnel - the Deputy Director of the National Security Agency (NSA), it is said. Would the Army have moved on the station to make arrests? Hope not!

Looking back in our recent past, I should submit to you that if we had an independent regulator, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government would not have been directly involved in the closure in 2011, of Power FM/TV, Kings FM/Clar TV and Love FM/TV. Again, if the country had a proper regulator, the Sirleaf government would not have been involved in the closure of Voice FM in 2016; Certainly, if the regulator was not conflicted, the government of President George Weah would have avoided the temptation of closing down Root FM in 2019.

If we had an apolitical regulator, the government of Mr. Weah would have easily excused itself from the reported denial of PUNCH FM operation and the court hearings that attended the standoff.

So, it is very much in the interest of the government of Liberia to stay clear of these technical and professional decisions making by constituting a competent authority of technicians who will act in line with internationally accepted standards and not based on political predisposition.

To this end, it will be a smart move for whoever leads the next government to relinquish some of its authorities by allowing a comprehensive reform of the powers of the Ministry of information and LTA. I am aware that even in places where proper regulatory regimes exist, state actors still encroach on the media space. Our country must find the courage to take the first by putting together dedicated professionals to do the job without any fear of reprisal.

In the cause of media rights, free expression and democratic development, I remain. God bless our country.

OPINION

By Michael Bröning

Gaza and the End of Germany's Willkommenskultur

NEW YORK - "Too many people are coming," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently declared in an interview with the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel. The chancellor's stern gaze on the cover underscored the seriousness of his proclamation: "We must finally deport on a large scale those who have no right to stay in Germany."

Such an equivocal message from the head of Germany's three-party coalition government is seen as a turning point in the domestic debate about migration. But in many ways, Scholz's strong language reflects a deeper, long-simmering shift in policy.

In June, Scholz overruled opposition within his coalition and helped push through a major migration deal to overhaul the European Union's asylum procedures. The newly proposed rules would enable the EU to create processing centers on its external borders. Addressing the Bundestag, Scholz declared that restructuring the "completely dysfunctional" European immigration system was a "historic" achievement.

More recently, Scholz's government introduced draft legislation that would facilitate deportations by increasing the maximum length of pre-deportation custody and simplifying the procedure for removing convicted criminals, in addition to establishing temporary internal border controls to limit irregular migration. Scholz also distanced himself from the decision to provide financial support to NGOs carrying out search-and-rescue operations in the Mediterranean, stressing that the funds had been approved by parliament, not by his government.

Such a drastic move away from the celebrated Willkommenskultur of 2015, when Germans flocked to train stations to welcome Syrian refugees, is largely driven by high levels of migration in recent years. Germany has long been the largest recipient of asylum seekers in the EU. The number of people seeking humanitarian protection in Germany increased by 1.14 million from 2021 to 2022, one of the highest year-on-year increases since 2007, when the German Federal Statistical Office began reporting these data.

The trend has persisted this year, and, coupled with a looming recession and strained resources at the local level, it has fueled a tectonic shift in German public opinion. Concerns over immigration now cut across political lines, with 44% of Germans considering it the most important problem facing the country.

At the same time, nearly two-thirds of voters are dissatisfied with the coalition government, while polls indicate that the xenophobic Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has firmly established itself as Germany's second-strongest party. This was obvious in recent state elections in Bavaria and Hesse: the government parties suffered significant losses, while both the conservative Christian Democrats and the far-right AfD gained ground.

Already under pressure from the right, Scholz now faces yet another political challenge: at the end of October, former far-left leader Sahra Wagenknecht announced the creation of a new party. Born and raised in East Germany and long a central figure of the post-communist Die Linke, Wagenknecht is known for her emphasis on working-class voters, her conservative social values, her criticism of military support for Ukraine - and her strident calls to limit migration.

In 2021, Wagenknecht, a frequent and eloquent guest on Germany's talk shows, published an all-out literary assault on left-liberals - whom she calls the "self-righteous" - that became an instant bestseller. According to current polls, a staggering 27% of German voters would consider supporting her new party.

Against this backdrop, Scholz's change of language on immigration is the equivalent of a frantic search for the emergency brake. But while inaction comes with a price, so does action. For example, his tough talk is almost certain to alienate the Green Party, a coalition partner that prides itself on welcoming migrants.

