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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023	L\$187.2564/US\$1.00	L\$189.0587/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.

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French Version Inside

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VOL. 13 NO. 220 MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

"Sheer stupidity"



-Tweahway replies critics

Senator-elect Bill Tweahway



Mr. Koijee

Koijee makes



US sanctions list

-- For Human Rights abuses and corruption

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Continental News

West Africa Leaders Meet as Region Struggles With Coups

West African leaders met in Nigeria's capital Abuja on Sunday for talks on their region in deepening crisis, after four

International attention has focused on the most recent coup in Niger in July after troops ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, prompting ECOWAS to impose

of his government hostage, but also the people of Niger," ECOWAS commission president Omar Touray told the summit opening. Touray said ECOWAS recognized the "dire humanitarian" situation in Niger, but accused the rulers in Niamey of interfering with the flow of aid that was allowed into the country. In a possible signal of ECOWAS maintaining its hardline on Niamey, exiled Niger Prime Minister Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou attended the Abuja summit.

Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is current chair of ECOWAS and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee was also at the meeting to discuss how to support Niger's return to democratic rule and Sahel security. The ordinary summit will also discuss delayed or uncertain transitions back to civilian rule and elections for Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger. Tinubu called for the "re-engaging with the countries under military rule on the basis of realistic and short transition plans". Earlier this month, Nigeria said it was asking the Niger regime to free Bazoum and allow him to fly to a third country, as a step to opening talks on lifting sanctions.

But Niger's military leaders rejected that option and have asked Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe to act as a mediator. VOA



National flags of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states fly at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana

countries fell under military rule and with risks growing from Sahel jihadist conflicts.

After coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger since 2020, the Economic Community of West African States or ECOWAS saw member states Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau report attempted coups in recent weeks. A French military withdrawal from the Sahel — the region along the Sahara desert across Africa — has heightened concerns over conflicts spreading southward to Gulf of Guinea states Ghana, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast.

tough sanctions and close trade.

Niger — key Western partner in the fight against Sahel militants — has demanded French troops based there leave, while the US still has military personnel in the country. But recent talks with the regime in Niamey stalled. ECOWAS called for Bazoum's immediate return to power, but Niger's rulers have kept the ousted president in detention and want up to three years for a transition back to civilian rule. "The military authorities have unfortunately shown little remorse as they hold on to their untenable positions, holding not only President Bazoum, his family, and members

UN Struggles to Fund Peacekeeping as Nations Demand End to Missions

The United Nations' top peacekeeping official defended the organization's missions worldwide as concerns grow that they've gone into retreat as African leaders demand their withdrawal from Mali to Congo. Under Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said Wednesday that the force operates on a \$5.5 billion budget, which is less than that of the New York City Police Department, even though its force is much larger, with 70,000 personnel worldwide. He told delegates at a U.N. peacekeeping ministerial meeting in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, that efforts had been hampered by divisions among member states.

The majority of U.N. peacekeeping missions are in Africa, including in Central African Republic, Sudan and Western Sahara. However, they've faced increasing blowback and scrutiny over

said of Congo. The two-day ministerial meeting in Accra is taking place as polarizing divides emerge among United Nations member states about wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Institutions like the United Nations Security Council — which has a mandate to maintain international peace and security — have struggled to reach consensus on Israel's latest war with Hamas militants that began in October when it launched a deadly incursion into southern Israel. Though Lacroix lamented how the peacekeeping budget was a mere 0.3% of global military spending, he also noted that it provides a good return on investment as peacekeepers save lives for relatively little cost.

Peacekeepers, he said, operate in the face of armed groups, terrorists and criminal networks with access to lethal weaponry. They work among improvised explosive devices and face growing threats from "the weaponization of digital tools," he said, including hate speech and disinformation that often has



UN soldiers stand guard in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on Nov. 30, 2012

their ability to successfully carry out their missions, including protests in Congo from residents claiming peacekeepers did little to protect them from armed groups. The operations, which require approval from the U.N. Security Council to be extended, have gradually gone into retreat in Africa. In June, leaders in Mali requested the United Nations withdraw peacekeeping forces. Leaders from Congo made a similar request to the Security Council in September. Congolese President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi said then that the mission had failed to confront fighting, but on Wednesday Lacroix defended the force, telling reporters that the U.N. had received feedback from residents that they wanted the peacekeepers to do more.

"Peacekeeping can only operate if the U.N. has the sovereign support," Lacroix

fueled violence against peacekeepers and the communities they're tasked with protecting. "Despite the challenges we are facing, we continue to do our utmost to strengthen the impact and effectiveness of these operations. We continue to do what we can to advance political solutions and support sustainable peace, including through facilitating political settlements and supporting locally led conflict resolution," Lacroix said.

Though Congolese leaders have asked the U.N. to begin withdrawing, Lacroix said peacekeepers were providing logistical support for this month's elections at the request of authorities, particularly in North and South Kivu and Ituri provinces. Since 1999, peacekeepers have been in Congo's impoverished but mineral-rich east, where rebel groups including M23 have long clashed with the government. VOA

Rwanda Official Died Without Facing Justice: Genocide Victims

Rwandan genocide survivors' group on Sunday voiced anger that Laurent Bucyibaruta, a former official convicted of complicity in the 1994 massacres, died this week "without facing the full force of justice". Bucyibaruta, who died on Wednesday aged 79, was the highest-ranking Rwandan to have faced trial in France over the 1994 massacres in which an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus died in 100 days of mass killings.

Bucyibaruta was found guilty in July 2022 of complicity in genocide and crimes against humanity over four massacres in the southern province of Gikongoro. He was handed a 20-year sentence.

The massacres, committed at a school in Murambi and the parishes of Cyanika and Kaduha, left some 75,000 people dead on April 21, 1994.

The court however acquitted him as the perpetrator of the killings.

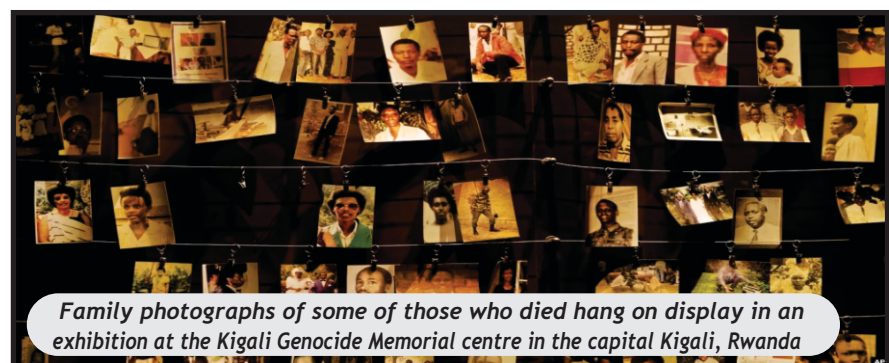
Bucyibaruta — one of only a handful of Rwandans to go on trial in France over the genocide — had appealed the conviction against him and was released from prison pending a new trial. "Despite his grave crimes, he lived a good life... without facing the full force of justice," Philibert Gakwenzire, chairman of the genocide survivors' group IBUKA, told AFP. "We urge governments and courts to consider the rights and emotional wellbeing of genocide survivors in these cases."

Throughout the original trial, Bucyibaruta contested the accusations against him and downplayed his importance in the chain of command as well as the

resources available to him to prevent the killings.

He repeatedly said he had been "overwhelmed by the events". Bucyibaruta became prefect of the Gikongoro province, which was among the worst-affected regions by the genocide, in 1992.

He fled Rwanda at the end of the genocide, on July 23, 1994, and had lived in France since 1997. France has been one of the top destinations for fugitives fleeing justice over the Rwandan slaughter. A former Rwandan doctor, Sosthene Munyemana, 68, has been on trial since November 14 over his involvement in the 1994 massacres -- the sixth such proceeding to be held in France. VOA



Family photographs of some of those who died hang on display in an exhibition at the Kigali Genocide Memorial centre in the capital Kigali, Rwanda

EDITORIAL

Peace is more than presence of rule of law

CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR TO Liberia and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps here, Beng'yela A. Gang, outlined significant ingredients that he stressed are needed in Liberia to achieving genuine national peace and stability beyond the presence of the rule of law.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL convention of the Liberian National Bar Association over the weekend in Nimba County on the topics: "Maintaining peace, post-election through adherence to the rule of law", Amb. Gang noted that adherence to the rule of law alone is not enough in maintaining peace and stability.

HE SAID THE quest for and maintenance of peace is such a complex and mercurial goal that the sole reliance on the rule of law alone might not be quite enough in every circumstances to ensure success or genuine tranquility. Therefore, he proposes constant pursuit of provisions of other virtues and human needs such as mutual tolerance, civic education, patriotism, inclusive development, health and, employment to accompany the rule of law in any credible endeavor that seeks to achieve genuine national peace.

Ambassador Gang: "It's the expression of the respect which must be accorded to what we call in Cameroon, "Le vivre ensemble" or a kind of "live and let's live" when our societies seek peace and social harmony"

We couldn't have agreed with the Cameroonian envoy any better. Society is made of human beings and their wholesome wellbeing in terms of health, education, food, security, justice, and employment, just to name a few, is as important as enforcement of the rule of law itself.

In other words, the rule of law does not exist or operate in a vacuum. It thrives along with other human conditions, absence of which may undermine respect for the rule of law.

