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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
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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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P11

US candidate slams sanctions against Liberians

US Presidential Candidate Sen. Rollan A. Roberts II



Clara A. Dwapu

More complaints against RUJ Kendeja Hotel



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Continental News

Uganda's tough anti-gay law challenged in court

One of the world's harshest anti-homosexuality laws judges to annul the law, arguing that it violated the right to equality and dignity.

parliament, and it came into effect after President Yoweri Museveni approved it.

In August, a 20-year-old was the first to be charged with "aggravated homosexuality" after being accused of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 41-year-old. No further details were given of the case, which was expected to be heard in the High Court as it involved an alleged capital offence.

Uganda has not carried out an execution since 2005.

A recent report by rights groups said that more than 300 human rights abuses have been recorded against LGBTQ+ people in Uganda in the first eight months of this year - including beatings, torture, arrests and evictions from homes.

The US has responded to the legislation by saying that Ugandan goods will stop receiving preferential access to its markets from next year because of its human rights record. Uganda's government has remained defiant, saying it will not bow to foreign pressure. Many people in Uganda are socially conservative, and support the legislation. BBC

South Africa's Zuma lays down election challenge to ANC

By announcing he will not vote or campaign for South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) in next year's general election, former president Jacob Zuma is seeking to portray himself as its saviour.

This might seem a contradiction in terms, but the strategy appears clear from his words, including the highly personal attack on his successor, President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Many South Africans see Mr Zuma as representing what is wrong with the recent past, and with having tainted the ANC by presiding over widespread corruption in government. He is a highly divisive figure, dismissed by many as sinister and irrelevant but loved by his supporters.

His statement on Saturday highlighted social problems and divisions in South Africa which, for some, have never gone away.

His intervention comes

who joined the ANC as a teenager, was an anti-apartheid activist and spent a decade in jail as a political prisoner. He was part of its armed wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), or Spear of the Nation.

President Ramaphosa was also an anti-apartheid activist and had key ANC roles during the early 1990s, including being its chief negotiator in talks with the apartheid regime.

But, unlike Mr Zuma, he was not associated with MK and he spent years out of politics from the mid-1990s when he made a fortune as a businessman. Mr Zuma is casting himself as a true revolutionary, and characterising President Ramaphosa as a sell-out. The many controversies surrounding Mr Zuma have not receded in the years since he left office, and he is still facing charges of corruption over a 1999 arms deal. He denies the charges. Some South Africans will regard Mr Zuma's new intervention as a distraction from these personal challenges. He was jailed in 2021 for contempt of court after refusing to testify before an inquiry investigating



Uganda's LGBTQ rights activists regard the law as draconian, and want it scrapped

is being challenged in the Ugandan courts by rights groups.

The law has caused global outrage, with the World Bank halting new loans to Uganda and the US imposing visa restrictions on key officials. Anyone convicted of being involved in homosexual acts face life imprisonment under the law which was enacted in May.

Rights groups have asked

The government is defending the case in the Constitutional Court, saying the law protects traditional family values.

Known as the Anti-Homosexuality Act, the law imposes the death penalty for so-called "aggravated" cases, which include having gay sex with someone below the age of 18 or where someone is infected with a life-long illness such as HIV.

An overwhelming majority of lawmakers voted for it in

Huge explosion rips through oil terminal in Guinea

A huge explosion at the main oil terminal in Guinea's capital Conakry has killed at least eight people and wounded dozens, officials say.

The explosion blew out the windows of nearby houses in downtown Conakry, and hundreds of residents fled the area, eyewitnesses said. The authorities have ordered schools in the city to close and urged workers to stay at home.

The explosion was caused by a fire. It is unclear what started the blaze.

"Eight charred bodies were brought to the morgue of the Ignace Deen hospital," a senior official at the facility told AFP news agency. Media reports of the number of people injured vary from 84 to 100. The fire broke out at around midnight local time, and was still raging hours later. The government has

ordered the evacuation of residents in the area.

The blaze and billowing black smoke could be seen miles away, Reuters news agency reports. Government spokesman Ousmane Gaoual Diallo told the BBC that he could not confirm

casualty figures because "we still haven't finished counting the number of victims".