Scholz also faces a growing wave of criticism from within his own party ranks. The Social Democratic Party's youth wing has pledged to resist the tightening of immigration rules, declaring that there is "no point in mimicking the right." Moreover, in the past, pushback from civil society, religious leaders, and progressive media has made it politically risky to pursue a more hardline stance on migration.

For the time being, however, the escalating conflict in the Middle East has shifted the ground beneath this debate. Through a complex interplay of events, the war in Gaza has led many Germans to question previously sacrosanct immigration policies. As a result, polarization has given way to political consensus.

Hamas's murder of more than 1,000 Israeli civilians outraged much of the German public. Yet many were shocked to learn that this sentiment was far from unanimous. A significant portion of Germany's immigrant population, often with family connections to the Middle East and living in disadvantaged urban areas, had a radically different assessment and sympathies.

Since the October 7 attack, the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism has registered more than 200 anti-Semitic incidents in Germany, including an arson attack on a synagogue. And in Berlin's Neukölln neighborhood, an Islamic association gained notoriety for handing out sweets in the street to celebrate Hamas's brutality.

For many Germans, the surge in anti-Semitism strikes at the heart of the country's post-Holocaust identity: the idea of "never again." At the same time, it serves as seemingly irrefutable evidence of the challenges of integration. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier echoed the general sentiment when he reminded the public that everyone "who lives here must know Auschwitz and understand the responsibility that our country has."

Thus, in a surprising - and not necessarily nuanced - way, outrage over the conduct of a few has legitimized an about-face on migration policy that could affect thousands more. It is unclear whether this consensus will hold, or whether this dramatic shift in both rhetoric and action will be enough to placate a concerned public. But, for now, it is clear that Germany's Willkommenskultur has become an unexpected casualty of the Israel-Hamas war.

Teahjay backtracks home

By Ethel A. Tweh

Defeated Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay has endorsed opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's presidential

bid ahead of the 14 November run-off, claiming that the ruling party is ill-prepared. Having lost his seat during last month's polls, the outgoing Senator at a press conference Tuesday, 31 October 2023, expressed regrets for supporting the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) over the past nearly six years on Capitol Hill. He claimed that the CDC is ill-equipped to lead Liberia for another six years.

southeastern region," he continued.

Teahjay lamented that schools in the southeast lack basic supplies, with many instructors not receiving their salaries in a timely manner. He stated that some junior high schools in the southeast have just two instructors, which is an affront to the loyalty of his people and a disgrace to their educational system.

Regarding the electoral infrastructure, he explained that elections are meant to adhere to the principle of one man, one vote. However, the Sinoe Senator alleged that under the CDC government, elections seem to have deviated into a scenario of one man, five ballot papers.

He alleged that the October polls in the Southeast and other regions exposed a troubling pattern of election magistrates colluding with National Elections Commission (NEC) Presiding Officers and Election Supervisors to manipulate vote counts in favor of CDC Presidential and Legislative candidates.

"As we approach the November 14 runoff election and after extensive consultations, we have arrived at the conclusion of officially endorsing Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, the Standard Bearer of the Unity Party," he said.

Teahjay described Amb. Boakai as a statesman of immense patience, character, and the ability to lead Liberia while redirecting the course of governance for the benefit of all Liberians.

"We call upon all our fellow citizens of Sinoe County and all Liberians to join us in this mission," he concluded.

Joint security requests campaign schedules

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Joint Security has requested the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) to provide their respective campaign schedules for the run-off election.

Made up of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), and the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA), among others, the Joint Security believes that the parties' provision of campaign schedules will help prevent conflict.

Police Spokesman and head of the Joint Security media relations made the special appeal on Tuesday, 31 October 2023.

While the first round of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections was largely peaceful, there were cases of brutal political violence that led to deaths, bodily injuries, and damage to properties, among others.

In some cases, supporters of the ruling CDC and the

Mr. Carter.

He noted that this is in keeping with the many conversations and dialogue they had with political parties before the conduct of the elections. Additionally, Carter stated that this is in good faith and it is also intended to enable the security forces to protect any of the two parties that will be launching their campaigns.

