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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023	L\$187.3466/US\$1.00	L\$189.0886/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn
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French Version Inside

Male DNA found on Charloe Musu's remains
P6

VOL. 13 NO. 222 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Sen. Albert Chie

Chie challenges U.S. sanctions

-vows to take advantage of U.S. legal system

Weah halts unprocessed rubber export



Pres. Weah

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Continental News

Zimbabwe shock as finance minister named Africa's best

Many Zimbabweans have reacted with astonishment after Mthuli Ncube was named "Best Finance Minister in Africa" by the Reuters news agency. Reputation Poll International - an organisation that says it "manages reputations" - gave Mr



Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube says the award was recognition of his good economic management

African Finance Minister of the Year" despite the country's economic turmoil.

One user on X, formerly known as Twitter, said the award was "akin to applauding a captain for steering a ship straight into an iceberg". Another user called it "the greatest joke of the decade". Zimbabwe's unemployment rate is as high as 85%, economists say.

Up to 80% of transactions are carried out in US dollars because of a lack of confidence in the local currency, according to the

Ncube the award on Sunday.

The minister, who was appointed by President Emmerson Mnangagwa in 2018, told the state-run Herald newspaper that he was delighted to receive the honour.

He said it was recognition of the work he and the treasury team had done that has "spearheaded the transformation of the economy". However, activist Hopewell Chin'ono said on X that the award was an "insult" to Zimbabweans.

He expressed incredulity especially after Mr Ncube's recent budget, that Mr Chin'ono dubbed

"the most anti-people national budget that Zimbabwe has ever had".

This will see an increase in taxes, and hike passport fees to \$200 (£160), up from \$120, making it the most expensive in the region. Mr Chin'ono added that Mr Ncube was "presiding over the worst economy in the world" brought about by his "misguided and corrupt policies".

Zimbabwe's economy has been struggling for decades. The Zimbabwe dollar was withdrawn in 2009 after inflation reached a staggering 231 million per cent, meaning prices were changing by the hour.

Critics blame mismanagement by the ruling Zanu-PF party, first under Robert Mugabe and then Mr Mnangagwa. They have in turn blamed sanctions imposed by Western countries.

Over the weekend Zimbabwe held controversial by-elections after MPs from the main opposition party, Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), were recalled. Zanu-PF candidates won seven of the nine by-elections but remains three seats short of the two-thirds parliamentary majority required to change the constitution. BBC

Zulu king's state coronation unlawful - court

A South African court has ruled that President Cyril Ramaphosa's official crowning of the new Zulu king last year was "unlawful and invalid". The court has ordered him to set up an inquiry into whether King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini's accession to the throne took place in line with customary laws. It follows a legal challenge by the king's half-brother, Prince Simakade Zulu, who says he is the rightful heir. Their father's death in 2021 sparked a bitter family feud over the succession.

On the throne for more than 50 years, the late King Goodwill Zwelithini was the longest-reigning Zulu monarch and had six wives and at least 28 children. King Misuzulu appeared to have won the succession battle - especially after his traditional coronation in August 2022 was followed by a state ceremony two months later when Mr Ramaphosa gave him a certificate of recognition in front of tens of

challenge it in a higher court.

His spokesman said his legal team was still studying the ruling handed down by the Pretoria high court on Monday.

The court stressed that it was not determining who was the rightful king, but whether the president had followed proper procedures before recognising King Misuzulu as the monarch.

It said Mr Ramaphosa had failed to comply with the law, which required him to order an investigation into objections to the accession. The office of the 49-year-old Zulu monarch has not yet commented on the ruling.

It has split public opinion in South Africa, and is likely to plunge the Zulu royal family into deeper turmoil.

Some fear that that it could inflame tensions in a monarchy that has been hit by claims of poisoning and killings since the death of the previous king.

King Misuzulu's supporters maintain that he is still the rightful king, including the leader of South Africa's third biggest political party, Julius



King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini, 49, was not his father's oldest son - but his mother held the title of "great wife" as she came from royalty

thousands of people.

Under South African law, the president gives official recognition to the new king, paving the way for him to be treated like a constitutional monarch and to be funded by the government. The king also controls vast tracts of land under South African law.

Prince Simakade had argued that Mr Ramaphosa's recognition of his younger half-brother as the monarch was rushed and failed to follow proper traditional and legal procedures.

Mr Ramaphosa has not yet indicated whether he plans to accept the ruling or to

Malema. "King, my undisputed King. Bayede [Hail the King]," the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader said after the ruling. However, some supporters of Prince Simakade are confident that he will eventually become king, seeing the ruling as the first step in helping him claim the throne.

Under Zulu custom, the eldest son does not automatically become king, and there have been vicious power struggles for the throne in the past as well. South Africa has eight traditional monarchs officially recognised by the government, all funded by taxpayers. BBC

Niger junta rejects deal to free ousted president

Niger's military leader has refused to release the country's deposed president in exchange for sanctions being lifted. Ecowas - an alliance of West African countries - made the offer after a summit on Sunday. It has demanded the release of Mohamed Bazoum several times since he was put under house arrest in late July.

His relatives say they have had no information about him since he tried and failed to escape from detention on 19 October. On Sunday, Ecowas leaders met with the region still in crisis after military takeovers in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea since 2020, and two attempted coups elsewhere in recent weeks. Ecowas has repeatedly demanded that Niger's junta reinstate civilian rule as soon as possible. The bloc has threatened military intervention and suspended all trade ties to the landlocked country, to no avail.

On Sunday, the alliance once again joined local and

international partners in calling for the junta to release Mr Bazoum. It also demanded the junta shorten its planned transition to civilian rule, which currently stands at three years.

Ecowas did not say what would be considered an acceptable transition period.

Later in the day, Niger military leader Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani told state broadcaster RTN that Mr Bazoum would not be released. Gen Tchiani did agree to reduce the transition period, but did not say by how much.

In response to the general's address, Ecowas on Monday said it would maintain its sanctions on Niger.

However, it said it would create a committee to work with Niger's junta on establishing a transition roadmap and based on the outcome of those talks, sanctions would gradually be eased. On 19 October Mr Bazoum, his family, cooks and security tried to escape confinement via helicopter - but they were stopped. BBC



Mohamed Bazoum was toppled as president more than two years after he took office

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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 Sarah Newman

The Futility of Waste Management

CHICAGO - With world leaders gathered in Dubai for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), the United Arab Emirates has unveiled the world's highest-capacity waste-to-energy (WTE) facility. The plant is designed to process two million metric tons of municipal waste annually, producing enough electricity to power 120,000 households per year by incinerating discarded materials. Paradoxically, it is both a cutting-edge innovation and a strategy from the past.

The Dubai facility is one of thousands of WTE projects recently completed, under construction, or planned. Over 2,600 such facilities are currently operational worldwide, including more than 400 in China alone. A recent report projected rapid growth for the WTE industry, with revenues nearly doubling from \$27.7 billion in 2021 to roughly \$45.2 billion in 2029. That expansion will be largely owed to the global effort to meet the Paris climate agreement's targets, which has fueled increased investment in sustainable waste-management solutions.

This bodes well for the battle against climate change. WTE facilities currently process more than 400 million tons of waste annually, accounting for roughly 20% of the two billion tons of residual waste remaining each year after reuse, composting, and recycling. Decomposing waste in landfills emits methane, a gas with 28 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. Redirecting waste materials to WTE facilities helps to reduce methane emissions, as well as conserve land and generate electricity.

This is good news, but it is also old news. WTE facilities are adaptations of earlier concepts rather than revolutionary innovations. They are humanity's latest attempt to eliminate waste instead of preventing it in the first place. In my recent book, *Unmaking Waste*, I chronicle this centuries-long quest to transform profligate consumption into a positive force.