A crisis unit has been set up under the prime minister to deal with the fire, and its aftermath, he said.

The gutted oil depot was "strategically very important", as it supplied fuel to almost of the country, Mr Diallo added.



Watch: Flames engulf Guinea fuel depot after explosion



ahead of an election widely seen as the most competitive for the ANC since it first came to power nearly 30 years ago, following the end of the racist system of apartheid.

The ANC was born in opposition to racial injustice and oppression, and still regards itself as a national liberation movement.

But, according to Mr Zuma, the ANC of President Ramaphosa has betrayed its revolutionary heritage. In saying so, he is seeking to appeal to ANC voters unhappy with its record in power. The personal history between the men is important. In 2014 then President Zuma appointed Mr Ramaphosa as his deputy.

Four years later, amid significant pressure from within the ANC as he was dogged by corruption allegations, he resigned as president and was succeeded by Mr Ramaphosa.

The 81-year-old Mr Zuma,

financial sleaze and cronyism under his presidency.

He spent two months in prison before being released on medical grounds. The release was later ruled illegal, but he did not return to prison due to overcrowding in the system. The new party which Mr Zuma says he will support bears the name of the ANC's former armed wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe, and uses the same abbreviation, MK. There is a deep symbolism in adopting it, and in the date and location - 16 December in Soweto - of Mr Zuma's announcement. This date was the anniversary of MK's founding in 1961, which was itself the anniversary of a highly contentious event in South African history - the 1838 Battle of Blood River between white settlers and Zulu people in what is now the province of KwaZulu-Natal. The battle's outcome was seen by white Afrikaners as showing divine approval of them and for decades they marked it during apartheid as a public holiday called the Day of the Vow. BBC

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EDITORIAL

Cleanliness should be our way of life

VOLUNTEERS CLEANING OUR streets, including young men, women, and older women is not only heart-touching but highly nationalistic. This exercise is going on in preparation for the festive seasons and mainly for the pending inauguration of President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President-elect, Jeremiah Kpan Koung in January 2024.

THESE MASS VOLUNTEERS signing up to clean the capital and its suburbs are revolutionizing the way we ought to take care of our capital, looking and waiting on government to do for us clearly what we can do ourselves.

But cleaning up the city should not be only for Christmas or inaugural purposes. Instead, it should be a way of life for us, as Liberians. We do not need a special time to clean up our city or our environment. It should be a daily, weekly, and monthly practice to set go example for the next generation of Liberians that cleanliness is not just hygienic, but Godly.

We dirty the city and our communities all of the time without any remorse. It is correspondingly important that we clean it regularly instead of waiting for a specific period or a national event.

Unfortunately, Monrovia is littered with garbage and feces everywhere. Shamelessly even public buildings such as the Capitol and other places are not spared of garbage. Grass has swallowed the Capitol. It lacks running water and functioning toilets.

Yet this is where our elected leaders sit to represent us! No wonder why President-elect Boakai has chosen to take his inaugural program there, to ensure it is given a proper facelift.

This was not the case in the past especially, during the Tubman, Tolbert, Doe, and most recently, Sirleaf eras, because relevant state institutions responsible to keep the city and its environs tidy were fully functional such as the Monrovia City Corporation and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation.

The MCC is the enforcer of city ordinances, while the LWSC is responsible for the sewage system and running water in the capital. But these institutions have broken down completely because of bad administration and corruption. The LWSC cannot provide the city running water and sewer services so feces littered the streets due to clogged sewage lines, while the MCC has collapsed under recently sanctioned Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee.

The incoming administration of President-elect Boakai should maintain the current group of volunteers to help keep the city and parts adjacent cleaned from time to time to demonstrate Liberian pride.

Garbage and feces are breeding grounds for roaches, rats, flies, mosquitoes, and other rodents that come directly into homes and contaminate food and drinking water with sicknesses such as cholera and diarrhea. A clean environment is a healthy environment that promotes healthy people.