Ambassador Gang further stressed that these complementary humanistic variables are critical as the enacted, mechanical artifices of the law and the rule of law in ensuring peace.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY that for the rule of law to thrive in any society, both the government and the governed must be in harmony, and promote common goals with the former paying keen attention to the wishes and aspirations of the latter, for genuine peace to exist or else, mere enforcement of the rule of law may become counterproductive, as we've seen under tyrannical administrations.

HENCE, IT BEHOOVES a sitting government to provide quality health, education, security, food, security and justice, and employment for its people as top priorities in maintaining the rule of law. If these variables are delivered to the people, they will themselves automatically become custodians of the rule of law without an insensitivity regime hiding behind such cliché to brutalize its citizens.

IT IS IMPORTANT that the in-coming administration of President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, takes cue from Ambassador Gang's observations and recommendations, as it assumes leadership of Liberia by making sure it places the horse before the cart than the other way around, in exercising the rule of law for genuine peaceful co-existence and economic prosperity.

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COMMENTARY

By Akihiko Nishio,
Victoria Kwakwa

An African Success Story for Development Finance

WASHINGTON, DC - This week, representatives of donor and borrower countries have been meeting in Zanzibar, Tanzania, to review the current funding cycle of the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessional lending arm. They are taking stock of the IDA's ongoing programs and the needs of the world's poorest people. But the choice of venue is significant, because it enables participants to witness the extraordinary impact of IDA funding, while reflecting Africa's central role in development, now and in the future.

By 2050, one in four people on the planet will be African, and the continent will have the world's largest and youngest workforce, as well as vast consumer markets. Currently, however, African countries - many of which are fragile and conflict-ridden - are among the world's poorest. Around 462 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) live in extreme poverty, while many governments are grappling with catastrophic weather, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and high levels of debt and unemployment.

To realize Africa's tremendous potential, governments must focus on increasing employment opportunities. Currently, only one in six workers in SSA has a salaried job, compared to one in two in high-income countries. In the absence of a stable income, many Africans cannot thrive or plan for the future. Creating new and better jobs for young people would drive inclusive growth and turn the continent's demographic wealth into an economic dividend.

Policymakers must also be more ambitious in addressing the sources of rising poverty, fragility, and violence, and in mitigating the effects of climate change. When extreme weather leads to a bad harvest or violent conflict disrupts supply chains and limits access to essential services, families are often forced to sell their productive assets and migrate. With these interlocking crises threatening to undo the progress on sustainable development, governments must allocate more resources to respond effectively.

That is where the IDA comes in. The fund is a major source of assistance for African countries contending with mounting debt levels and shrinking fiscal space. The most recent replenishment of IDA's resources, the 20th funding cycle (IDA20), was finalized in December 2021. This resulted in a historic \$93 billion package for the world's 75 poorest countries, of which 39 are in Africa, in fiscal years 2022 through 2025. In the fiscal year ending in June 2023, African countries received 75% of IDA commitments for grants and low-interest loans.

IDA20 aims to help countries reduce poverty and ensure shared prosperity, focusing on crisis response, pandemic preparedness, resilience in fragile and conflict situations, and climate-friendly

development. Preliminary results show that, so far, IDA20 has provided essential health and nutrition services to 87 million people; access to improved water sources to eight million; electricity services to 11 million; and more than ten million with jobs.

The effectiveness of IDA assistance can be partly attributed to the fact that around 30% of its financing is provided as grants, which has proven to be a crucial support for countries at high risk of debt distress. But it also reflects the IDA's capacity to borrow from capital markets, which allows it to leverage every dollar that donors contribute into almost \$4 of financial support for recipient countries, as well as efforts to raise additional resources by collaborating with other development partners. With the "polycrisis" of climate change, food insecurity, and COVID-19 having dramatically increased financing needs across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, these levers have become essential to meet growing demand.

With World Bank officials and national policymakers meeting in Zanzibar to review IDA20, they will be able to see, up close, the transformative impact of development funding. Despite a challenging external environment, Tanzania has enjoyed a strong post-pandemic recovery, with the economy growing by 4.6% in 2022 and projected to grow by 5.1% this year. These gains have been supported by reforms to strengthen competitiveness, improve the business and investment environment, and reduce regulatory costs.

Moreover, since 2017, the Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Program, financed by the World Bank, has provided more than 4.5 million people with access to electricity, exceeding the target of 2.5 million and achieving one of the fastest electricity-expansion rates in SSA. The program has also added new connections at more than 1,600 health-care facilities and nearly 6,000 schools. As a result, millions of children can read at night, farmers and small businesses can increase productivity, and people in rural areas can obtain critical health care. With IDA funding, the Tanzanian government has also upgraded roads, stormwater systems, solar street lighting, and the seawall in Zanzibar, as well as expanding roads and related infrastructure in Dar es Salaam.

Despite its success, IDA20 cannot meet all of Africa's development needs. As preparations begin in Zanzibar for IDA21, which will run from fiscal years 2026 to 2028, we must work to ensure that this next financing package is the largest ever mobilized. This will require an increase in partner contributions, which the IDA can then maximize using its innovative financing model. Acting together, we have an opportunity to unlock the potential of countries across the developing world and create a world free of poverty on a livable planet.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Liberia: 176 years on, nothing has changed

Liberia is sui generis (a Latin phrase meaning one of a kind). Despite its unique history as the first independent African nation on the continent, its political leaders have often appeared less intent in terms of development and modernization compared to leaders elsewhere on the continent.

Leaders since independence, have not been able to develop the country's rich natural resources to maximize same for the development of the country, rather they have used it wastefully to their advantage, while the bulk of the population watches on as spectators.

Liberia's political system remains repletely ingrained with sycophants being the architects of the imperial presidency 176 years on-nothing has changed.

All officials have done over time and continue to do today is to maintain their relevance in the existing political system and their place within it- nothing more. It's the proximity to power.

There is absolutely nothing new, it has been the same trend years in and years out. No one leader has been able to crack the code for Liberia's development and modernization, simply because his or her immediate lieutenants have always come with their own agendas while blindfolding him or her into thinking that all is well with the citizens.

A dramatic story is told of President William V.S. Tubman, who for fear of flights often chose to travel by sea. Just as is being done today every cabinet official and their deputies want to be where the president is, so it was back then, nothing has changed.

But here is the story. So, on this day, Tubman and his officials were sailing on one of his Yachts, from Monrovia to Maryland. They had picked up officials from Marshall, now annexed by Margibi County thru to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, and were headed to Harper.

While they were sailing Tubman came on the deck to view the sea and in the process, the breeze took his hat off his head and threw it in the sea. When his officials saw it, they all began to tip their hats one by one for the breeze to throw it into the sea, and one by one all their hats were thrown into the sea.

When President Tubman turned around and saw what had happened, he had a new sense of his authority.

Tubman, before ascending to the Presidency had been living in his native Maryland County from where he had usually set sail in boats to Monrovia as an Associate Justice at the time before his preferment by President Barclay. Before Barclay's arrangement, Tubman was not a regular Monrovia politician.

However, the systemic sycophantic behaviors of appointed officials in government only emboldened Tubman. As the story goes, when Tubman noticed that his officials intentionally threw away their hats to be in sync with him, he began to sense how powerful he had become as a president.

Tubman, for example, would take a nap and wake up in his under T-shirt, his cabinet members around would all remove their coats, shirts, and ties to be in sync with him.

This behavior that everything the president does is a trend within his official circle is not new. President William R. Tolbert came on the scene with higher height suit, and his appointed officials followed, Samuel K. Doe, Charles G. Taylor, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and now President Weah with a pro-poor which became very popular during the early days of his six-year reign.

Sure, nothing has changed from officials wanting to be eye servants rather than doing the job for which they were appointed.

Rather, they fight to be in line with the president's trend, that they can siphon state resources with impunity, while the country lags in development and modernization.

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OP-ED

By Bernard Haykel

War Is What Hamas and Iran Want

PRINCETON - Following the end of the recent weeklong ceasefire, Israel has resumed its war in Gaza, and dropped leaflets urging Palestinians to head toward the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. That has raised concerns that Israel is taking preliminary steps toward expelling Palestinians fully from the enclave, despite a stern American warning not to do so.

Whether it is intended or not, expulsion would have catastrophic consequences for regional security and stability. The United States and its Arab partners urgently need to step in to compel the Israeli leadership to halt the war and think more strategically. Perhaps the trauma of Hamas's attack on October 7 has blinded Israeli leaders to the effects of their decisions. They should be reminded that Israel - along with the US and its other allies - have much to lose if the region descends into chaos and radicalization. After all, an expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza would likely unravel the longstanding peace agreements between Israel and Egypt, and between Israel and Jordan. Those neighboring governments would be unable to withstand the public outcry and accusations of collusion with Israel. It would be the end of the US-led effort, launched by the late Henry Kissinger just after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, to create a Middle East security architecture and work toward regional peace.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies could also be destabilized, eliminating the possibility of any future peace agreements like the one that was taking shape between Israel and Saudi Arabia until October 7. Given that the US was earnestly facilitating that process, events on the ground in Gaza now threaten its standing in the region.

If Israel has a well-considered strategic goal for the war, it has yet to articulate it. Even if a decisive military victory over Hamas were possible, that would not deliver peace or a more stable security environment for Israel. In fact, Hamas's popularity among Palestinians has increased since October 7, as has its presence in the West Bank and in Palestinian refugee camps throughout the region. In Lebanon, for example, Hezbollah has been helping Hamas take control of Palestinian refugee camps.