In the early twentieth century, for example, multiple US cities invested in what were known as "reduction" plants, which compressed trash to extract oils and other byproducts for use as fertilizers, lubricants, and even perfume bases. At the time, this process was viewed as a major advance in waste management. As the Chairman of the New Orleans Committee on Health put it during the 1898 Convention of the League of American Municipalities, the burgeoning field offered the "glowing promises of rich rewards." Similarly, landfills, frequently maligned nowadays, were viewed as a way to recover valuable resources and reclaim usable land.

But this approach proved to be unsustainable in the long run. The reduction plants, which "cooked" vast quantities of decaying waste to extract grease and oil, produced pungent odors and polluted nearby waterways with liquid runoff from the compression process.

Incineration, the core technology behind today's WTE facilities, has long been touted as a sanitary, efficient, and profitable method of waste disposal. In the late nineteenth century, many public officials and sanitary engineers lauded the power of fire not only to destroy and purportedly disinfect waste but also to generate steam for powering various types of engines.

Like the nineteenth-century waste-reduction facilities, however, incineration failed to live up to its potential. Burning organic materials,

which typically contain lots of water, required higher temperatures than what garbage alone could produce. This forced plants to augment their garbage with coal and other fuels, driving up costs. Alternatively, plants could operate at lower temperatures, which resulted in partly incinerated waste, along with increased smoke and gas emissions. These challenges made converting waste to steam and electrical energy more expensive than simply burning wood and coal. Nearly 60% of the incinerators built around the turn of the twentieth century were abandoned or dismantled by 1910.

WTE facilities have encountered similar setbacks. For example, a proposed plant in the Bahamas was initially projected to require 1,500 metric tons of combustible waste per day to offset its own energy consumption, a figure that exceeded the entire country's daily waste production by 1,000 metric tons. In the United Kingdom, ambitious plans for two WTE plants were scrapped, at a cost of nearly \$1 billion, after the first completed unit produced much less electricity than expected.

WTE technologies continue to improve, particularly in reducing toxic emissions. Still, the parallels between the late nineteenth century and today are striking. In 1888, S.S. Kilvington, then-president of the American Public Health Association, delivered an impassioned speech in which he foresaw a transition from an "age of filth-formation" to an "era of filth-destruction," in which fire would purify both the "refuse of the living and the remains of the dead."

More than 130 years later, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai, echoed Kilvington's optimism as he inaugurated the UAE's new WTE facility. Highlighting the plant's ability to process millions of tons of waste "without any adverse environmental impact," Al Maktoum lauded its role in promoting "a brighter and more sustainable future."

As the waste crisis becomes increasingly visible, with mountains of discarded clothes in the Atacama Desert and enormous swirling gyres of plastic in the Pacific Ocean - large enough to generate their own ecosystems - WTE facilities are often hailed as sustainable alternatives to disposal on land or at sea. But while these facilities are an improvement over traditional waste-management methods, they are not solutions. They address the symptoms rather than the disease.

Switzerland is a case in point. While the country has successfully phased out landfills, its municipal solid waste per capita - especially plastics, which it incinerates instead of recycling - continues to increase.

Despite numerous technological advances, our methods of waste disposal have remained fundamentally unchanged for centuries. Vast amounts of knowledge, time, and money have been invested in producing things designed to be thrown away.

What would the coming century look like if these resources were redirected toward getting rid of the idea of waste altogether? Already we can have clothes made from milk waste, furniture grown from mushroom mycelium, and bioplastics produced from seaweed and saltwater microbes and watermelon rinds. If we want solutions, we cannot rely on the same ideas that have generated the problems in the first place. We must fundamentally change how we produce waste, not just how we manage it.

OP-ED

By Kanni Wignaraja,
Emily Wilkinson

Credit Ratings and Climate Chaos

NEW YORK - The sun-drenched coral islands and reefs of the Maldives are in existential danger. With 80% of the country's population living just one meter above sea level, many islands could become uninhabitable as climate change causes the ocean's level to rise. By the end of this century, half a million people could be displaced. The Maldives is confronting this threat with a range of innovative adaptation initiatives, from restoring coral reefs to floating solar-power systems. But survival does not come cheap.

The Maldives earns much of its revenues from high-end tourism. So, like many other countries, it was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought much global travel to a halt. But in 2021, when restrictions were loosened, a powerful tourism rebound fueled robust economic recovery in the Maldives, with the promise of a return to pre-pandemic growth by 2023.

That recovery was interrupted by two successive credit-ratings downgrades - first from Moody's and then from Fitch - which caused borrowing costs to rise sharply. The last bonds the Maldives issued in 2021 carried a coupon rate of 9.875% and a yield of 10.5%. Since then, bond yields have surpassed 20% - a reflection of investors' perceptions of higher risk. As a result, the Maldives has effectively been locked out of international markets. It has not issued a bond to finance its development programs since 2021.

The Maldives isn't alone. During the pandemic, 11 of the 16 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - which are particularly vulnerable to climate change - that are rated faced a downgrade or a negative credit outlook by at least one of the big three credit-ratings agencies (CRAs): Moody's, Fitch, and Standard & Poor's. This is catastrophic for economic-development and climate-adaptation efforts.

The use of credit ratings as the ultimate measure of a country's creditworthiness has long been recognized as a threat to financial stability, particularly in the Global South. Downgrades have an enormous impact, triggering sell-offs and market volatility at precisely the moment countries can least afford it. Yet the credit-ratings industry itself is neither transparent nor competitive.

A recent UNDESA study found that during the pandemic, emerging-market and developing economies' credit ratings were downgraded by a total of 125 notches, whereas advanced economies - which both contracted and accumulated debt more rapidly - were downgraded by only six notches. This probably partly reflects the fact that the big three CRAs are largely staffed and regulated in the Global North.

Moreover, rating decisions are often shaped by ideological biases - such as the belief that government intervention in the economy automatically undermines growth and efficiency - instead of the factors that matter for debt sustainability: economic and social development, as well as climate resilience. Sovereign credit assessments capture climate-related risks indirectly, through environmental, social, and governance (ESG) scores, but efforts to build climate resilience are ignored, despite their important implications for debt sustainability.

The SIDS are among the world's most highly indebted countries: their public-debt-to-GDP ratio averaged 82.5% in 2020, and is set to remain above 70% until 2025. Climate change is an important reason why. As a 2018 study by the United Nations Environment Programme showed, climate vulnerability raised the average cost of debt for a sample of developing economies by 117 basis points over the previous decade, forcing them to pay \$40 billion in additional interest payments. Some have predicted that, over the coming decade, this burden will increase by \$146-168 billion.

This would prove catastrophic for the SIDS. If these countries are to stay above water (literally), they must be able to invest in the building blocks of sustainable growth and development: people, infrastructure, energy, and food security. But their debt-servicing costs are already massive - far bigger than the limited climate finance delivered through global agreements. From 2016 to 2020, SIDS received \$9.42 billion in development and climate finance to strengthen their resilience, and paid out \$26.6 billion to external creditors.

Making matters worse, the SIDS have few options for restructuring their debts - not least because of ratings downgrades. Notably, countries participating in the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative face the threat of a downgrade. Small wonder, then, that only three eligible countries have so far applied for relief under the Common Framework. Downgrading countries while they try to renegotiate their debts - nearly half of which is held by private bondholders - amounts to a devastating blow, as it compounds the already-high barriers between them and international credit markets.

Secure, prosperous, climate-resilient states are clearly better for the rest of the world - including private creditors and advanced-economy governments - than unstable, debt-ridden countries enduring extensive human and environmental dislocation and loss. If credit ratings are to remain a market barometer, they must be made transparent, fair, and constructive.

To this end, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has rightly called for the suspension of credit ratings during crises. CRAs should also suspend the publication of reviews during periods of upheaval, to allow markets to adjust to changing fundamentals.

CRAs' ideological biases and lack of transparency could be addressed by decentralizing them or establishing regional or multilateral ratings agencies. Finally, CRAs should share guidance on how climate risks and adaptation efforts fit into their methodologies, particularly when it comes to rating sovereigns.