According to him, many times the joint securities are blamed for not doing much in curtailing violence that broke out during political rallies and campaigns. But Mr. Carter argued that when political parties are having rallies or campaigns, they don't fully inform the Joint Security. He suggested that this led to some of the violence of the first phase of the elections. "Finally, we are asking the two parties to present their campaign schedules. We are doing this to avoid intrusion so that when one is having their activities, we don't want the next party to come there," said Mr. Carter.

Carter stated that the Joint Security's preparation for the run-



Amb. Boakai

Sen. J. Milton Teahjay

off election is well on course, noting that the security forces are prepared to provide adequate security protection.

"During the previous elections, there were reports of Joint Security officers not seen in some places. However, I want to inform you that we have addressed all of those challenges ranging from threat, logistics, and manpower," he said.

"We are well on course and prepared for the runoff. We want to improve the rating of the Joint Security in this runoff," said Mr. Carter.



Starts from back page

Snowe remains on CDC

competitive. In his view, the elections were not a walk-through for any party, not even the ruling party.

He alleged that CDC had low votes in Bomi County because about six to seven thousand voters were trucked

from Brewerville, Montserrado County to vote in Bomi. Snowe disclosed that they have things under control now and they are reaching out to everyone. According to him, this election has shown that Liberia is divided and if

President Weah gets re-elected, he needs to work to get everyone on board to work together. "I have also encouraged the President to get on board his former soccer players so that they all can work together," he said.

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Rep. Dopoh wants Fouani Brothers'

agreement. And if the deal is ratified, Fouani Brothers has promised to create 25 direct jobs and 50 indirect jobs in Liberia.

According to the senate committee, Section 11 of the agreement provides that in the event of insufficient locally available crude palm oil to meet the refinery's requirements, the investor can import the necessary

crude palm oil with prior approval from the Minister of Agriculture.

The controversial agreement, which was passed by the House of Representatives, has raised concerns among senators such as Bomi County's Edwin Snowe. Sen. Snowe said this could create a monopoly that would force smaller producers out of the crude

palm oil business, potentially resulting in significant losses for investments in plantations and refineries across the country. At the same time, Snowe has called on the Executive Branch to withdraw the deal, describing it as detrimental to the economy and to local farmers and companies that have invested heavily in the palm oil sector.

opposition UP clashed, and in other cases, CDC supporters clashed with supporters of different opposition political parties.

To avoid a repeat of such violence in the presidential run-off, Mr. Carter said the Joint Security is requesting the two political parties in the run-off to ensure that they are protected and guided on the day of their launching.

"The Joint Security is appealing to both parties that make it to the runoff to make available their campaign schedules to the police," said

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Snowe remains on CDC campaign team

By Ethel A. Tweh
Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe says he is still a part of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Campaign team.

Mr. Snowe decided to join the Weah campaign team, he didn't put a precondition to it. According to Snowe, he and President Weah are good friends, and they communicate every day,

his business to leave or stay. Regarding the endorsement of President Weah by controversial talk show host Henry Costa, Mr. Snowe said he cannot comment on it. He said if Costa calls him, he will answer, because he answers anyone who calls him, and he replies messages from anyone. "Costa has said things about me and when he calls, I can answer and when he texts, I do reply," said Mr. Snowe.

He further noted that when former House Speaker Alex Tyler won the Bomi senatorial election election, he texted him and also gave him a call to congratulate him.

Mr. Snowe, also a former House Speaker, stated that he has no personal issues with Senator-elect Mr. Tyler, but they differ politically. Mr. Snowe explained that his kind of politics is different, noting that he doesn't mix personal issues with politics.

Commenting on the October presidential and legislative elections, Snowe said the elections were



Sen. Edwin M. Snowe

conference at his Capitol building office Tuesday 31 October 2023, barely 24 hours after rumors spread on social media that he had allegedly withdrawn from the ruling party's campaign team.

Contrary to the social media speculation, the Bomi Senator stated that he still believes in the re-election bid of President Weah. Snowe said that when he

adding: "The President and I had breakfast this morning." Mr. Snowe explained further that he and President Weah have no beef, nor any other person on the CDC campaign team.

He disclosed that if he doesn't feel comfortable with someone on the campaign team and they are in the same room or at the same table, it is

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