Far from putting an end to Hamas and the threat it poses, a Palestinian exodus from Gaza would generate an even more radical Palestinian movement in the West Bank and elsewhere. The biggest winner would be Iran, which thrives on chaos, and the biggest losers would be those who long for a peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

That is why the US, in close coordination with Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies, must urgently press Israel to stop the war, and to restart negotiations toward creating a viable Palestinian state and achieving peace with the major Arab countries. War and deeper mutual hatred are what Hamas and Iran want. When Hamas led suicide-bombing campaigns in the 1990s and the 2000s, its goal was to derail any Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement. Likewise, one of the suspected reasons for its October 7 attack was to preempt peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Israel must avoid blindly abetting Hamas's agenda, part of which is to radicalize Palestinians and the broader Arab and Muslim worlds. It is telling - and deeply troubling - that al-Qaeda and other global jihadist movements have come out of relative hibernation to praise Hamas and call for jihadist violence everywhere. We are already seeing the fruit of their efforts in the recent stabbing attack in Paris.

With Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu politically weakened, perhaps fatally, by the October 7 security failure, only the war is keeping him in power. But that means the US has an opportunity to end the bloodshed and sideline the extremists at the same time. Just as the Yom Kippur War created an opening for peace, the current Gaza war could allow the conflict to be reframed. For years, polls in Israel and the Palestinian territories have indicated that significant percentages of both populations would support resolving the conflict, should the chance arise. By the same token, Hamas has never enjoyed majority support, and it tends to gain in popularity only during periods of violence.

Of course, reaching a peace settlement will be painful, requiring huge sacrifices by both Israelis and Palestinians. It would certainly involve dismantling Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as giving up on the dream of a Palestinian state "from the river to the sea." But as agonizing as such concessions may be to some parties, they are ultimately details in the larger picture. Those on both sides who want peace have long known what needs to be done.

President Joe Biden's administration stands to gain immensely by making it clear to Israel what its strategic goal ought to be, what it stands to gain from peace, and what America's own overriding strategic imperatives in the region are. Domestically and internationally, Biden will benefit from reasserting America's standing as the only country that can help resolve this conflict.

Saudi Arabia's support in the effort also will be crucial, given its clout in the Arab and Muslim worlds, and its own repeated attempts to draft a roadmap for full regional peace. The recent Islamic-Arab Summit in Riyadh showcased the Kingdom's convening power, and the final communiqué illustrated that none of Iran's radical demands - such as its call for an oil embargo - were taken seriously. Instead, signatories reiterated the importance of the two-state solution for the umpteenth time.

The Gaza war presents the US and governments across the Middle East with an opportunity to end Hamas and Iran's cynical project of perpetual conflict and chaos. But it can be seized only by stopping Israel from expelling the Palestinians from Gaza, and by providing both sides with hope for a peaceful resolution to a conflict that has gone on for too long and at too great a cost for too many people.

France, a pioneer in ecological transition

The 2015 Paris Agreement generated immense hope regarding the development and the protection of humanity balanced with a low-carbon, resource-based global economy. France is behind this historic success. Our collective responsibility is to preserve this achievement and make it thrive.

France intends to develop green reindustrialization. At the Choose France summit in 2023, more than half of the investments announced will enable France to administer the equipment production value chain in the renewable and low-carbon energy sectors (wind, photovoltaic, nuclear and batteries), as well as in electric vehicles.

France was behind the historic success of the Paris Agreement: our collective responsibility is to preserve this achievement and make it flourish.

Innovating, industrializing and deploying decarbonization solutions

France 2030 makes decarbonization of the economy a major priority, devoting some 5.6 billion euros to decarbonizing industry and an additional €3.5 billion to becoming a leader in low-carbon hydrogen and developing cutting-edge renewable energy technologies.

How? By ensuring the emergence of a competitive and innovative French contribution to low-carbon, eco-friendly solutions, and by supporting companies' investments in decarbonization while reducing their dependency on fossil fuels, as well as by training more young people and professionals in jobs related to the ecological transition.

Furthermore, among the announced target of 100 French unicorns by 2030, 25 of them will have to be "green."

(10) OCDE, <https://www.oecd.org/fr/social/depenses.htm>,
(11) Eurostat.

France, the most livable country

France offers a comfortable quality of life to those who live there, with easy access to healthcare, strong social protection, an efficient education system, and cultural activities.

This environment is partly financed by public expenditure, without impacting residents' income and standard of living.

Another facet of a country's quality of life is the education and collective care of young children. An efficient education system signals a determined commitment to future generations.

The level of social protection a country offers its residents takes many forms: family allowances, paid leave, housing allowances, unemployment insurance, etc. In France, public expenditure on social protection stood at 31.6% of GDP in 2022, ranking first among OECD countries.⁽¹⁰⁾

Finally, in 2021, France devoted public expenditure to an equivalent of 1.4% of its GDP to culture, leisure time and faiths⁽¹¹⁾ more than the EU 27 average (1.2% of GDP).

MARKET ICONIC

CHOOSE FRANCE

Foreign investors are attracted by the French innovation ecosystem.

Enticed by this ecosystem and by international opportunities, many companies invested in research and development in France in 2022:

LARSEN & TOUBRO

The subsidiary of the Indian group L&T opened an engineering and R&D center in Toulouse, with 50 recruitments planned initially, followed by about 100 more in the next 3 years for an investment of approximately 2 million euros. The objective of this center is to support the group's clients in the aerospace industry, in France and elsewhere in Europe.

LIBERTY COM SYSTEMS

This Tunisian startup has developed innovative solutions technologically and operationally oriented towards telecommunications. For its development, it has chosen to set up its operational holding company in Nice, the main reason being the particularly strong telecom-related ecosystem surrounding startups as well as proximity to Tunisia. LCS's objective is to spread its international activity from France, starting with Europe. It has just completed its first round of fundraising (up to 3 million euros, with plans to create 26 jobs over the next three years).

The efficiency of the French people blends well with their ingenuity and creativity.

In 2022, French researchers filed more than 7,700 patents (2nd among European countries),⁽⁸⁾ in all fields of innovation: automotive to biotechnology, textile to nuclear.

If creative talent is cultivated to this level, it is because it offers excellent industrial perspectives: France is behind the invention of "clusters," talent hubs bringing together research institutes and companies to create the solutions of tomorrow.

INTEL

In March 2022, the American giant announced its intention to build its new European R&D hub in France, creating 1,000 high-tech jobs primarily on the Saclay Plateau in the next 10 years. France will become Intel's European headquarters for R&D in high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence. Innovation in these disciplines will benefit a wide range of industries, including the automotive sector, agriculture, green energy, new drug development, genomics, life sciences and security – significantly improving the lives of every European. In addition, Intel plans to establish the primary European design center for its foundry business in France. It will offer design services and guarantees to industrial partners as well as to French, European and global customers.

France has a results-oriented culture as well as ambitious and sustained innovation endeavors. International companies will find key partners here to nurture new projects.

France is home to one of the most dynamic innovation ecosystems in the world, and represents the EU's leading innovative power. It has more than 20,000 startups, including 29 unicorns to date, with a goal of reaching 100 French unicorns by 2030 set by the President of France.

France has confirmed the strength of its tech ecosystem: 11.9 billion euros were raised in 2022 through 358 operations in the sector, with average tickets of 33 million euros.⁽⁹⁾

(8) Economic attractiveness Dashboard, Business France, July 2023
(9) KPMG, Tech Insights 2022

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Law School Dean decries lack of salary payment for law professors

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Dean of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, Dr. Jallah A. Barbu has decried the lack of salary payment and wages of professors at the

approximately one year plus, some professors at the law school have been teaching and impacting knowledge without being paid salaries by the government and the university.

According to him, despite not being paid, these professors

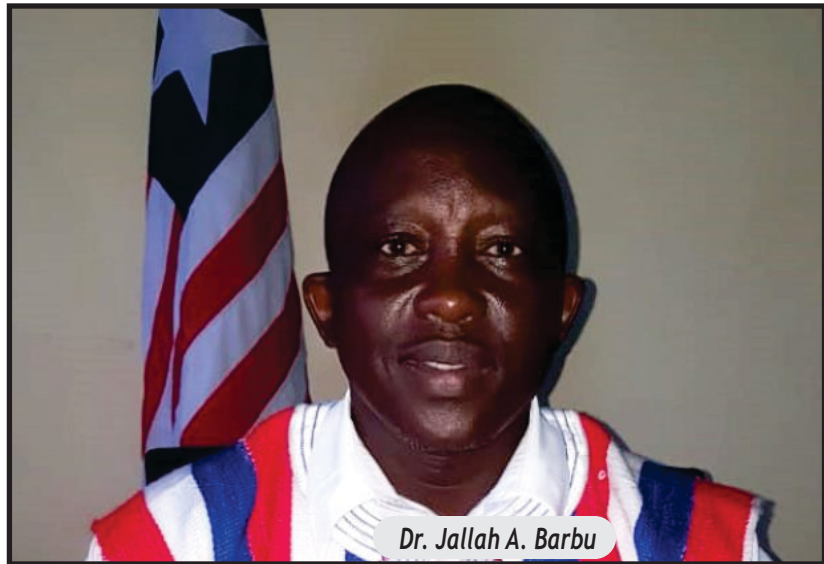
"Yet, they are making the sacrifice. This is not an easy thing to do and so, I want you all to kindly join me and congratulate and thank them for the job they are doing and the immense sacrifices they are making," Dr. Barbu added.