Such delicate responsibility is not a child's play and should not be assigned to someone with divided or mixed priorities. It should be reserved for people with enough innovation and resilience to execute the job of maintaining a healthy environment that will drive the health of the nation.

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COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu
and Simon Johnson

Kissinger's Opening to China Will Haunt American Politics in 2024

BOSTON - Even harsh critics of Henry Kissinger concede that US President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972 changed geopolitics forever. Before Kissinger orchestrated that diplomatic opening, American leaders framed the world as "capitalism vs. communism," and anyone with communist friends was liable to be labeled a dangerous "Red." After Kissinger, undiluted Communist Party of China control was allowed to thrive within the global market system.

Yet lost amid the celebration of China's economic "success" were the costs of Kissinger's China strategy both in the United States and around the world. If Donald Trump becomes president again in early 2025, that strategy will likely prevail, but in a more dangerous form.

For decades, Kissinger was an outspoken advocate for doing business with China, and he made good money by opening doors there. Among other things, this meant lending Deng Xiaoping his support after the massacre of peaceful protesters in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. Less than two months later, Kissinger famously wrote:

"No government in the world would have tolerated having the main square of its capital occupied for eight weeks by tens of thousands of demonstrators who blocked the area in front of the main government building. In China a demonstration of impotence in the capital would unleash the lurking regionalism and warlordism in the provinces. A crackdown was therefore inevitable. But its brutality was shocking - even more so were the trials and Stalin-style propaganda that followed."

That observation was then followed by a paragraph containing the clearest possible definition of Kissingerian realpolitik:

"Still, China remains too important to US national security to risk the relationship on emotions of the moment. The United States needs China as a possible counterweight to Soviet aspirations in Asia, and needs China to remain relevant in Japanese eyes as a key shaper of Asian events. China needs the United States as a counterweight to perceived ambitions from the Soviets and Japan. In return, China will exercise a moderating influence in Asia and not challenge America in other areas of the world. These realities have not been altered by events."

This became the standard refrain among US foreign-policy gurus and business leaders pursuing investments in China. The Chinese economy took off in the 1990s largely because companies based in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Europe, and the US fell over each other building factories to employ cheap Chinese labor. But once an economy starts to grow, workers will naturally (and reasonably) want more compensation, which can come either from labor market competition or from organizing collectively and demanding better pay.

That is what eventually happened in the British, European, and American industrial revolutions. While factory owners initially were comfortable using violence to repress workers (as in the 1819 Peterloo Massacre and the 1892 Homestead Strike), political pressure mounted and reforms were enacted. Those changes marked the beginning of shared industrial-age prosperity. Productivity gains started to be shared with workers who were better organized and operating in a more democratic political environment, and technology started being deployed in ways that created more well-paying new jobs.

For decades, China's domestic market was small and its main appeal to investors was its essentially unlimited supply of cheap labor - an asset supported by government-funded infrastructure and policies designed to please business owners. With encouragement from the White House, China became the World Bank's biggest borrower in the

1990s, and then was admitted to the World Trade Organization in 2001, at the behest of foreign investors and G7 officials.

China's boom post-WTO accession was made possible by a deliberate undervaluation of the renminbi (contrary to International Monetary Fund rules and norms) and continued labor repression. This combination soon led to a surge of cheap Chinese imports into the US, accelerating the decline of manufacturing across the Midwest and other parts of the country, with more than two million jobs lost between 1999 and 2011.

Of course, China's integration into the global economy allowed it to achieve rapid GDP growth, creating the largest middle class in the world. But inequality has skyrocketed, and economic growth has primarily benefited educated and well-connected urban professionals, rather than ordinary farmers and workers, whose earnings remain suppressed. An alternative development path that was less reliant on cheap labor and subsidized exports (as in other parts of East Asia) could have been much better for the Chinese working class.

Whoever wins the US presidency next November, the White House will face an increasingly aggressive China, even as Chinese exports remain essential components for most of what Americans produce and consume. Though Trump talks a big game about standing up to China, his unprincipled, transactional approach represents an intensification of Kissinger's cynical realpolitik. Like Kissinger, he dismisses the need to defend values such as human rights and democracy.