Just as the credit-ratings system in the United States was reformed after the 2008 global financial crisis through the Dodd-Frank Act, CRAs must be improved in response to the challenges SIDS are now facing. Plagued by fires and floods linked to a climate crisis they had no hand in creating, these countries deserve support, not punishment.

OPINION

By Pepe Julian Onziema

Uganda's Anti-Gay Crusade

KAMPALA - In the 1990s, as a 15-year-old high-school student in Uganda, I was a member of a "writers' club" that would summarize for our fellow students key articles from the lone copy of the local newspaper our school received each day. One day, I was assigned a "news" article identifying the schools that were suspected of condoning or supporting homosexuality - and the students who were suspected of being gay. As I worked, my stomach ached for all the young people who would be shamed, ostracized, and even beaten by their communities for their sexuality or gender identity. It ached for me, too, because I already knew - but had not said out loud - that I was queer.

Over time, that ache turned into anger, and that anger motivated me to fight back. So, when Uganda's constitutional court begins hearings on the Anti-Homosexuality Act - one of the world's toughest anti-LGBTQ+ laws - I will be there, along with many other activists and allies, as a litigant. The hearings are the next battleground in the fight not only to protect the basic rights of queer Ugandans, but also to discredit non-Ugandan homophobes, such as Scott Lively and Sharon Slater, who have been pouring their resources into perpetuating bigotry around the world.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act, which President Yoweri Museveni signed into law in May, is hardly Uganda's first effort to criminalize same-sex relations. The country already has in place an anti-sodomy law - a legacy of British colonial rule. Moreover, in 2014, Uganda passed anti-homosexuality legislation that effectively laid the foundations for the 2023 law.

The 2014 law was nullified by the courts on technical grounds. But the courts never ruled on the constitutionality of the rights at stake, so these issues are back before the court now. This is particularly important, because the 2023 version takes an even harder line on consensual same-sex relations among adults, introducing both new crimes and harsher punishments.

For example, anyone who engages in the newly established crime of "aggravated homosexuality" - which includes consensual sex with a person with HIV - may face the death penalty. Among other consequences, this will impede the fight against HIV. After all, a vast body of evidence shows that such laws discourage people from revealing their status or even getting tested. At least two people in Uganda have already been charged with this new capital offense.

Another new crime is "promoting homosexuality" - that is, engaging in any advocacy for the rights of LGBTQ+ Ugandans - for which one could face up to 20 years in prison. Under this provision, even public-health workers - Ugandan or otherwise - could face long prison sentences and hefty fines for implementing programs that bolster community health and well-being. As a queer activist, my personal and professional life make me a criminal in my country. In fact, even before the latest law was passed, I was arrested many times for my activism or for just being myself.

But official punishments are only the beginning. A recent report by the Convening for Equality coalition (of which I am a leader) showed that the Anti-Homosexuality Law - and the hateful rhetoric surrounding it - has fueled a surge in human-rights violations against members of the LGBTQ+ community, by both government employees and private citizens. In the first eight months of 2023, we documented more than 300 such violations, including physical and online attacks, forced anal examinations ordered by police, and health-care discrimination.

I understand these assaults all too well. Like many other queer Ugandans, I have been shamed, ridiculed, bullied, beaten, robbed, and even threatened with rape while in police custody. Once, I was beaten so badly that I lost my hearing and had to undergo surgery. In this latest wave of hysteria, I have faced death threats, cyberbullying, impersonation, and blackmail.

Anti-gay sentiment in Uganda runs deep. Many Ugandans adhere to colonial religious values that have, over time, come to be regarded as "traditional" Ugandan values. As a result, homosexuality is spuriously presented as an assault on our country's fundamental cultural and social norms. It does not help that conservative religious groups, particularly American-inspired Christian evangelicals and some Muslim leaders, also actively promote intolerance, discrimination, and, at times, violence.

Yet, as the Anti-Homosexuality Act blatantly illustrates, Uganda's government intends to lead the charge against homosexuality - an effort that threatens our very democracy. Laws that violate fundamental rights - to privacy, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination - weaken the democratic order by defying the commitment to equality that underpins it. They also flout the timeless African concept of Ubuntu, or "humanity to others," which is often understood to mean, "I am what I am because of who we all are." African leaders who call for "African solutions to African problems" - a group that includes Museveni - should recognize what that truly means.

African leaders cannot claim to be devising "African solutions" to our challenges while excluding and attacking minority groups. They cannot purport to be advancing the cause of African self-determination while perpetuating the colonial legacies of dehumanization and disregard for Africans' needs and values. How can we possibly achieve true liberation when we criminalize and punish our citizens for being liberated in their own sexuality and identity?

This is not only an African issue. The liberation of Uganda's LGBTQ+ people is inextricably tied to the liberation of all oppressed groups. That is why anyone who believes that all people are entitled to fundamental human rights should be watching closely as the upcoming constitutional court hearings unfold - and lending their voice to the cause.

I was three years old when I was orphaned; my father was murdered, and his relatives cast my mother from our home. In one of the homes where I spent my formative years, I was lucky enough to find a safe space, where I could be myself. Most queer Ugandans are not so fortunate. If the Anti-Homosexuality Act is allowed to stand, there will be virtually no safe spaces left.



EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 124

**MORATORIUM ON THE EXPORTATION OF
UNPROCESSED NATURAL RUBBER**

WHEREAS, Article 5 (c) of the Liberian Constitution provides that the Republic shall take steps, by appropriate legislation and executive orders, to eliminate the misuse of government resources and all other corrupt practices; and

WHEREAS, the Liberian rubber industry has been part of the national economic heritage for over 95 years, providing the highest single source of annual revenue for the Government and providing more employment nationwide than any other single economic sector, but having been greatly affected by abuse, misuse, abandonment and especially theft; and

WHEREAS, the Liberia rubber industry has been, and continues to be, depleted by illicit tapping, observed to be increasing. In addition to having massive economic consequences on employment and Government revenue, the theft situation has major security implications throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, in order to deal with the depreciating situation obtaining in the Liberian rubber industry, the Government believes that further strategy is necessary, so that proper policies can be developed and an appropriate institutional and regulatory framework established to curb retrogression, sustain development of the industry and stimulate growth; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 16 was issued in 2008 to remedy this situation; but in the meantime, the Government believes that, in the national interest, urgent action is still necessary in order to stem the current decline in the industry, and as part of this an immediate pause in the exportation of unprocessed natural rubber is required,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George M. Weah, Sr., with the intention of taking immediate steps to curb the decline in the Liberian rubber industry until appropriate policies and frameworks can be put in place to improve the situation of the rubber industry in the longer term in order to ensure redevelopment, new development, increased production, increased job opportunities and increased revenue to government, hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. That from the date of this Executive Order, there shall be no exportation of unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia until otherwise advised. Unprocessed natural rubber shall be defined as the raw material tapped from rubber trees, not having gone through any processing to change its physical or chemical composition; or natural latex, coagulum, cup lump, tree lace, bark scrap, ground scrap and any other form of unprocessed or processed natural rubber (including concentrated latex and dry rubber produced or derived from the latex produced by rubber trees.

For purposes of this Executive Order, "processed rubber" shall mean latex concentrate, technically specified rubber ("TSR") and other dry rubber or grades of rubber that are generally considered to be processed rubber by the natural rubber industry worldwide.

Section 2. That the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, or any other government agency shall not issue or authorize the issuance of any export permit for unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia.

Section 3. That within 30 days of the issuance of this Executive Order, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture shall make special effort to provide access to domestic markets for Liberian rubber farmers in remote areas who rely primarily on cross-border trade in unprocessed natural rubber.

Section 4. That all custom officers and law enforcement authorities at points of entry and exit to and from the Republic of Liberia whether by land, sea, or air shall stop and prohibit the exportation of all consignments of unprocessed natural rubber from the Republic of Liberia.