Over the weekend, hundreds of lawyers including law professors, students as well as members of the diplomatic community converged in Ganta for the LNBA convention.

The program was held at a local guest house in the county and well attended under the theme: Maintaining the peace post-election through adherence to the rule of law.

Dean Barbu disclosed that these professors produce their own sheets and use their offices and everything else to teach and make research.

"I want to say to them, thank you very much because I know we couldn't have reached where we are without your sacrifice," he noted. At the same time, Dean Barbu expressed excitement and appreciation for being recognized (Law School) and participating in the LNBA activities. He urged the LNBA to make itself visible at the Law School.



Dr. Jallah A. Barbu

institution for more than a year plus by the Government of Liberia.

Cllr. Barbu lamented the lack of salary for law professors during a brief remark at the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) program on Friday, 8 December 2023 in Ganta City, Nimba County.

Dean Barbu said for

in the midst of such challenges, execute their duties with integrity, and effectiveness, saying they should be extolled and congratulated for that.

"Let me inform you that most of our professors at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia have not been paid for more than a year at the University of Liberia," said Cllr. Barbu.

NEC certifies incoming lawmakers

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has certificated 73 winners out of 88 winners of the 10 October 2023 legislative elections.

The Commission held the certification ceremony Friday, 8 December 2023 at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

During the program, NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the Commission was certificating winners of the Senatorial and Representative elections held in the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia.

The NEC Boss said the winners of the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election will be certificated at a later date.

She said the winner of the presidential run-off has officially informed the Commission of his absence from the country.

Madam Browne Lansanah said the remaining 15 winners of the representative and senatorial elections will be certificated following the completion of cases arising from the conduct of the elections.

On behalf of the Commission, Madam Browne Lansanah thanked the Government of Liberia for its unwavering and sustained support of the electoral process.

She also thanked all the political parties, independent candidates, and all those who participated in the election.

She also thanked the NEC's temporary and permanent staff who spent tireless hours to ensure that the 10 October 2023 elections were conducted as prescribed by law.

Additionally, she thanked the Ministry of Justice and the chair of the national steering committee under whose direction the Joint Security worked to ensure a good environment for the conduct of

the elections.

Speaking on behalf of the representatives, Deputy House Speaker Fonati Koffa said the day of their certification began a transition from one democratic government to another.

He thanked the Almighty God for his grace and blessing upon the country.

He also thanked the National Elections Commission for the mature, smooth, and transparent election conducted.

The certification program was graced by representatives from the United Nations Liberia, ECOWAS, Election Coordinating Committee, National Steering Committee on the 2023 Elections, National Civil Society Organization, and Monrovia Community Mass Choir.



CDC betrayed me

-Senator Amara Konneh

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Gbarpolu County Senator-elect Amara Konneh has revealed how he rejected an opportunity to serve as Vice running mate to President George Weah on the ticket of the Coalition for Democratic Change in 2017 (CDC) something he said could have led to a complete disaster in the country if he had not managed his ambition for power, when the offer came to him 2017.

Speaking at his residence in Congo Town Friday, 8 November shortly after he received his certification as Gbarpolu County Senator-elect, the former Finance Minister said he declined the opportunity because he didn't want to betray former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, for whom he had worked for over the years, regarding her as his political

continued that he had informed the CDC, to get Madam Sirleaf's consultation, and if she agreed he could consider their offer. "I said no because, in life, you got to manage your ambitions. So, I told them to go to the old ma, and if she agreed, I will consider; they went and held the meeting, saying they wanted to produce the First Muslim Vice President, and my people here will ask why I rejected the opportunity because in Life you got to manage your ambition, I didn't want to be greedy and cause disaster, allow my friends, my family to suffer," Konneh, intoned. According to him, he was in Washington D.C, when Madam Sirleaf called him "and said what I make of the offer and I should come down, so we could discuss. Therefore, per her instructions, I came from Washington, and she explained to me what the offer was, that she was leaving the picture as President and the future of this country would last in our hands."



Gbarpolu County Senator-elect Amara Konneh

mother, and a person he had worked so hard for setting up all her administration policies and programs, so he couldn't be a betrayal of her trust.

"In 2017, I supported the CDC and I was supposed to be President George Weah's Vice President; my good friend, Nathaniel McGill, and President Weah came here and asked me to be his vice-running mate and I said no, because I didn't want to be a betrayal," Konneh disclosed. He explained how he met with the CDC leader at his Rehab home in Paynesville, and in the meeting, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) persuaded him to become Vice Presidential Candidate to Mr. Weah, to remove current Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel-Howard-Taylor, but he persistently rejected their plea. "I met with President Weah, and he said Konneh, you are good; come let's work together, come and be my Vice President because you're clever and have the potential and I said No" because I couldn't betray Madam Sirleaf." Konneh

In furtherance, the former Finance Minister explained how he rejected the CDC request because he didn't want calamity," saying that when Madam Sirleaf asked me, Konneh, my son, why you wouldn't want this offer and I told her Mommy, the man who you entrusted and did all your programs to go stand at the ATS, Voijama, Tubmanburg and condemned you, abuse you and she said no" so I told her those people are opposition and their work is to oppose and condemn, therefore, I wouldn't be part of it to castigate and betray you", he narrates. The newly certificated senator highlighted another reason why he refused the offer because he didn't want to go against the women of Liberia, and to break the Bong County tie with the CDC, something, he said could have led to consequences.

"I didn't want to go against women, because the woman who is there, Jewel, if they remove her and put me there, the women of Liberia will get vexed and I

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

30 percent of children are malnourished

-- Ministry of Health reveals

By Naneka A. Hoffman
 A demographic health survey conducted by the Ministry of Health has revealed that 30 percent of children under the

age of five years are malnourished. The Director of Nutrition at the Ministry of Health, Annette Davis said over 37,000 children under five are stunting and are

malnutrition are multiple because most of the food that is eaten here is imported.

"To add insult to injury, teenage pregnancy is on the increase as babies giving birth to babies without adequate preparation to take care of children," she noted.

However, she stated that over 32 percent of the teenagers are getting pregnant, coupled with poor care and feeding practices for some of the children.

She said the window for avoiding malnutrition is the first 1,000 days which is from birth to two years.

According to her, in Liberia, child feeding practice is very poor.

In remarks, the National Coordinator of the Stepping Up Nutrition Campaign in Liberia, Augustine Musah, assured the FAO of the government's commitment to combating malnutrition in Liberia.

The training was facilitated by the International Nutrition Data Analyst from the UNFOA head offices in Rome, Italy. It brought together data collectors from the 15 sub-political divisions in Liberia.

Cameroonian Ambassador prescribes variables for genuine peace

Cameroonian Ambassador to Liberia and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps here, Beng'yela A. Gang recommends significant variables to the Government of Liberia and the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) for achieving genuine national peace and stability. Delivering the keynote address at the LNBA convention in Nimba County over the weekend on the topics: Maintaining peace, post-election through adherence to the rule of law", Amb. Gang noted that adherence to the rule of law alone is not enough to maintain peace and stability.

"The topic on which we speak today: "Maintaining the peace post-election through adherence to the rule of law" is chosen by lawyers and so, naturally, it conveys a bias in

call in Cameroon, "Le vivre ensemble" or a kind of "live and let live" when our societies seek peace and social harmony" He explains. Accordingly, he adds that these aspirations indeed are socioeconomic and cultural priorities and values that normally seek to be encapsulated by laws and regulations.

He believes that these complementary humanistic variables are critical as the enacted, mechanical artifices of the law and the rule of law in ensuring peace. The Ambassador underscores the combination that exists between sociological aspiration and legal enactment piloted by legislature, the Judiciary, and of course watched over by a vigilant and buoyant Bar Association that Liberians must, in their search for peace and progress now put their trust in this post-election period.

"In doing so", he says, "society must remain extremely pro-active and self-proactive on the international diplomatic scene, since the late 1940s, gives us reason to learn and preach such cautions. Since 1948, the rule of law and Human Rights instruments seem to have put more and increasing, focus on civil and political rights. In this manner, such political aspects as the right to vote, freedom of expression, freedom to demonstrate against political institutions, etc seem to have claimed predominance to the detriment of other proclaimed people-center, socio-economic and cultural rights such as the rights to Education, housing, employment, and health."

He notes that even in the Human Rights Council, some critics have perceived an unavowed hierarchy of rights in what should ordinarily be balanced corpus of equally desirable and truly universal Human Rights Priorities. At the same time, speaking on the Liberian elections, Ambassador Gang notes that as the present convention of the LNBA is in the wake of the excellently organized and happily concluded 2023 Liberia Presidential and legislative elections, he commends Liberia for the manifestation of wisdom, and tolerance that was showcased to the world during the election.

According to him, the creditability of Liberia's political management and social harmony has climbed quite a few notches up the ladder of contemporary, comparative analysis due to 10 October and 14 November 2023.



Cameroonian Ambassador to Liberia

favor of the supremacy of the power and role of the rule of law in a matter as complex and cross-cutting as the maintenance of peace in any society whether post-election or otherwise. Permit me to, therefore, holistically approach while still aiming for the same assigned target" he stated.