But making matters worse, Kissinger's theory of Chinese history turned out to be entirely wrong. "Chinese leaders must realize, or their successors will learn," he warned in 1989, "that economic reform is impossible without support from educated groups that supplied some of the upheaval's fervor and from workers who furnished much of the muscle." Yet, in the event, the Communist Party of China used reform merely as an instrument to attract foreign capital and technology. Now that the party leadership is more focused on its global power and status, liberalizing reforms have been abandoned - and even reversed.

Such is Kissinger's legacy. Rather than building on it, the US and its allies should embrace a more principled approach to China and to trade more generally. That was the original vision of the Bretton Woods agreement in 1944, when it was understood that unfettered access to the US market should be available only to countries with a strong commitment to human rights and political freedom. As the US reshapes its global economic engagement, it must ensure that domestic innovation, investment, and employment policies serve the goal of shared prosperity for all American workers.

Kissinger's China policy, based on his rather narrow conception of American power, failed to deliver on any of that. Trump, too, is interested only in power - his own. A second Trump presidency would take the Kissingerian mindset to its logical conclusion, benefiting the few at the expense of the many.

Daron Acemoglu, Institute Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023). Simon Johnson, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, is a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management and a co-author (with Daron Acemoglu) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

OP-ED

By Mariana Mazzucato
and Greg Clark

There Is No Alternative to Green Industrial Strategy

DUBAI - With the COP28 climate summit now wrapped up, the spotlight remains firmly on the global financing gap. It is estimated that achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require a staggering \$5-7 trillion per year. But not only must we urgently secure the necessary capital; we also must ensure that long-term patient investments are strategically directed toward ambitious goals. That means coordinating inter-sectoral responses across different supply chains, which in turn requires a robust industrial strategy.

Countries around the world are doubling down on plans to revitalize their industrial sectors. It is critical that Britain does not lose ground to them. Earlier this year, Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt outlined an ambitious plan to position green industries as the engines of long-term growth. Strongly encouraging green businesses to ramp up their investments, he set an optimistic tone. Conservatives and Labour must act to ensure investors confidence in the stability of UK policy, so that projects with a life of decades are not vulnerable to uncertainty.

The United Kingdom will need a clear, comprehensive vision for sustainable industrial development if it is to reap the economic opportunities presented by a world that is increasingly committed to achieving net-zero emissions. As the Independent Review of Net Zero warns, inconsistent policy approaches are bad not only for the planet, but also for business. After all, green industries could be worth more than \$10 trillion globally by 2050.

Industrial strategy thus holds a dual promise: helping to address climate change and revitalizing industry so that it can compete in the twenty-first century. We need not accept environmental protection as a trade-off against economic progress. The two can go hand in hand if green policies are deployed to fuel growth and innovation, and if sustainable practices are woven into the fabric of how we consume, move, invest, and build.

We had the honor of working together on a UK industrial-strategy blueprint back in 2018, when one of us (Clark) was Secretary of State and the other (Mazzucato) was co-chair of University College London's Commission for Mission-Oriented Innovation and Industrial Strategy. That work took a sector-based strategy (focused on automobiles, aerospace, finance, life sciences, and creative industries) and applied it to outcomes such as clean growth, healthy aging, sustainable mobility, and an inclusive data economy.

The point is not to pick winners or only to fix market failures, but to work with firms (from whatever sector) that are willing to join forces to solve problems and to create and shape new markets. Just as the original moon landing required innovation in domains ranging from aerospace to nutrition, electronics, materials, and software, today's climate-related challenges call for innovation in multiple sectors - not just renewable energy.

A mission-oriented approach leads to more than just completing the mission. The innovations it catalyzes can lead to a multiplier effect - with initial investments crowding in private investment and generating spillovers that amplify the impact on GDP. Through the process of solving smaller problems on the way to the moon, we created the technologies for today's camera phones, foil blankets, baby formula, and a broad range of software applications.

Public and private actors need to work well together. Reorienting public agencies around ambitious missions requires evaluation metrics to capture dynamic economy-wide spillovers. It will not do to continue obsessing over often spuriously precise cost-benefit calculations (which would have stopped the moon mission from ever getting off the ground).