Section 5. That transporting or moving unprocessed natural rubber outside of rubber plantations between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am shall be prohibited. Individuals found transporting or moving unprocessed natural rubber during those hours shall be stopped by plant protection force or law enforcement authorities. Any persons found to be in violation of this Executive Order shall be prosecuted by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 6: **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MAJOR ACTORS IN THE RUBBER BUYING PROCESS**

a. Processor: processors may nominate a buying Agent(s) to act on behalf of and in the interest of Processor. In the instance where an agent buys stolen rubber and it is proven that a processor's agent(s) was responsible, and that said rubber was in fact sold to said processor, the processor shall be responsible to refund the value and cost of recovery to the victim.

b. Agent: an agent is a person employed or engaged by a processor and who represents that processor(s) in dealings with a third person. Agents must apply for a license, subject to new requirements, through the Ministry of Agriculture. When an agent is found to be in violation of this Executive Order by a court of law, such agent shall be banned from acting as an agent to any processor in the country. The name of such agent shall be submitted to the Ministry of Justice and placed on a list of banned agents.

c. Farmer: a processor of unprocessed natural rubber who may sell his or her rubber directly to the buying agent or processor and shall not accept or sell any other farmer's rubber.

Section 7. That within 30 days of the effective Date, Government must issue Guidelines which set forth legally acceptable procedures that all agents, processors, and farmers must follow for the purchase, sale, and trade of unprocessed natural rubber in Liberia. Any person found to be acting in violation of the Guidelines shall be subject to arrest and prosecution by the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with Law.

Section 8. That any and every agent must buy rubber at buying stations or at farmer's collection points. No agent shall buy any rubber along the highway, other pathways, or any other location other than at buying stations and farmer collection points. An Agent buying rubber must pay the prevailing fair market value at the time of purchase. If an Agent knowingly buys rubber that the Ministry of Justice determines to be stolen, the agent must pay the victim the value of the stolen rubber and the cost of recovery, particularly if the agent did not sell or report the rubber to his or her appointing authority (the processor); or follow written instruction(s) and guideline(s) from the processor consistent with this Executive Order.

Section 9. That as of the effective date of this Executive Order, all broker activities relating to the purchase, sale, or trade of unprocessed rubber in the Republic of Liberia must cease and agents shall be the only persons to act on behalf of, or for a processor, or to act as intermediaries between farmers and processors in transacting the unprocessed natural rubber trade.

Section 10. That all contracts between any broker and any farmer entered into prior to issuance of this Executive Order, shall be submitted for review to a body constituted by the Government which shall include Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice and other stakeholder representatives. Within one year of the Executive Order's Effective Date, the review body shall conduct a review and determine whether contract terms and obligations are fair and equitable, if the review body determines that a contract is inequitable, the review body shall cause such contract to be made null and void.

Section 11. That all rubber buying stations and names of persons responsible for the operation of such stations in Liberia shall be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture. Any other unregistered and unauthorized buying station engaged in rubber trade shall be subject to seizure in accordance with law. Any person operating prohibited or unauthorized buying stations shall be subject to arrest and prosecution.

Section 12. That under no circumstances shall a processor build or place a buying station within a five (5) mile radius of a competitor's plantation. Violation of this zone shall subject the offending party to seizure of the buying station and its assets in accordance with law, including stockpiles of unprocessed rubber which shall be turned over to the competitor plantation by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture is duly empowered to administer this Executive Order in collaboration with the Minister of Justice.

Section 13. That while it is true that crimes committed under this Executive Order are bailable, the presiding magistrate or judge shall be required to take into account, in approving bail, the tonnage of rubber involved and the extent of damage done to the rubber tree(s). For each offense, the violator will be subject to a minimum fine of US\$1,500 per ton of stolen rubber and US\$1,500 per acre of rubber trees damaged, unless otherwise prescribed by the Liberian Penal Law.

Section 14. That any person found to be acting in violation of this Executive Order shall be subject to arrest and prosecution by the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with Law.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LIBERIA, THIS 23rd DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D 2023.

George M. Weah, Sr.
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Supplement

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Male DNA found on Charloe Musu's remains

Gender Ministry condemns brutality against Liberian woman

-Defense Pathologist testifies

(TRC) boss Cllr. Jerome Verdier has accused Kojee of allegedly ordering Monrovia City Police official Varlee Telleh to carry out the attack.

Both Kojee and Telleh have denied the allegation that they

Rebecca Youdeh Wisner have pleaded not guilty to the indictment.

Dr. Matthias I. Okoye of the Nebraska Institute of Institute of Forensic Sciences, Lincoln USA, is a Forensic Pathologist, Scientist Pathologist, Clinical Pathologist, and an Attorney.

On the witness stand Tuesday, 12 December 2023, Dr. Okoye said the late Charloe Musu died of blunt force trauma as a result of multiple stabbing wounds.

He testified that the stabbings were caused by an instrument which is not a knife.

The witness testified that the stabbings were caused/done by a muscular male.

He noted that none of the defendants could cause these wounds.

Dr. Okoye detailed that there was a foreign DNA of a male found in the middle fingernail of the left hand of the victim.

He said all DNA profiles from the victim exclude all the defendants in the case.

Dr. Okoye is a member of the American Board of Medicine and has conducted over twenty thousand autopsies in the USA and Africa including four in Liberia (Angel Togba).

He is also a lawyer and has practiced and taught Medicine for over 42 years.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) says it is seriously disappointed and sadden to see another Liberian woman being brutally mobbed by men believed to be motorcyclists.

In a press release, the Ministry says it understands that the brutishness against a visiting Canadian-based Liberia woman occurred on November 15, 2023 but was recently alerted about the situation.

It categorically condemns such barbarity against a woman and empathizes that there is no place in the society for such unthinkable showmanship of violence. The ministry describes the action in the video as disgraceful, uncivilized and irresponsible.

The Ministry sees said thuggery as a brutal manifestation of violence against women and girls, and therefore, calls on every Liberian to assist in heightening efforts to arrest all

the cruel acts of violence against women and girls.

The release notes that such cruelty violates a number of human rights enshrined in the instruments ratified by Liberia, including inter alia, the right to life and physical integrity; the right not to be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right not to be subjected to violence, abuse or exploitation; the right to health; the right to education; the right to an effective remedy; and the right to equal protection and equality before the law.

The Ministry reminds that as a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the "Maputo Protocol"), Liberia has made legally binding commitments to exercise due diligence to combat gender-based violence and



Charloe Musu

The death of Charloe Musu has led to her family members, including her mother and Liberia's former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott to face prosecution.

Their trial comes after sanctioned Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Kojee denied ordering the brutal attack in which Charloe was murdered.

Liberia's former Truth and Reconciliation Commission

were responsible for the attack at Cllr. Scott's Brewerville residence.

Cllr. Scott said she had reported to police authorities two incidents of attacks at her home, but no action was taken before the third incident led to Charloe's murder.

However, Cllr. Scott and three of her family members were instead indicted by Liberian prosecutors for Charloe's murder.

Cllr. Scott and Gertrude Newton, Alice Johnson, and

Liberia Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Bhofal Chambers, Calls for Cessation of Hostilities in Gaza

In a powerful statement issued today, Dr. Bhofal Chambers, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, has called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza. Recognizing the devastating impact of conflict on the lives of innocent civilians, Speaker Chambers emphasized the paramount importance of peace over war.

"Peace is better than war. Whatever the case, the cause of war often lingers, but peace can be a lasting structure that ensures the safety of everyone," affirmed Speaker Chambers. He expressed concern over the dire situation in Gaza, where vital institutions such as schools, places of worship, and medical facilities are at risk.

Speaker Chambers continued, "You have children, you have churches, mosques, hospitals, and everything now is almost anybody's guess. So, we think peace must be given a chance in that part of the world. We are all equal; as such, let God bless us and intervene."

Calling on both the people of Israel and Hamas in the Gaza area, Speaker Chambers urged an end to hostilities, emphasizing that the world cannot afford any more violence. He highlighted the shared humanity and the need for a collective effort to establish peace in the region.

"We call on the people of Israel and Hamas, the Gaza

area, to stop the hostilities because the world doesn't need any more violence than is already occurring," concluded Speaker Chambers.