According to the Cameroonian envoy, to infer that the quest for and maintenance of peace is such a complex and mercurial goal that the sole reliance on the rule of law alone might not be quite enough in every circumstance to ensure success.

He further indicates that his aim is not to underestimate the value of the law while speaking to lawyers and at a convention.

"My aim is merely to insistently propose that the constant pursuit or provisions of other virtues and human needs such as mutual tolerance, civic education, patriotism, inclusive development, health, and, employment must accompany the rule of law in any credible endeavor to achieve genuine national peace. It's the expression of the respect which must be accorded to what we



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 MINISTRY OF HEALTH

age of five years are malnourished. The Director of Nutrition at the Ministry of Health, Annette Davis said over 37,000 children under five are stunting and are

mapping data collection enumerators organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Monrovia.

Madam Annette Davis said she knows that the causes of

Koijee makes US sanctions list

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designated for being a foreign person who is responsible for or complicit in, or who has directly or indirectly engaged in serious human rights abuse.

OFAC said Koijee is being designated for being a foreign person who is a current or former government official, or a person acting for or on behalf of such an official, who is responsible for or complicit in, or who has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets. It accused Koijee if being complicit or responsible

for the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery pursuant to E.O. 13818.

The U.S. has accused Koijee of inciting violence while maintaining control over paramilitary-style organizations associated with the CDC. The U.S. said these groups under Koijee's control are said to be actively recruiting former combatants and released prisoners.

It detailed that there is credible information

suggesting that Koijee instructed them to violently disrupt government critics' demonstrations and political opposition activities.

The Treasury's move is not just a punitive measure; it reflects a commitment to addressing these issues and commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The press release emphasized the importance of upholding fundamental human rights principles on a global scale, signalling a broader dedication to promoting justice and accountability.

CDC betrayed me

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didn't want it. Secondly, she's from Bong County and Bong County is a big county here, connected to almost every part of Liberia - Gbarpolu, Lofa, Bassa, and even Montserrado. So, if you take their daughter from there, they'll get vexed and say you've removed their daughter and put your son there, because you have done bad and want me to protect you, which isn't true and the people of Bong County will move from behind the party, while CDCians will get mad and

burnt down our houses, even kill us, and our supporters will retaliate, and there will be casualties, which isn't the right way to get power," Konneh, explained.

According to him, despite his rejection, he still supported the CDC and ensured that they were successful during the 2017 Presidential election.

"I supported them, I helped with strategies, we generated funding and we won the election, but when they got power, CDC betrayed me; they treated me wrongly."

He slams the Weah-led government for being ungrateful and abusive of power, using it to denigrate the Unity Party and the Ellen Johnson- Sirleaf- led regime, then rather focusing on what they could do for Liberia.

"We thought that the children from the slum communities, the poor people children when we give them power in this country, they could think of where they came from and bring development, but they betrayed us and tried to use all of the six years given them to denigrate us," Konneh asserted.

Français

L'IJG critique la Chambre des Représentants pour avoir adopté une loi controversée sur l'avortement

Au cours de la 54e législature du Libéria, les membres de la Chambre des Représentants ont été

2023, alors que le Libéria se préparait pour le second tour des élections présidentielles prévu le 14 novembre 2023. Le groupe Justice Internationale (IJG),

Selon Cllr. Verdier, le projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande" est perçu comme une tentative du gouvernement libérien de mettre en œuvre



vivement critiqués pour avoir voté en faveur d'un projet de loi intitulé "Avortement à la Demande", actuellement en attente d'approbation par le Sénat. Cette législation vise à légaliser l'avortement au Libéria, une rupture radicale par rapport au cadre juridique existant qui considère l'avortement comme illégal et passible de sanctions légales.

Cette décision a été prise peu de temps avant la clôture des travaux de la Chambre le 1er novembre

dont le siège se trouve à Washington, DC, a rapidement condamné le projet de loi, le qualifiant de préjudiciable pour le Libéria. Dans une déclaration publiée le 6 novembre, Cllr. Jerome J. Verdier, directeur exécutif de l'IJG, a exprimé fermement son désaccord, déclarant : "Nous condamnons catégoriquement cette initiative et dénonçons les pratiques de corruption visant à influencer et à compromettre le processus décisionnel de la législature nationale et du pouvoir exécutif, tout en ignorant l'intérêt public du peuple libérien."

son engagement à légaliser et à institutionnaliser l'agenda LGBTQ (Lesbiennes, Gays, Bisexuels, Transgenres). Cet engagement a été pris lorsque le ministre des Affaires étrangères du Libéria a autorisé la signature d'une résolution lors du Sommet des Leaders États-Unis-Afrique, s'engageant à soutenir les modes de vie et les agendas LGBTQ.

Cllr. Verdier a soulevé des préoccupations selon lesquelles la loi adoptée par la Chambre vise principalement à introduire une "éducation

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Les médias exhortés à promouvoir la paix avant le second tour de l'élection présidentielle

Le gouvernement du Libéria a exhorté les institutions médiatiques du pays à continuer de promouvoir la culture de la paix et de l'unité alors que la nation se prépare pour le second tour de l'élection présidentielle qui aura lieu le mardi 14 novembre.

Dans un communiqué publié lundi, le ministre de l'Information, Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, a mis en garde les médias contre la diffusion de messages contraires à la paix sur leurs plateformes, y compris les menaces de guerre, qui, selon lui, sont devenues une pratique de certains politiciens pour renforcer les chances de leur camp.

Le chef du MICAT a déclaré qu'il incombait aux médias, en tant que l'un des piliers fondamentaux de la démocratie, de toujours promouvoir la paix tout en respectant les normes de qualité du journalisme.

"Les médias libériens devraient accorder plus d'attention aux questions de politique prônées par les partis et les candidats politiques", a souligné le ministre Rennie.

Il a également appelé les médias à éviter la tentation de diffuser de fausses informations et de la désinformation, qui proviennent souvent des plateformes de médias sociaux et créent la panique dans le public,

conduisant à la violence ou à la perte de vies humaines.

Le ministre a déclaré que le gouvernement libérien était principalement axé sur le maintien de la paix chèrement acquise par le pays, tout en consolidant ses acquis démocratiques.

"Les prochaines élections ne sont qu'une compétition

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Éditorial

Travailler de concert pour le bien commun

Lors d'une session de travail le vendredi 24 novembre, le président George Manneh Weah a exhorté les responsables de l'Équipe conjointe de transition présidentielle (JPTT) à faire preuve d'honnêteté et d'amour pour le pays dans leurs délibérations afin d'assurer un transfert de pouvoir en douceur de son administration au président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et son équipe.

"Aujourd'hui, nous sommes sur le point de passer ce bâton symbolique à un autre dirigeant démocratiquement élu, marquant un autre chapitre important de notre parcours démocratique ; assurons-nous d'un transfert de pouvoir efficace, efficient et sans heurts au président élu Boakai et à son équipe", a exhorté le président Weah.

Cet appel démontre véritablement l'engagement indéfectible de M. Weah à assurer une transition en douceur, ce qui lui a valu de nombreuses admirations à travers le monde et a mis le Libéria sous les feux de la rampe pour toutes les bonnes raisons.

L'icône du football devenue homme politique entrera dans l'histoire en tant que le premier président africain de l'histoire récente à reconnaître sa défaite et à féliciter son principal rival même avant l'annonce des résultats définitifs par la Commission électorale nationale.

Les membres et partisans de sa sortie de la Coalition pour le Changement démocratique (CDC) peinent encore à digérer et à accepter la qualité du piédestal démocratique que leur porte-étendard a établi pour le Libéria, et il ne peut y avoir de retour en arrière.

Le leader a parlé et doit pénétrer l'esprit des CDCiens que le pouvoir n'appartient pas à un parti politique particulier ou au gouvernement, mais au peuple. Ainsi, chaque fois que le peuple décide lors d'une élection de qui devrait gouverner ses affaires pour lui permettre de jouir de la paix, de la prospérité et du bonheur, il ne reste rien d'autre que d'obéir.

C'est dans cette optique que le président Weah exhorte les membres de la JPTT à donner la priorité et à se concentrer sur l'intérêt national plutôt que sur des intérêts égoïstes, en plaçant le bien général du peuple libérien au premier plan dans leurs délibérations sur la voie du transfert de pouvoir en janvier 2024. En d'autres termes, il s'agit de moments de bilan et de rapports appropriés plutôt que de ce que certains pourraient considérer comme une opportunité de dernière minute pour piller ce qui reste des coffres nationaux pour s'enrichir et partir.

Mais M. Weah a informé les membres de la JPTT que les réalisations démocratiques de son administration ont établi une norme nouvelle et enviable, non seulement pour le Libéria, mais pour l'Afrique et la communauté mondiale, affirmant que "en reconnaissant gracieusement et en félicitant le président élu Boakai avant le décompte final, nous avons également gagné une reconnaissance et une admiration mondiales."

C'est tellement vrai et c'est la principale raison pour laquelle rien ne doit être fait et personne ne doit être autorisé à rendre la route de la transition cahoteuse. Un atterrissage en douceur de la nouvelle administration portera ses fruits, et nous devons nous efforcer de le réaliser, car comme le souligne le président Weah, cette réalisation monumentale est une victoire non seulement pour une entité politique mais pour tous les Libériens et l'ensemble du pays.