Equally important, partnerships between the public and private sectors should be symbiotic, and public funding should come with conditions to maximize public value by steering investments in an inclusive and sustainable direction. For example, conditionalities can require recipients to reduce the material content of their products and create greener supply chains.

We know that such measures work. The German steel industry's progress in adopting a climate-friendly circular-economy model owes much to that country's industrial strategy. Public policies encouraged low-carbon processes among steel manufacturers and established markets for carbon-efficient steel, materials, and green hydrogen. All countries need broad, coherent plans to align public investments with commitments to decarbonize transportation and supply chains across the economy.

Equally important, the green transition will succeed only if it is also a "just transition." To support the necessary shift of workers from brown to green jobs, governments can require businesses that receive public benefits to align their operations with climate goals, adopt fair labor policies, and reinvest profits in worker training and research and development. Moreover, policymakers should incentivize brown sectors to reduce their environmental footprint, and to mitigate the risk of stranded assets.

Inclusive green industrial strategies belong neither to the left nor the right. They are about creating an economy that serves people and conserves the natural world on which we all depend. The question is not whether we can afford to implement such policies; it is whether we can afford not to. British political leaders - Conservative and Labour alike - must recognize the profound potential that such strategies hold.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All. Greg Clark, a former UK secretary of state for business, energy, and industrial strategy, is a member of parliament for Tunbridge Wells and Chair of the Science and Technology Select Committee.

OPINION

By Michael Ignatieff

Universal Values at Bay

VIENNA - Seventy-five years ago this week, United Nations member states meeting in Paris adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was not a binding law, only a statement of principle. But it was the first declaration to embed an ancient moral ideal of human equality into the new architecture of international law established in response to the genocidal nationalism that had left so much of the world in ruins after World War II.

This new moral universalism asked us to turn our backs on our instinctive partiality for members of our own tribe. It asked us to look past salient differences - race, creed, gender, class, national origin, language - and contemplate our shared humanity. But many at the time wondered whether we were capable of such a radical experiment. As Hannah Arendt observed in 1948, "It seems that a man who is nothing but a man has lost the very qualities which make it possible for other people to treat him as a fellow-man."

The defenseless prisoners of Auschwitz-Birkenau had discovered that their claims as human beings - to pity and decency, let alone to rights - meant nothing to their tormentors. Only if such defenseless people had a state to protect them, Arendt argued, would they be safe. The universal human being in all of us would have "the right to have rights" only if we all enjoyed the protections of citizenship.

Until 1989, the declaration's utopian hopes were confined largely to the West. Former colonial peoples had never been part of the original negotiations that led to the declaration, and in the early decades of the Non-Aligned Movement, they generally resented Western criticism of their new regimes.

Meanwhile, nation-states across the Soviet empire contested the UN declaration's legitimacy outright. The USSR and its satellites had abstained from the original vote, believing that the socialist rights they advocated were superior to the individual rights enshrined in the declaration. Only after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 did it become possible to believe that the whole world had at last embraced moral universalism.

Of course, such optimism seems hopelessly naive today, given the situation in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Myanmar, and elsewhere. The legal architecture built after 1945 to prevent the recurrence of our barbarous past appears to be in ruins. Russia's war on Ukraine violates the UN Charter itself; Hamas's own founding charter explicitly calls for the elimination of the Jewish people; and Israel's bombardment of Gaza seems cruel and unwise - even if it skirts accusations of war crimes under the Geneva Conventions.

But to blame this state of affairs on previous and current leaders may mask a larger truth: that the moral universalism of human rights asks more of most human beings than they can manage. Anyone who is not Palestinian, Jewish, or Israeli ought to find moral universalism a relatively easy discipline; yet consider how the world has divided into rigid camps as the Gaza catastrophe has unfolded.