The Republic of Liberia, under the leadership of Dr. Bhofal Chambers, stands in solidarity with the international community in advocating for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Gaza.



Dr. Bhofal Chambers



Piso Saydee-Tarr

those in connection with the inhumane act.

The Liberian National Police has arrested several suspects in connection with the cruelty. The Ministry of Gender quotes sources as saying that the survivor, a Canadian-based Liberian, was a victim of mistaken identity while in the red light market. Police further notified the Ministry that the survivor was mistaken for another person who the alleged perpetrators claimed had stolen a motorcycle.

The Canadian based Liberian woman and her two kids were visiting Liberia from Canada prior to the dreadful incident.

Ministry terms the brutalization of the innocent woman as regrettable, and that, the onslaught displayed could further undermine the ongoing stride made by Liberia and its international partners to arrest

discrimination. Liberia has an obligation to take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of violence against women and ensure that there are adequate sanctions for violators.

Additionally, it says it is seriously frustrated and troubled by scenes and other expressions portrayed in the video trending.

The Ministry views the action of those pictured in the video as devilish, embarrassing and malicious, indicates that said barbarism exhibited has the propensity to further present a negative picture of the civility of the Liberian Society, and that, such act must never be tolerated.

Meanwhile, the Ministry extends sincere apology to the survivor and family, and promises to engage with the Liberia National Police (LNP) to bring all perpetrators to justice. Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ATJL calls for unified efforts among state, non-state actors

By Lincoln G. Peters

The founder of the Alliance for Transitional Justice - Liberia (ATJL), Jeremiah

ensure an uninterrupted implementation and disallow political interference in the face of succession of government.

boss noted that domestic and transnational crimes are existing structural post-war obstacles that threaten women's participation and leadership, and challenged stakeholders for collective efforts to defeat gender-based violence. ATJL was also privileged to partner with other relevant CSOs and GoL representatives to review and validate Pillars One and Two (Traditional Justice Mechanism and Memorialization, respectively) of the Policy.

The organization further held warm partnership exchanges with current and past officials of Government, and CSO colleagues. Swen lauded the Peace Building Office and all citizens for the success of a holistic milestone, adding that "a peaceful and reconciled society backed by accountability guarantees sustainable peace and development."

Meanwhile, ATJL joined the National Elections Commission (NEC) to grace the certification ceremony of elected members of the 55th Legislature. On behalf of CSOs, Swen said the just-ended elections of were free, fair, transparent and inclusive.

He also indicated that it elevated Liberia's image, especially in the absence of international peacekeepers.

He applauded the strategic role played by international partners and support provided to CSOs to enhance the electoral initiatives.



Swen has strongly requested for unified efforts among state and non-state actors to tackle post-election violence during and after the period of transition.

Swen called for the containment of domestic violence, transnational crimes, hate speeches and youth radicalization which he believes can be tackled collectively. He made the call recently when the Peace Building Office (PBO held a reconciliation validation program in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the Liberia National Policy (LNP) in Monrovia.

He noted in his opening remarks that the legislation of the National Policy on Reconciliation is a strategic legal approach that will

Swen further stressed the importance of implementing a separate youth-tailored validation exercise, something which he thinks will drive a greater youth knowledge and ownership.

He also highlighted the importance of strengthening strategic partnership between INCHR and PBO so as to align peace and accountability. Swen said sustained peace is only guaranteed when impunity is defeated.

He therefore called for strengthening the Government of Liberia and civil society organization relationship, and using CSOs decentralized structures and resources as critical assets for the holistic implementation of national reconciliation.

At the same time, the CSO

Sanctioned officials suffer lifetime ban

Starts from back page to 11 and here

Koijee's sanction is pursuant to E.O. 13818 for engaging, or having been a leader of an entity that has engaged in serious human rights abuse and corruption. The U.S. said Koijee has engaged in corrupt acts, including bribery and misappropriation of state assets and pressuring anti-corruption investigators to halt all corruption investigations.

"Today, the U.S. State Department designated 30 individuals around the world pursuant to 7031(c) visa restrictions, including Samuel Tweah, the Liberian Minister of Finance and Development Planning, and Liberian Senators Albert Chie and Emmanuel Nuquay and their close relatives," the U.S. Government said.

According to Ms Rodriguez, she hears from her own employees and those Liberians she has met during

her time here, who tell her that their salary supports not only themselves and their children but also their extended family members, who are unemployed, and they grumble about paying taxes, they know it's necessity but ask, "where is the money going?"

She adds that Corruption doesn't only affect one's life today, but also threatens his or her family's future and the world is a global marketplace. "Liberia, like other countries in the world, must compete for new business opportunities, for foreign assistance, and for international financing. The fortunes of all Liberians are squandered when government corruption becomes a factor in that decision making. So, what can YOU do about it? The problem can seem intractable."

She notes that Corruption has been around for thousands of years and exists in every society, including the United States, saying "It's not the fact

that corruption exists that's important, but rather what you do about it."

She urges that Liberia should make it easier for regular citizens and honest government workers to report fraud and corruption. "The good news is that Liberia DOES have institutions capable of investigating and prosecuting corruption and holding wrongdoers accountable. It DOES have institutions and procedures for ensuring transparent and competitive procurement of goods and services to ensure the best value for YOU, the citizens of Liberia", the U.S. Embassy Charge`d Affaires continues.

She reveals that the United States has even witnessed a few successes as demonstrated with the Anti-Corruption Champion award bestowed upon a Liberian Marc Kollie, this year by Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, for his fight against corruption.

WONGOSOL condemns mob violence

Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) expresses concern over an upward trend in mob violence over the past months, noting that of recent, there have been several reported cases of mob violence, which has resulted in the loss of lives while many others sustained serious injuries requiring hospitalization.

The Executive Director of WONGOSOL, Esther Davis Yango, says these incidents are particularly disturbing as they have the tendency to turn those involved against individuals or security forces who attempt to intervene.

Madam Yango states that while the organization regrets all other incidents of mob violence reported and sympathizes with the victims and their families, its concern is drawn to the case of the lady who was beaten on November 13th, 2023, in Paynesville, Redlight Community, Montserrado County.

"This act is condemnable, and

throw the chase away from themselves and direct the mob to an unsuspecting innocent bystander.

"An innocent person suffered because of the emotional reaction of the public who could not wait for the police to act, which is the case with our recent victim, which is condemnable and needs to be stopped!!!."

According to her, Liberia's law classifies violence by mobs as a crime and the law states that any person accused of committing a crime is presumed 'innocent until proven guilty' in a competent court that exercises appropriate jurisdiction on such matters and persons and that an accused person is entitled to bail as a constitutional right, unless in capital offenses or if the offense committed is non-bailable.

"Therefore, people must understand this and be patient to allow the system of jurisprudence to play itself out and also we call on the Liberian government to intervene speedily and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to



Executive Director Esther Davis Yango

no one should go through this act of violence, we are following closely to ensure that she gets justice", she adds. The WONGOSOL boss made the statement Tuesday in Monrovia.

According to her, lately, mob violence has become a frequent occurrence in which suspects are lynched, sometimes to death, by an angry mob, including bystanders, who simply have no clue about the issue or person being attacked.

"All that is required to instigate mob violence is to shout "Rogue simply" in a crowded area and to point at somebody. Before the victim realizes what is happening, a huge crowd descends on him or her, and the consequence is instant death or severe aggravated bodily injury", she laments.

Madam Yango notes that there have been instances where the criminals are smart enough to

book so the victim can get the justice she deserves", WONGOSOL demands.

She calls on all Liberians to condemn this incident and all other incidents of mob violence and get involved in stopping these grave crimes that affect the society, as they have a propensity to hinder and create an unsafe environment that incapacitates women and girls.

Madam Yango observes that the increase in mob violence is a result of the public's lack of trust or confidence in the police and the judicial system, stressing that it is criminal to engage in any illegal act of justice or to lynch a person.