Français

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L'IJG critique la Chambre des

sexuelle" auprès des jeunes et des enfants libériens, les incitant ainsi à adopter le mode de vie LGBTQ. Cette loi encourage les individus à envisager un changement de genre comme un droit, leur permettant de passer d'un genre à l'autre, tout en promouvant les agendas LGBTQ et le mariage entre personnes de même sexe dans le pays. L'IJG estime que, bien que l'avortement soit considéré comme socialement immoral, culturellement répréhensible et religieusement condamnable au Libéria, offrir un accès illimité et gratuit à l'avortement sans limites ni restrictions n'est pas la réponse appropriée à ce problème.

Il a argumenté que l'agenda LGBTQ promu par le projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande" est encore plus problématique et pourrait potentiellement compromettre l'avenir et la prospérité de la nation libérienne. En tant que pays peu peuplé, le Libéria pourrait connaître une diminution de sa population, entraînant la perte de ses valeurs culturelles chères.

Clr. Verdier a souligné : "Le Sénat doit rejeter ce projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande", tel qu'il a été adopté par la Chambre des Représentants, et se concentrer plutôt sur un programme visant à promouvoir l'éducation à la santé sexuelle, en mettant en avant l'importance de la sexualité dans le cadre du mariage uniquement. Cette approche devrait décourager les relations sexuelles hors mariage tout en promouvant la chasteté, la moralité et les valeurs familiales traditionnelles qui ont depuis longtemps servi de base à la société libérienne."

Il a également noté que cette loi, considérée comme contraire aux intérêts du public libérien, est le résultat de fraudes, de la corruption et du non-respect des intérêts publics du Libéria et

de ses citoyens. Il a souligné que le contenu final de la loi, actuellement entouré de secret, contient plusieurs dispositions strictes, répréhensibles, immorales et impies, en contradiction avec les principes religieux chrétiens et islamiques, et donc en conflit avec les codes moraux sur lesquels la nation libérienne a été fondée, reconnaissant la suprématie de la direction et de l'autorité de Dieu sur le pays.

De plus, la loi "Avortement à la Demande" est perçue comme un élément de l'agenda de dépopulation de l'Afrique des Nations Unies d'ici 2030. Selon les experts en population et démographie, cela pourrait entraîner environ 40 000 décès par an au Libéria. Des allégations ont également émergé, suggérant que la Suède, divers autres pays européens et de nombreuses nations dans le monde ont dépensé d'importantes sommes d'argent pour influencer les membres de la législature libérienne et le Président Weah en vue de faire adopter ce projet de loi.

Actuellement, la loi sur l'avortement en vigueur au Libéria permet l'avortement dans certaines conditions, notamment en cas de danger pour la vie de la mère ou de l'enfant, en cas de viol, d'inceste ou d'autres actes moralement ou légalement répréhensibles, avec l'approbation d'au moins deux médecins.

Au début de l'année, un journal local a rapporté que plusieurs pays avaient approuvé une déclaration lors d'un sommet sur la démocratie organisé à Lusaka, en Zambie. Cependant, certains pays ont exprimé des réserves ou se sont dissociés de certaines parties de la déclaration, en particulier celles liées à l'"orientation sexuelle" et à d'autres questions de droits.

Le Libéria était représenté lors du sommet par son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Kemayen. Parmi les pays africains qui ont approuvé les 17 points de la déclaration du Sommet pour la Démocratie figurent le Libéria, le Sénégal, le Niger, l'île Maurice et le Botswana.

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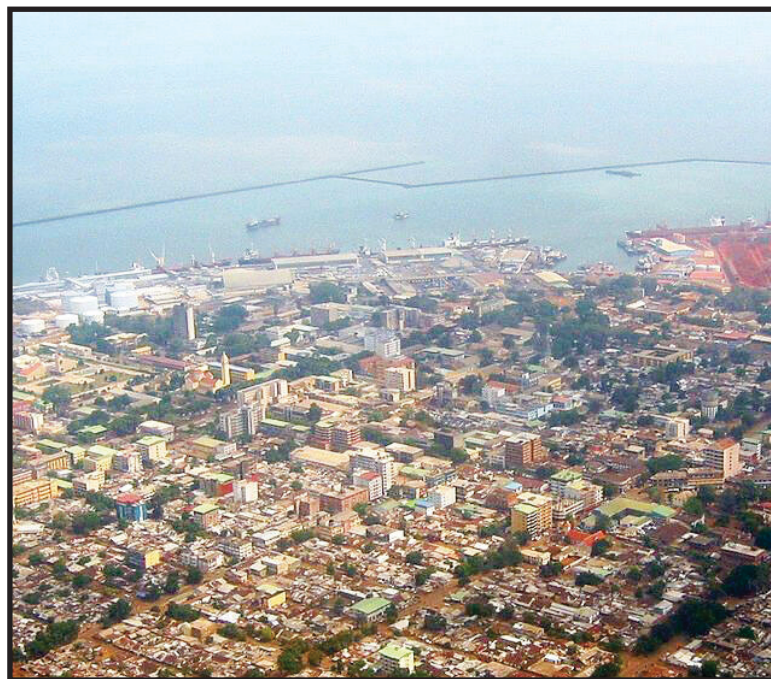
Les médias exhortés à

visant à choisir le président pour les six prochaines années et ne devraient pas conduire au chaos, comme certains acteurs politiques l'ont constamment prêché lors de leurs campagnes électorales."

Évoquant le message du président Weah adressé aux

médias libériens avant les élections du 10 octobre, le chef du MICAT a souligné que les yeux du monde seront rivés sur le Libéria, et la manière dont le Libéria est perçu et engagé après le second tour dépendra en grande partie de la façon dont les médias rendent compte de la situation.

Guinée : déploiement d'un important dispositif sécuritaire pour rechercher Claude Pivi



Pour mettre la main sur Claude Pivi, radié des effectifs de l'armée, dimanche 5 février au soir, les autorités guinéennes ne lésinent pas sur les moyens. Le militaire s'est évadé de prison samedi dernier après l'intervention d'un commando armé à la Maison centrale. Ses co-détenus, dont l'ancien président Moussa Dadis Camara, étaient également sortis de leur cellule, avant d'être rattrapés par les forces de l'ordre. Tous sont actuellement poursuivis dans le procès du massacre du 28 septembre 2009 qui avait causé la mort de plus de 150 personnes et le viol d'une centaine de femmes à Conakry.

Les forces de défense et de sécurité, appuyées par les forces spéciales d'unité d'élite de l'armée guinéenne, essentiellement composée de la Garde présidentielle, se sont déployées à la recherche du fugitif Claude Pivi. Ce lundi 6 novembre, du lever au coucher du soleil, un imposant dispositif militaire a été déployé dans les quartiers de Coléah, Mafanco et Madina au sud de la capitale. Les militaires ont procédé à des fouilles systématiques de plusieurs concessions, obligeant, par endroits, les commerçants à fermer leurs boutiques.

Ces quartiers, traditionnellement acquis à l'ancien président Alpha Condé, ont été soumis à un siège. Des dizaines de véhicules pick-up de l'armée ont traversé les ruelles boueuses de ces quartiers sous les regards,

à la fois inquiets et médusés, des populations.

Des habitants de ces quartiers ont indiqué avoir été surpris de voir cet impressionnant dispositif sécuritaire tout en ajoutant, même si ce n'est pas ouvertement dit, « ils sont ici à la recherche de Claude Pivi ».

« Claude Pivi ne peut pas venir se cacher chez nous, même si à un moment donné, il a travaillé avec le président Alpha Condé », dit Nanfadima Magassouba, commerçante du quartier de Mafanco.

Un octogénaire assis sous un acacia explique que ce déploiement militaire avec cet impressionnant arsenal « ne peut pas avoir raison de Pivi qui a une protection mystique ». Pour son compagnon s'exprimant en soussou, « Pivi s'est peut-être déjà transformé en chat noir ».

Poursuites judiciaires L'évasion rocambolesque de Claude Pivi et ses co-détenus a conduit à des affrontements armés samedi, au moins neuf personnes ont été tuées dans ces événements. Des faits pour lesquels les quatre détenus vont être poursuivis en justice. Sur ordre du parquet général, le procureur militaire du tribunal de première instance permanent de Conakry a en effet lancé des poursuites contre l'ex-chef de l'Etat Moussa Dadis Camara, ses deux anciens ministres, les colonels Moussa Tiegboro Camara et le fugitif Claude Pivi. Et aussi contre le quatrième co-détenu, le colonel Blaise Gomou. En plus des accusations de meurtres, viols, ou encore torture dans le procès du massacre du 28-Septembre, tous les quatre sont désormais poursuivis pour assassinats, homicide involontaire et complicité. Plusieurs autres personnes sont également poursuivies pour les mêmes faits et plusieurs autres sont visées pour abandon de poste et violation de consignes. Cela concernerait a priori les 58 officiers, soldats et agents pénitentiaires radiés de l'armée et des forces de sécurité, suite aux événements de ce week-end.

Révélation choquante dévoile un prétendu complot visant à saper la réélection de Dr Bhofal Chambers



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Un enregistrement vocal accablant a refait surface, mettant en lumière un complot présumé visant à contrecarrer la tentative de réélection du président de la Chambre des représentants, le Dr Bhofal Chambers, en tant que représentant du district de Pleebo Sodoken, comté de Maryland.