For those living through the current nightmare, exhibiting a universalist empathy seems like a non-starter. On one side, a people who live with the ancestral memory of the Holocaust cannot be expected to feel anything but dread after Hamas's atrocities on October 7. To seek revenge - or at least to re-establish deterrence with an overwhelming military response - is only too human. On the other side, a people who are descendants of refugees driven out of Mandate Palestine in 1948, and who have now been under continuous bombardment for weeks, cannot be expected to relate to any pain or fury other than their own.

If there is a lesson in all this, it is not to jettison the moral intuition that underpins human rights. Look closely and you will find that compassion and empathy are as resilient as cruelty and vengeance, even among those trapped in the cauldron of war. You will see Israeli and Palestinian moral universalists still committed to peace with justice. They are the ones who vindicate the sentiment underlying the Universal Declaration.

A remarkable feature of this catastrophic conflict, stretching back to 1948, is that there has never been a shortage of moral universalism on either side. The real problem is not the absence of empathy or compassion among those caught in the conflict (though recent events have certainly sapped these moral resources). Rather, it is the presence of malignant, murderous spoilers on both sides. The fate of two leaders who did make peace - Israel's Yitzhak Rabin, killed by a Jewish extremist; and Egypt's Anwar el-Sadat, killed by Islamist fanatics - has been a powerful deterrent even for those who know that peace is the only viable path for their people.

Unless we concede that Rabin and Sadat's shared vision died with them, the moral writ of the Universal Declaration remains valid in its insistence that all human beings suffer alike. Peace can still be achieved through the mutual recognition of pain and loss, but not until the spoilers on both sides - the settlers rampaging the West Bank and driving Binyamin Netanyahu's government toward annexation and expropriation, and the jihadist militants who want nothing but to destroy Israel - are beaten.

By itself, moral universalism commits us simply to recognize the humanity of others and the reality of their suffering. The Universal Declaration tells us we should respect the rights of others and ensure that they are not violated. But it does not tell us how. For that, we must engage in politics, where hard choices impose themselves.

That brings us back to Arendt's critique of moral universalism - that in the absence of a state with the authority to recognize and uphold rights, a person is "nothing but" a human being. By this logic, the two-state solution in the Middle East is the only path to peace and justice, because statehood is the only guarantor of universal human rights. Only through two states can the spoilers be defeated - and the moral universalism of the UN declaration finally win out.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UP disagrees with NAYMOTE

By Lincoln G. Peters

Unity Party (UP) has cataloged a series of “misrepresentations” allegedly contained in the 2023 report released by NAYMOTE Partners for

alignment of commitments suggests that all promises were teased out of the UP’s manifesto. Mr. Tweh said as a democratic institution, the UP appreciates NAYMOTE’s commitment to enhance transparency and

Unity Party commitment during the 2023 Presidential and Legislative campaign. Mr. Tweh stated.

He said the Unity Party strongly advises NAYMOTE to make the necessary corrections in its report and moving forward, to engage the relevant authorities in the Unity Party for necessary feedback before the publication of any report quoting the Party or its Standard Bearer. Tweh believes that this will help reinforce their collaborative and inclusive efforts in advancing democratic culture.

“As we prepare to officially receive the gavel of the Liberian Presidency on January 22, 2024, the Unity Party reiterates the commitment of the President-elect, Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai to accountable and democratic governance,” said Mr. Tweh. He noted that freedom of speech and the protection of alternative views will be the hallmark of the UP administration.

According to him, part of the UP’s struggle history has been to encourage the enabling environment for the unhindered participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in governance, while

▶ CONT'D page 10

Amara Konneh wants HPX concession deal investigated

By: Kruah Thompson

Barpolu County Senator-elect, Amara Konneh, has called on the 54th Legislature to conduct hearings into Finance Minister Samuel Tweah’s dealings with High Power Exploration Incorporated (HPX), a foreign firm, regarding a concession deal.

“I implore the 54th Legislature to use part of the 10 days they have been called by President Weah to receive and debate the draft budget to investigate these irregularities to avoid potential litigation”, he urges.

Pursuant to Section 7031©, the United States publicly designated Minister Tweah recently along with Senators Albert Chie and Emmanuel Nuquay on December 12, 2023 for their involvement in significant corruption by abusing their public positions through soliciting, accepting, and offering bribes to manipulate legislative processes and public funding, including legislative

urging the 54th Legislature to investigate the irregularities.