This is a call to action for the incoming government to ensure that the system is fixed so the citizens can start to trust and have confidence in the judiciary system and the government, she concludes. Press Statement

Français

“Les sanctions ne me feront pas taire”, promet Koijee

Le maire de la ville de Monrovia, Jefferson Koijee, répondant aux sanctions du département du Trésor des

loi sur la responsabilité en matière de droits de l'homme de Global Magnitsky, également connue sous le nom de GloMag.

L'OFAC a déclaré que GloMag

décembre, Koijee, qui a également été secrétaire général du parti au pouvoir, a dit qu'il sortirait victorieux des accusations portées contre lui par l'Etat américain.

Koijee est désigné comme une personne étrangère qui est responsable ou complice, ou qui s'est directement ou indirectement livrée à de graves violations des droits de l'homme et comme une personne étrangère responsable ou complice, ou qui s'est directement ou indirectement livrée à la corruption, y compris le détournement de biens publics, l'expropriation de biens privés à des fins personnelles, la corruption liée aux marchés publics ou à l'extraction de ressources naturelles, ou la corruption selon le décret E.O. 13818.

Cependant, Koijee, qui s'est présenté lundi au Centre d'échange et d'opinion intellectuelle sur la rue Cary, au centre de Monrovia, a demandé à ces partisans de rester calmes.

Selon lui, si la sanction est un moyen de le faire taire, le gouvernement américain devrait revoir sa position, car il ne se taira jamais.

Il a maintenu que le CDC, en tant que parti, et le président Weah donneront leur position officielle dans les meilleurs délais avant de prendre une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



États-Unis émises contre lui, a promis de ne jamais se taire.

“Nous voulons remercier Dieu pour tout, et nous demandons à tous nos partisans de rester calmes, car nous nous en sortirons. Mais faites savoir à nos amis que si cela vise à nous faire taire, ils doivent penser encore car les sanctions ne nous feront jamais taire.”

Le Bureau du contrôle des avoirs étrangers (OFAC) du département du Trésor des États-Unis a annoncé vendredi 8 décembre 2023 des sanctions à l'encontre de M. Koijee en vertu de la

est conforme à la stratégie américaine de lutte contre la corruption, un intérêt fondamental pour la sécurité nationale des États-Unis.

Les États-Unis avaient déjà sanctionné le sénateur élu du comté de Margibi, Nathaniel McGill, le sénateur élu du comté de River Cess, Bill Twehway, et l'ancien solliciteur général Me Saymah Syrenius Cephus.

Trois hauts responsables de l'exécutif ont été sanctionnés, dont le sénateur du Nimba, Prince Y. Johnson, et le sénateur du Grand Cape Mount, Varney G. Sherman.

Mais s'exprimant lundi 11

L'Etat veut électrifier le sud-est du Liberia

Dans le cadre des efforts frénétiques pour renforcer le secteur de l'énergie du pays, l'Etat du Liberia, par l'intermédiaire de la Commission de régulation de l'électricité du Liberia (LERC), a officiellement accordé une licence à une entreprise locale, LIBENERGY, pour fournir de l'énergie dans trois comtés du sud-est du Liberia.

Donnant un aperçu lors de la certification officielle et de la délivrance d'une licence de distribution de grande micro-entreprise récemment à Monrovia, le directeur général de la LERC, Augustus V. Goanue, a déclaré qu'après un examen rigoureux et une analyse de la demande déposée par LIBENERGY, le conseil d'administration de la LERC a décidé d'approuver la demande

en accordant à l'entreprise une licence d'opérateur énergétique dans le sud-est, y compris le Maryland, le River Gee, le Grand Gedeh et des parties du Nimba, notamment le district de Tappita.

Il a rappelé qu'en mai de cette année, la Liberia Electricity Corporation et LIBENERGY ont conclu deux

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Éditorial

La paix est plus qu'être un État de droit

L'Ambassadeur du Cameroun au Libéria et Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, Beng'yela A. Gang, a souligné les éléments importants dont le Libéria a besoin pour parvenir à une paix et une stabilité nationales véritables, au-delà du fait d'être simplement un État de droit.

S'adressant à la convention annuelle de l'Association du Barreau National du Libéria au cours du week-end dans le comté de Nimba, sur le thème : "Maintenir la paix après les élections par le respect de l'État de droit", l'Ambassadeur Gang a noté que le respect de l'État de droit seul ne suffit pas à maintenir la paix et la stabilité.

Il a déclaré que la recherche et le maintien de la paix sont des objectifs si complexes et changeants que compter seulement sur l'État de droit pourrait ne pas être suffisant dans toutes les circonstances pour garantir le succès ou une tranquillité véritable. Il propose donc de poursuivre constamment la promotion d'autres vertus et besoins humains tels que la tolérance mutuelle, l'éducation civique, le patriotisme, le développement inclusif, la santé et l'emploi, pour accompagner l'État de droit dans toute tentative crédible visant à réaliser une paix nationale véritable.

Ambassadeur Gang : "C'est l'expression du respect qui doit être accordé à ce que nous appelons au Cameroun, "Le vivre ensemble" ou une sorte de "vivre et laisser vivre" lorsque nos sociétés recherchent la paix et l'harmonie sociale".

Nous ne pouvons pas être plus d'accord avec l'envoyé camerounais. La société est composée d'êtres humains et leur bien-être holistique en termes de santé, d'éducation, d'alimentation, de sécurité, de justice et d'emploi, pour n'en nommer que quelques-uns, est aussi important que l'application de l'État de droit lui-même.

En d'autres termes, l'État de droit n'existe pas et n'opère pas dans le vide. Il prospère avec d'autres conditions humaines, dont l'absence peut saper le respect de l'État de droit.

L'Ambassadeur Gang a en outre souligné que ces variables humanistes complémentaires sont aussi critiques que les artifices mécaniques de la loi et de l'État de droit pour garantir la paix.

Nous croyons fermement que pour que l'État de droit prospère dans toute société, le gouvernement et les gouvernés doivent être en harmonie et promouvoir des objectifs communs, le premier accordant une attention particulière aux souhaits et aspirations du second, pour qu'une paix véritable puisse exister. Sinon, la simple application de l'État de droit peut devenir contre-productive, comme nous l'avons vu sous des administrations tyranniques.

Il appartient donc au gouvernement en place de fournir à son peuple des services de qualité en matière de santé, d'éducation, de sécurité, d'alimentation, de justice et d'emploi, en tant que priorités absolues pour maintenir l'État de droit. Si ces choses sont offertes au peuple, il deviendra lui-même automatiquement le gardien de l'État de droit, sans qu'un régime insensible se cache derrière ce cliché pour brutaliser ses citoyens.

Il est important que la nouvelle administration du Président élu, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, s'inspire des observations et des recommandations de l'Ambassadeur Gang, lorsqu'elle prendra la direction du Libéria, en s'assurant qu'elle place le cheval devant la charrette, et non l'inverse, en exerçant l'État de droit pour une véritable coexistence pacifique et une prospérité économique.

Français

Starts from page 8 **“Les sanctions ne me feront**

position officielle sur ce qu'il pense de la décision du gouvernement américain.

“Aujourd'hui, nous sommes juste passés pour rendre visite à nos gens puisque nous sommes en période de fête. Nous nous sommes arrêtés pour envoyer des salutations festives et pour vous remercier tous pour votre gentillesse, pas seulement envers moi, mais

envers cette révolution”, a déclaré Kojjee.

Pendant ce temps, Kojjee a averti que le CDC résistera à toute tentative de l'administration Boakai de saper la constitution du Libéria.

La sanction de Kojjee porte à six le nombre total de responsables qui ont été désignés et sanctionnés par le gouvernement américain sous le régime de George Weah.

Starts from page 8

L'Etat veut électrifier

accords qui ont abouti à une demande de licence de la part de LIBENERGY auprès de la LERC, ajoutant qu'après avoir suivi toutes les procédures, y compris la tenue d'une audience publique dans le comté de Maryland, le conseil d'administration de la LERC a approuvé l'accord.

Le directeur général de LIBENERGY, Maissa Diagne, a remercié la LERC et la LEC de lui avoir donné cette opportunité.