L'aveu compromettant aurait été fait par une figure clé au sein de la Commission électorale nationale (CEN), Cece Munah Nimely, qui a exercé les fonctions de superviseur

électoral dans le district de Pleebo Sodoken lors des élections législatives et présidentielles. Dans l'audio divulgué, Mlle Nimely a avoué sa participation à un complot anti-électoral organisé contre le Dr Bhofal Chambers.

"Je vais voler des bulletins de vote puisque les gens ne savent pas comment voter. Alors mon attention était, je lui ai remis les bulletins de vote et il les a donnés aux gens", a-t-elle révélé.

Mlle Nimely a ensuite expliqué que le sinistre plan avait été élaboré en réponse à l'avance substantielle du Dr Bhofal Chambers dans la région de Pleebo et ses environs. Les conspirateurs avaient l'intention de bourrer les urnes à Old Sodoken, retardant davantage le dépouillement des résultats pour exécuter leur complot.

De manière choquante, Mlle Nimely a admis avoir soutenu une demande visant à manipuler l'élection en faveur d'Anthony Williams, en violation directe des lois électorales du Libéria. Elle prétendait que l'autorité incontestée du cartel lui avait permis de mettre en œuvre de manière unilatérale ce plan néfaste pour saper la volonté du peuple.

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ARTICLE

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Commentary: How to solve societal problems

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

The Birthday, like any occasion, provides an opportunity for me to continue to share my knowledge with as many persons as possible in ways that can motivate people to take nonviolent actions to change their living conditions for the better.

My 80th Birthday, which falls on Saturday, July 17, 2021, provides me with such an opportunity. This is the reason for my writing this Commentary on How to Solve Societal Problems. In trying to solve any societal problem, it is always best to start with yourself because you are a part of the society and when your part of the problem, no matter how big, gets solved, the societal problem becomes less difficult to solve.

This way of solving problems also tells us about the credibility of persons who talk about societal problems. When a person uses this approach to solve problems, he or she is credible. But when a person attempts to solve problems by blaming other persons or entities, then the person is not credible and is just talking to gain attention for the sake of attention.

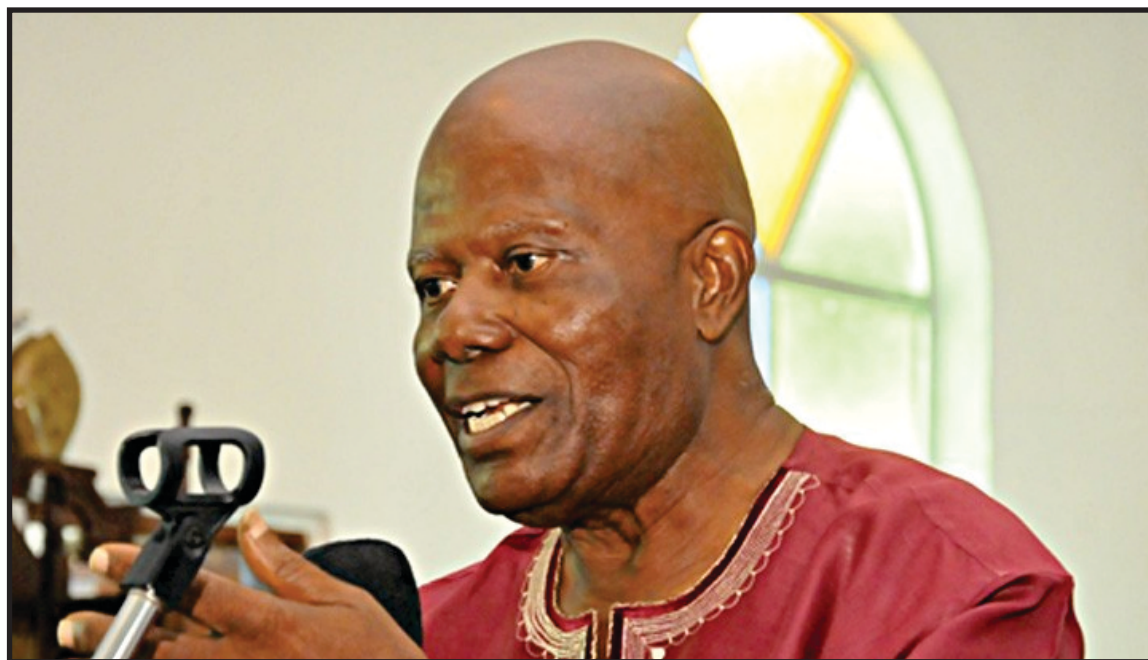
So, I am starting with myself to show how I have managed to solve problems over the years. My Grand Parents and Parents taught me the lesson about how good it is to go to school. They also taught me that learning out of school is very important because we spend a lot of time out of school. We spend only six hours in school during the twenty-four hour-day that we have. Furthermore, they taught me that most Liberians were illiterate but were educated because they were driven by Liberian culture rather than some foreign culture, thereby enabling them to solve many Liberian problems. There is this expression in Kraowihn, wrongly called Kru, which says that Nyihnpportay geepo chehdehdeh keh ee say torh kon, meaning that some persons know book but they do not have sense. The State managers have this opinion about the illiterate people, explaining why there is no democracy in Liberia because illiterate people, who comprise the majority of the people of Liberia, are not allowed to exercise their constitutional rights to participate in national decision-making that affects them. Most women in Liberia are treated likewise, as State managers and other men consider them to be useful only in the bedroom and in the kitchen.

From this learning about schooling, I went to Saint Patrick's School on Snapper Hill, Ashmun Street, Monrovia, where I graduated in 1955 from the Elementary Section. Then I went to the College of West Africa (CWA) on the same Ashmun Street in 1956. While playing football for CWA, my leg got broken. My Mother, Mrs. Victoria Geena Wreh Kai Roberts, had told me not to play football on that day, But I ran away and went to play football. I begged her for forgiveness, which she gave me. Upon my leg getting healed, I began catching tennis balls at the Sports Commission on Broad Street, Monrovia to earn some money to help my Parents to buy some school supplies, With the help of Mr. Leo Eastman, I learned to play tennis, the game of rich persons, and became National Tennis Champion and Team Captain, retiring undefeated after thirty years (1964 to 1994). On the Team, I managed to perform a unifying function by having rubber tappers' children and rich persons' children to play together on one Team, raising the name of Liberia at home and abroad. In 1959, I graduated from CWA with some well-known classmates, such as Wokie Tolbert (Tubman), Daughter of former President William Tolbert, Carney Johnson, Brother of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Alumnae of CWA, and Baldwin Banks, Brother of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Phillip Banks. Many persons were wondering how come I got into CWA, well known to be the school for rich persons' children. Well, my Grand Father, Reverend Charles Geena Wreh Duncan, being a Methodist Preacher, appealed to the Authority of CWA, a Methodist School, and his appeal was granted for his grandchildren to go to CWA.

In an effort to pursue higher education, I took a competitive exam for 200 students seeking foreign scholarships to attend school in the United States of America (USA). When the results from the exam were published, only eight persons were accepted and my name was not on the list. One of the Examiners saw my Father, Mr. Samuel Korwreh Duwree Togba Roberts, and congratulated him for my good performance on

the exam that got me in the scholarship group. When my Father told me about what the Examiner said, I engaged in my first public protest by sitting on the sidewalk near the Executive Mansion where former President William Tubman worked and lived. Upon seeing me there, Mrs. Tubman asked me why I was sitting there. I replied telling her about my name not being on the scholarship list. Then she told me to return to see her on the next day. When I returned on the next day, she told me that my had been placed on the list, based on her intervention, pointing out that I had earned the spot through my performance on the exam. What had happened was that the Secretary (now Minister) of Education removed my name from the list and replaced me with his son. I have thanked Mrs. Tubman privately and publicly for her kind and timely intervention.

Now that I had the foreign scholarship, I went to study Economics at Ohio University (OU), Athens, Ohio, United States of America (USA) in 1960. With my academic scholarship, I earned an athletic scholarship from my playing on the OU Tennis Team. As I did not have to go off campus for any vacation job and stayed in school, I was able to earn my Bachelor's Degree in less than four years by 1963. Interestingly enough, as the USA was a white racist country, I had a white roommate named David Lyons. I introduced David to his Wife Mrs. Haruko Nomoto Lyons from Japan at a Foreign Students Program. David has now become Dr. David Lyons, an outstanding Geologist. Also, I had a white dormitory mate, Les Lefevre, who later became Dr. Les Lefevre, an outstanding Medical Doctor, who has also become an outstanding Painter on account of his paintings of the Wild West of the USA.



Then I went to Ohio State University in the Summer of 1964 to pursue the Master's Degree in Economics, which I completed in 1964. Thereafter, I returned to Liberia, where I taught at the University of Liberia while I worked at the National Planning Agency. Through the intervention of the Harvard University Advisory Team, to the Agency, headed by Professor of Economics Dr. Elliot Berg, I qualified for the Harvard University-United Nations Special Fund Fellowship in Development Economics under the Center of International Affairs (CIA) at Harvard

University. In a joking mood, I told some persons that I was a CIA Fellow and they began to avoid me, thinking that I worked for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA.