He also questions timing of payments, budget accounting, and potential litigation risks that were raised through the bid, while urging a transparent investigation. The incoming senator indicates that while negotiations were still ongoing among the parties - ArcelorMittal Liberia, HPX, and the Government, through Mr. Tweah, was taking money from HPX in contravention of Liberian laws, adding that Section 88.1 of the Amended and Restated Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC) of 2010 clearly states that no concession shall be implemented unless the proposed project has been issued with a certificate for concession.

“Also, Section 5.2(e) of the Amended and Restated Public Finance Management Act (PFM) of 2019 states that resources that become public money upon receipt include proceeds received by the state from the sale or leasing of any property owned by the state”, he writes. Hence, Konneh argues that by receiving payments from HPX



Mr. Amos Tweh

Democratic Development regarding alleged commitments made by the soon-to-be ruling party.

Through its Secretary General Mr. Amos Tweh, the UP claimed that NAYMOTE became self-contradictory by aligning all the promises under the pillar of Amb. Boakai’s signature program AREST, which stands for Agriculture, Road, Sanitation, and Tourism. In a letter dated 18 December 2023, the party argued that such an

accountability in government. “The Unity Party has received the NAYMOTE report titled “Comprehensive Report on Unity Party’s Commitments in the Wake of President-Elect Boakai’s Victory,” said Mr. Tweh.

As an institution that puts a premium on professionalism, Tweh said the UP is concerned about some misrepresentation or what appears to be inadvertent embellishment contained in NAYMOTE’s ‘comprehensive report’ on the

Staff demands late Rep. Gwion’s NEC certificate

Staff of deceased Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1 Rep. Erol Madison Gwion, Sr., has questioned the National Elections Commission (NEC) about why it did not print the NEC Certificate for the deceased’s election victory.

Rep. Gwion was re-elected in the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections, but he died before the NEC certified elected lawmakers on 8 December.

Mr. Justice Randall Clarke, Chief of Office Staff of the deceased Representative, appeared to be frustrated over the idea that the Commission allegedly felt short of even acknowledging his boss during the certification of elected lawmakers.

“I kindly seek clarification from your Office as to why your Institution, meaning the NEC, did not print the NEC Certificate for Honorable Erol Madison Gwion,” Mr. Clarke wrote.

He also raised issued with the NEC for allegedly declining to reflect the late

Gwion’s name on record on the program order as the victor of the election in District #1, Grand Gedeh County during the 8 December certification ceremony for election winners. In a communication dated 12 December 2023 and addressed to NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, Mr. Clarke claimed that an NEC source had hinted a local daily here that a winner’s certificate for Rep. Gwion was not printed because he had died. But Clarke argued that

precedence in such a case has yet to be made known.

Widely known among his followers for being verbose on important county and national issues, the late Gwion entered the House of Representatives in 2021 after winning the by-election in November of that year.

He was re-elected in the 2023 election with a total of 8,651 votes, constituting 61.39 per cent as the incumbent.

▶ CONT'D page 10



Amara Konneh

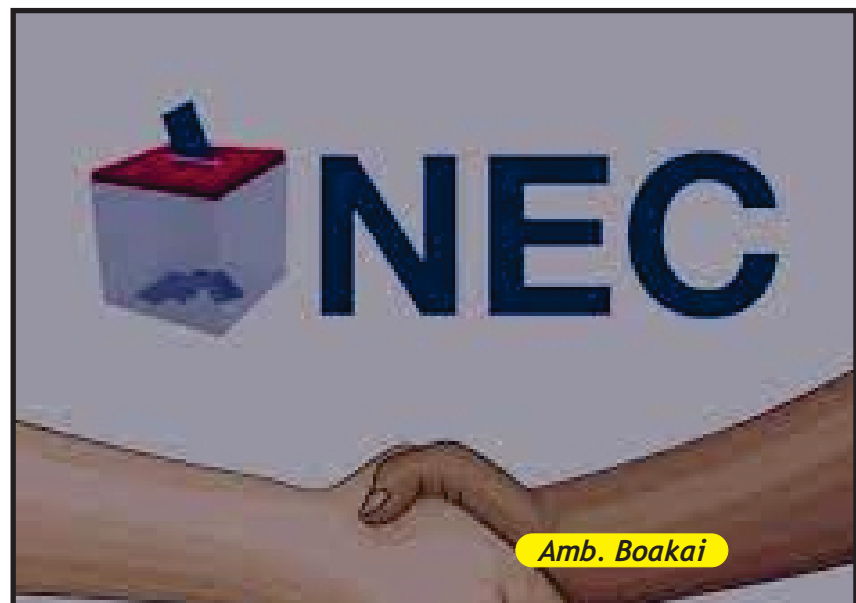
reporting and activities in the mining sector.