“Cette cérémonie d'aujourd'hui marque une étape importante dans notre engagement en faveur de l'excellence et de la décentralisation des services d'électricité de qualité”, a déclaré M. Diagne.

Il a déclaré que la licence n'est pas seulement un certificat, mais une reconnaissance tangible de l'engagement de sa firme à fournir une énergie fiable.

Le surintendant du comté de River Gee, Philip Nyenuh, au nom des trois comtés bénéficiaires, a salué l'Etat du Libéria par l'intermédiaire de la LERC pour avoir apporté l'électricité à la région.

“Nous sommes reconnaissants d'être témoins de ce jalon dans l'histoire de notre pays ; nous savons tous que l'électricité

joue un rôle essentiel dans le développement de tout pays”, a-t-il déclaré.

Cependant, il a révélé que Kaweakan, le centre commercial du comté, n'est pas couvert, mais il a salué les efforts conjoints de la LERC et de la LEC pour redonner espoir au peuple.

“C'est exactement ce qu'un gouvernement responsable fera pour son peuple en répondant à ses besoins.”

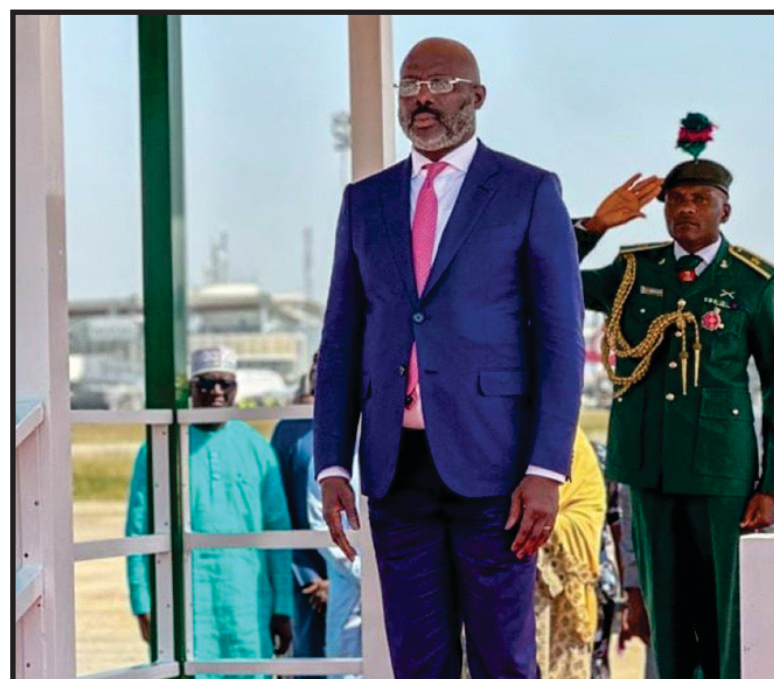
Le président du conseil d'administration de la LEC, Monie Captan, a qualifié la certification de jalon majeur dans le secteur de l'énergie, affirmant que “notre objectif principal est d'augmenter l'électricité pour le peuple”.

Il suggère à la LERC de s'assurer que les nouveaux investisseurs dans le secteur de l'énergie viennent dans le pays pour réduire la contrainte énergétique.

M. Captan a exhorté la LERC à inviter des producteurs d'électricité potentiels au Liberia pour aider à résoudre le problème de l'électricité du pays, notamment pour connecter les communautés, les villes et les comtés qui sont encore sans électricité.

À mesure que les gens commencent à avoir de l'électricité, la demande augmente et nous espérons que la LERC en tiendra compte, a-t-il souligné.

Weah invite les dirigeants de la CEDEAO à l'investiture de Boakai



Le président George M. Weah a lancé une invitation ouverte aux dirigeants régionaux pour assister au transfert pacifique du pouvoir vers son successeur Boakai le 22 janvier 2023.

M. Weah s'est exprimé alors qu'il continue de recevoir des ovations et des félicitations de ses collègues internationaux pour son comportement lors des élections présidentielles qui viennent de s'achever et au cours desquelles il a concédé la défaite dans des résultats très serrés.

La dernière en date est venue lors d'une réunion de la CEDEAO où les dirigeants lui ont rendu de longs et assourdissants applaudissements pour avoir accepté avec grâce la volonté démocratique du peuple libérien en concédant la défaite au profit de son rival, le président élu, M. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Le président nigérian M. Ahmed Bola Tinabu, actuel président de la CEDEAO, a salué la démonstration de leadership du président Weah dans la conduite d'élections libres, équitables et crédibles.

Il a indiqué que le président Weah a élevé le niveau de la démocratie que les autres dirigeants de la CEDEAO devraient imiter et exemplifier.

Pendant ce temps, le chef de l'Etat libérien a déclaré que les références démocratiques du Libéria ont été réaffirmées par la conduite pacifique des élections

qui viennent de s'achever ainsi que par son succès continu en tant que nation post-conflit.

S'adressant au 64e sommet extraordinaire des chefs d'Etat de la CEDEAO dimanche à Abuja, au Nigeria, le président Weah a mis au défi les dirigeants régionaux de considérer ce qui s'est passé au Libéria comme un “accomplissement positif et significatif non seulement pour le Libéria, mais aussi pour la région ouest-africaine en particulier et l'Afrique en général”.

Le président Weah a dit à ses collègues que le Libéria se prépare à sa deuxième transition pacifique et démocratique du pouvoir en six ans, la première étant en 2018 lorsqu'il a succédé à l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

“Mon parti a peut-être perdu ces élections, mais les vrais vainqueurs, les gagnants, sont le peuple libérien qui a fait ses choix de leadership de sa propre volonté”, a souligné le président Weah.

“J'espère ardemment que la transition pacifique et harmonieuse du pouvoir au Libéria fera écho dans toute notre région de la CEDEAO, alors que nous cherchons à galvaniser nos efforts pour atteindre une paix et une démocratie durables”, a poursuivi le président en séduisant les dirigeants de la CEDEAO.

Il a également séduit la CEDEAO pour accorder à son successeur, le président élu Boakai, le même respect et le même soutien de haut niveau qu'il a dûment reçus,

Il a dit que même s'il reste encore beaucoup à réaliser, il était fier des progrès significatifs accomplis jusqu'à présent dans la lutte contre certains des problèmes les plus brûlants auxquels la région est confrontée.

Le président Weah a déclaré que le Libéria restera engagé à défendre la paix et la démocratie.

Il a remercié l'organisation régionale pour l'excellente coopération partagée ensemble pendant la durée de ses six ans de mandat.

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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THE LIBERIAN SENATE
STATEMENT FROM SENATOR ALBERT TUGBE CHIE, PRESIDENT PROTEMPORE
IN RESPONSE TO THE US STATE DEPARTMENT'S VISA RESTRICTION
CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Distinguished Colleagues

The Senate Secretary, Chamber Staff, Employees of the Legislature

Members of the Press

Other Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

On yesterday, December 11, 2023, the United States Department of State designated thirty (30) prominent former and current Government officials from Developing Countries for US Visa restrictions under its regulation 7031 (c).

In Liberia, these US visa restrictions were imposed on me and two of my Government Colleagues: Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay of Margibi County and Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, *to make it explicit according to my understanding*, on the allegations that we solicited money or other instruments of value from the public and private sectors and offered them to Senators and/or Representatives to pass laws and other legislative instruments.

We categorically deny and refute these allegations. They are false and misleading, untrue and unfounded. Since my stewardship as administrative head of the Senate, never have taken a dime from any source and offered it to any of my colleagues in any of the legislative Chambers or to any of our staff to manipulate legislative processes.

Clearly, Washington has been misinformed and misguided by detractors.

Distinguished Colleagues: In pursuance of justice and to remove our names and those of our targeted family members from the visa restriction list of the US State Department, we will take advantage of the legal process available thru the US legal system.