Under the Fellowship, I studied at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), guided by Professor of Economics Dr. Robert Clark of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Through the intervention of Dr. Clark, I went to the University of Nebraska, where I worked as a Teaching Assistant, while pursuing the Doctorate in Economics, under the guidance of Professor of Economics Dr. Wallace Peterson. At Nebraska, I was able to earn enough money to get my Sister Nmuna to come to the USA to study at Western College in Ohio. She finished college and married her American Boyfriend, Tony Harris. They have three children. Tony is a successful Real Estate Developer with his company, Krao Construction Company. Thirsty for advanced education, my Sister earned her Doctorate Degree in Health Science at the age of 65, writing on the subject of Diabetes Management.

In 1969, at the age of 27, I earned my Doctorate Degree in Economics, writing the Dissertation Negative Income Taxation and Work Effort, A Quantitative Analysis with Implications for Poverty Alleviation. The Senior Advisor on Poverty Alleviation to the President of the USA, Dr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, showed considerable interest in my doctoral research in the wake of the longstanding and widespread debate on Lifting Up Oneself by the Bootstrap, with inadequate quantitative data. Therefore. It should come as no surprise that I stayed in the USA after my studies for one year to serve as an Advisor to the Poverty Alleviation Program under the Office of Economic Opportunity of the USA Presidency. This work took me to San Francisco, California, where I lived and worked among the poor people in Hunters Point and Western Addition., through the Economic Opportunities Council of San Francisco. Given the fact that the poor people of the USA, especially African Americans were still experiencing mental torture at the hands of white racism in the USA, it became a matter of highest priority to develop a Program for elimination such torture. Therefore, my work involved making contacts with Movie Producers in Hollywood, California to arrange the production of some morally uplifting films where African American were not going to be depicted as slaves, cotton pickers, waiters, and

CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

“Sheer stupidity”

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

person must have been judged and found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction.

He said in the absence of a trial and a guilty verdict one cannot stop an elected official from taking his or her seat based on an alleged crime.

Tweahway and Pal former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel

“I’ve never been convicted of the crime and nobody has Judged me, “ and therefore, I will assume my seat, and work to develop my county, and there’s no law to back that,” Tweahway, averred.

Nicknamed the “Elephant,” Tweahway indicated his preparedness to go to court if anyone decides to go beyond the root of the matter.

“I’m ready to go to court if anyone decides to take issue. But I haven’t been convicted and will take my seat. Until I’m found guilty after facing prosecution, I’m the Senator of Rivercess County,” he said.

“Rivercess is underdeveloped, and we are going to the senate to help develop Rivercess as part of our commitment to our roots. As we did in Montserrado County Electoral District # 3 as Representative back then, building the first senior high-school, a Townhall, Public Latrines, among several other developments, “we’ve come with that same expertise to help develop Rivercess,” Tweahway adds.

Bill Tweahway, who served as Montserrado County District # 3 Representative from 2011 to 2017, is returning to the Capitol Building, in a second tenure, this time as a senator in the upper- house, with the noose of corruption allegation and a US designee hanging around his neck. Tweahway and other Ex-officials including Nathaniel Falo McGill, Margibi County Senator-elect and former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, and former Solicitor General Cllr. Cyrenius Cyphus, were in August 2022, sanctioned for their involvement in public corruption by the United States Treasury Department-*Edited by Othello B. Garblah.*



Senator-elect Bill Tweahway

Mr. Tweahway, a designee of the United States Treasury Department for alleged siphoning of public funds was elected alongside other US sanction officials as Senators in the October 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections.

However, there have been calls that he and fellow US designees (Senators-elect Nathaniel McGill, and Prince Johnson) should not be allowed to take up their seats in the 55th Legislature because of their designations.

But speaking after being certificated by the National Elections Commission (NEC) on Friday, December 8, Mr. Tweahway said before any elected official can be stopped from taking his seat, that

McGill now Margibi County Senator-elect have come under the “Red Flag” following their victories after failed attempts to stop them from contesting the 2023 polls.

“That’s “sheer stupidity” before a man can be stopped from taking over any seat in an electoral process, you must have been judged by a court of competent jurisdictions who tells if one is guilty or not about an alleged crime,” Tweahway explained.

He indicated that he has not been convicted of the allegation of corruption brought against him by the United States Government, and therefore, cannot be denied his seat as senator of Rivercess County.

Speaker Chambers underscores the need for a sustained security

Starts from back page

Held in Nigeria, the event was organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), a German Political Foundation, in collaboration with the National Institute of Legislative and Democratic Studies.

During his speech on Friday, 8 December 2023, Speaker Chambers highlighted the disadvantages faced by the Global South, emphasizing

that 30 percent of resources going to Europe originate from Africa.

He noted that it is high time for African nations to collaboratively address their issues through conferences that focus on developing indigenous solutions.

The conference, funded by the German Government as part of the German Development partner system, focused on crucial aspects such as strengthening the rule of

law, democracy, and good governance, along with supporting security sector reform in Nigeria and West Africa.

Expressing gratitude to the organizer, Speaker Chambers commended the foundation for its role in facilitating the gathering. The conference brought together legislators from the West African region to deliberate on the role of parliaments in security sector governance and reform.

Cameroonian Ambassador prescribes

Starts from page 7

“In this unprecedented success, it’s clear that the willing adherence to the rule of law by diverse stakeholders both government and the

governed was vital to the recent, acclaimed electoral process.

But, make no mistake, it was the popular, patriotic will to avoid fraternal strife, the awareness that, whether Unity Party or the CDC finally

prevailed or not, Liberia must never again be set ablaze and it was the determination that no stakeholders are so important that Liberia should return to war just to feed his ego” he noted.

Koijee makes US sanctions list

By Kruah Thompson

The U.S. Government has sanctioned Monrovia Mayor and Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Koijee for serious human rights abuse and corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced Saturday, 9 December 2023 that it had designated Mr. Koijee under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, otherwise known as GloMag.

OFAC said GloMag is in line with the U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption, a core U.S. national security interest.

The U.S. had earlier sanctioned Margibi County Senator-elect Nathaniel McGill, River Cess County Senator-elect Bill Tweahway, and former Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus.

stoking violence and has a powerful grip on Monrovia’s youth.

It disclosed that Koijee controls paramilitary-style organizations associated with the CDC which allegedly recruits former combatants and recently released prisoners.

OFAC said it has reason to believe that Koijee has instructed these organizations to violently disrupt demonstrations conducted by government critics or political opposition.

“Today, OFAC designated Jefferson Koijee (Koijee), who is the mayor of Monrovia, Liberia and is a senior leader in the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) political party,” the U.S. said.

It noted that Koijee and his supporters have been involved in violence in connection with: an opposition rally in July 2022, students attending a memorial service for former Liberian president Amos Sawyer in March 2022, and an anti-rape protest in August 2020.

The U.S. also cited a student graduation ceremony in December 2019, and an opposition rally in November 2018 in which Koijee and his



Mr. Koijee

Three senior officials from the Executive were sanctioned along with Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson and Grand Cape Mount Senator Varney G. Sherman.

Koijee becomes the sixth official in President George Manneh Weah’s regime to be placed under U.S. sanctions.

The U.S. Government said Koijee has a reputation for

supporters have carried out violence.

The OFAC continued that Koijee has also engaged in corrupt acts, including bribery and misappropriation of state assets for use by private political movements and pressuring anti-corruption investigators to halt corruption investigations.

It indicated that Koijee is being

▶ CONT’D page 7

December 6, 2023

SURVEY NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyor Andrew T. Saley have been duly authorized by Aaron Boima, Administrator of the interstate of the late Emerson Boima. To conduct a resurvey of a parcel of land that contains one (1) lot. This parcel of land is lying and situated in Old Road, Monrovia, Montserrado County.

The resurvey exercise will commence on Tuesday the 12th day of December, 2023 at the hour of 11:00AM.

Therefore, all those concerned and all adjacent property owners are asked to be present and on time, with all their legal documents along with their surveyors to verify their claims as to avoid future land dispute.

Let this notice claim the attention of the following individuals and their technical representative (Surveyor).

1. Grayce Brownell
2. Saturday Johnson & Yorblee Johnson
3. Samaria Holy Church of Christ
4. Betty Jessy
5. Varney Teeaway
6. The police Commander (Old Road Police Station)
7. The community Chairman, and all those who are within the vicinity of the survey but whose names are not mentioned in this notice are asked to be present.

The cooperation of the public is highly anticipated.

Signed: Andrew T. Saley
Registered Land Surveyor
License #: 096
0777123490

Signed: George S. Tondo Jr.
Survey Technician
0776163966

Speaker Chambers underscores the need for a sustained security

By Bridgett Milton

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has underscored the need for a sustained security structure among West African countries to combat terrorism.

The conference according to Speaker Chambers was centered on the role of parliament in West Africa in improving various sectors including security. Speaker Chambers further

Countries are self-sufficient in food security. Addressing participants at the close of the International Roundtable on Parliaments in Security Sector Governance and Reform in West Africa, Mr.



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

when implemented by West African leaders will end the increased level of coups in the region. Speaker Chambers made the remarks in an interview with journalists at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) upon his arrival from the International

described military coups in Mali, Burkinafaso, and Guinean as troubling, stressing the need for urgent attention to eradicate the menace. He also emphasized the need for a collective effort to ensure that West African

Chambers emphasized the critical need for African nations to convene conferences aimed at finding solutions to the challenges facing the continent.

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