To the highest decision makers in the Government of the United States of America: If your embassy in Liberia or the desk officers and other low ranking (2) things:

1. The Liberian Senate under my watch has instituted many procedural reforms which have improved legislative processes, such as the elimination of yea and nay votes for crucial legislative instruments and the abolishment of Executive or closed door sessions to erase any doubt of secrecy; and
2. Everyone, including the US Embassy in Monrovia and other low key officials in the State Department know that the process for the elections for the President Protempore of the Senate for the 55th Legislature has started.

The timing of the action taken on two key Senators, Chie and Nuquay is of a concern; We always hear that the United States believes in a free and fair electoral process. So we are taken aback by the US Visa restriction just few weeks from the Senate Leadership elections.

Distinguished Colleagues: Let me let you know, (and I know you are already aware) that the allegations that Chie, Tweah and Nuquay have solicited bribes from public and private sources and given them to you to influence the legislative process impugn on your integrity as well, and you will take the appropriate action individually, severally and collectively as your wisdom dictates. No matter from which angle you look at it, that attack is on all Legislators, whether from "ruling position, from opposition or from no position".

THANK YOU.

Supplement

Chie challenges U.S. sanctions

By Ethel A Tweh

A day after his designation by the U.S. State Department along with two other top officials, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Tugbe Chie, is fighting back, vowing to take advantage of U.S. legal system to remove

offered it to any of my colleagues in any of the legislative Chambers or to any of our staff to manipulate legislative processes”, he argues.

On December 11, 2023, the United States Department of State designated thirty (30) prominent former and current Government officials from

defends that the Liberian Senate under his watch has instituted many procedural reforms that have improved legislative processes, such as elimination of yea and nay votes for crucial legislative instruments and the abolishment of Executive or closed door sessions to erase any doubt of secrecy.

Another thing he says is that everyone, including the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia and other low key officials in the State Department know that the process for the elections for the President Pro-tempore of the Senate for the 55th Legislature has started, and the timing of the action taken on two key Senators, himself and Emmanuel Nuquay, is of a concern, noting, “So we are taken aback by the U.S. Visa restriction just few weeks from the Senator Leadership elections.”

According to him, they always hear that the United States believes in a free and fair electoral process, adding that they are taken aback by the US Visa restriction just few weeks from the senate Leadership elections.

He informs his colleague senators that the State Department allegations that he, Tweah and Nuquay have solicited bribes from public and private sources and given them to the Senate to influence the legislative process impugn on their integrity as well, and they will take the appropriate action individually, severally and collectively as their wisdom dictates.

“No matter from which angle you look at it, that attack is on all Legislators, whether from ruling position, from opposition or from no position”, he tells them. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Developing Countries for U.S. Visa restrictions under its regulation 7031 (c).

“In Liberia, these US visa restrictions were imposed on me and two of my

Government Colleagues: Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay of Margibi County and Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, to make it explicit according to my understanding, on the allegations that we solicited money or other instruments of value from the public and private sectors and offered them to Senators and/or Representatives to pass laws and other legislative instruments.” He notes that clearly, Washington has been misinformed and misguided by detractors.

Senator Chie further

their names and those of their targeted family members from visa restrictions.

On Monday, December 11, 2023, the U.S. State Department designated Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Senators Albert T. Chie and Emmanuel Nuquay, bringing to a total of nine top officials, who have been sanctioned so far in the Weah-led regime. But speaking here Tuesday, 12th December in the chambers of the Liberian Senate, Senator Chie in a battle tone dismissed allegations levied against him and his two colleagues as false and misleading, untrue and unfounded.

“Since my stewardship as administrative head of the Senate, never have taken a dime from any source and



Sen. Albert Chie

Sanctioned officials suffer lifetime ban

Starts from back page

Act and authorities under section 7031(c) for visa restrictions."For those sanctioned by the U.S. Department of State under Section 7031(c), they and their families will have a lifelong ban from entering the United States. 7031(c) provides that, in cases where the Secretary of State has credible information that foreign officials have been involved in significant corruption or a gross violation of human rights, those individuals and their immediate family members are ineligible for entry into the United States."

The United States government has widened its sanctions against Liberian

officials in President George Manneh Weah's regime, adding as latest on the list On Monday, 11 December the U.S. State Department issued visa restrictions against Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Senators Albert T. Chie and Emmanuel Nuquay, bringing to a total of nine top officials who have been sanctioned so far in the Weah-led regime. The U.S. has also included on the list of visa restrictions the immediate family members of Minister Tweah, Senator Chie and Senator Nuquay. The U.S. State Department said pursuant to Section 7031(c), it has publicly designated the three officials for their alleged involvement in significant corruption by abusing their public positions through soliciting, accepting,

and offering bribes.

The U.S. government accuses the officials of offering or receiving bribes to manipulate legislative processes and public funding, including legislative reporting and mining sector activity.

As part of this action, the U.S. explained that their immediate family members including their spouses, Delecia Berry Tweah, Abigail Chie, and Ruthtoria Brown Nuquay, and Tweah and Nuquay's minor children are also banned.

Earlier on 8 December 2023, the U.S. Treasury Department designated Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Kojjee.

▶ CONT'D page 7

Weah halts unprocessed rubber export

Outgoing President George Manneh Weah has issued an Executive Order banning the export of unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia until otherwise advised. Dated 23 November 2023, the Executive Order said unprocessed natural rubber shall be defined as the raw material tapped from rubber trees, not having gone through any processing to change its physical or chemical composition. The instrument also refers to unprocessed natural rubber as natural latex, coagulum, cup lump, tree lace, bark scrap, ground scrap, and any other form of unprocessed natural rubber (including concentrated latex and dry rubber produced or produced by rubber trees.

Through the Executive Order, President Weah orders the Ministries of Commerce and Finance or any other government agency not to issue or authorize the issuance of any export permit for unprocessed natural rubber

rubber. Mr. Weah has also ordered Customs Officers and law enforcement authorities at points of entry and exit to stop and prohibit the exportation of all consignments of unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia.

The Executive Order detailed that transporting or moving unprocessed natural rubber outside of rubber plantations between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. shall be prohibited. "Individuals found transporting or moving unprocessed natural rubber during those hours shall be stopped by plant protection force or law enforcement authorities," the instrument said.

It noted that any persons found to violate the Executive Order shall be prosecuted by the Ministry of Justice.

The Executive Order stated that Liberia's rubber industry has been, and continues to be depleted by illicit tapping, which is observed to be

increasing. In addition to having massive economic consequences on employment and government revenue, the Executive Order said the theft situation has a major

security implications throughout the country.



Mr. Weah

from Liberia.

Within 30 days of the issuance of the Executive Order, President Weah has directed that the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture shall make a special effort to provide access to domestic markets for Liberian rubber farmers in remote areas who rely primarily on cross-border trade in unprocessed natural

To deal with the depreciating

situation in the Liberian rubber industry, the Executive Order disclosed that the government believes that further strategy is necessary. It stated that proper policies should be developed, and an appropriate institutional and regulatory framework established to curb retrogression, sustain the development of the industry, and stimulate growth.

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Sanctioned officials suffer lifetime ban

By Bridgett Milton

The United States Government says officials designated in Liberia and their families are banned for life, from entering the United States. Speaking at a Press Roundtable Tuesday, December

utilize the U.S. banking system besides lifetime ban out of America.

Charge` d` Affaires Rodriguez says designated officials that have kids in the United States that hold U.S. Citizenship, the American

priority that is advanced globally and in these most recent cases, the designations were the result of the official's individual actions, not those of a political party or the country itself.



Charge` d` Affaires Catherine Rodriguez

12, at the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia, Charge` d` Affaires Catherine Rodriguez, said those individuals who have been sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control under Global Magnitsky, and their families will no longer be able to

Government will look at how they are living there, but if their kids are in Liberia and have visas to go to the United States, said visas will be cancelled. She underscores that corruption and human rights abuse is a Biden Administration foreign policy

Last week Friday, December 8, and Monday of this week, December 11, the U.S. Government sanctioned several Liberian officials, using the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability

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