However, Tweah in a press conference on 14 December 2023 denied allegations linking him to favoring ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) over an American Company, High Power Explorations Inc. (HPX), and preventing HPX from accessing rail in Liberia to conduct its investment in Guinea after depositing US\$37 million with the Government of Liberia through the national budget in 2019. Instead, he blamed his designation by the United States on the rejection of HPX by the Weah administration.

In a statement posted on his Facebook page on Monday, Senator-elect Konneh, himself an ex-minister of finance deemed the payment of \$37 million to the government as an illegal act, since said payment was done in 2019 without a ratified concession agreement. He cites violations of the Amended and Restated Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC) of 2010 and the Public Finance Management Act (PFM) of 2019,

without a consummated concession agreement with the Government of Liberia, Minister Tweah violated provisions of both the PFM Act and the PPCC Act, “two sacred instruments that Finance Ministers MUST uphold.” He adds that if there were any difficulties in having an agreement, why Minister Tweah didn’t work around those “difficulties” before collecting the money from HPX.

“On what basis did he accept the money? How was the money accounted for in the budget? What revenue line item was it placed under? The House of Representatives rejected AML’s amended agreement that was under consideration. The timing between the payment of the \$30 million and the rejection raises fundamental questions that must be answered.” Additionally, he reveals that appropriations are made through the budget, while direct payments and disbursement are executed through the consolidated accounts based on projected revenues received as actuals but notes that the timing between the payment of the \$30 million and the rejection raises fundamental questions that must be answered.



Amb. Boakai



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000028
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** December 18, 2023
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** January 1, 2024
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
6. **MARKET VALUE: \$ 28,052.00 - 44,894.00 FSN- 9**
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID, final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment for the purpose of automatic tax withholding.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Five-Year Period of Performance with the possibility to renew in accordance with ADS 309. Personal services contracts are subject to the five-year limitation in accordance with FAR Part 17. In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J, Cooperation Country Personal Services Contracts (CCNPSCs) are of a continuing nature and expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts, each not to exceed the five-year limitation in the FAR. Start date is dependent upon security and medical clearances.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** This solicitation is available for Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs). CCNs are individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Non-Liberian citizens must possess a valid Liberian work permit in compliance with host government laws and regulations prior to application. The Embassy cannot sponsor applicants for work permits.

Current employees serving a probationary period with the Mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access approved by the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer at post.

11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

A. Basic Function of Position

The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist (Trainee) is located in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance of USAID/Liberia. The function of the Office is to provide Acquisition and Assistance (procurement) support to Mission Technical Offices and Development Objective (DO) and Assistance Objective (AO) Teams in the Mission. The primary purpose of this position is to perform a variety of acquisition and assistance duties including writing grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other procurement instruments and preparing amendments in support of the Mission. The Specialist (Trainee) reviews and recommends approval or revision of requisitions in the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS); reviews and recommends approval or revision of scopes of work (SOW); drafts requests for proposal or quote; performs cost and price analysis; analyzes proposals or quotes received; drafts contracts and contract modifications; analyzes contractor-proposed budgets; recommends revisions to various contract provisions; writes Memoranda of Negotiation; and, prepares other required documentation. The Specialist (Trainee) maintains contract files and records up to date, prepares Contractor Performance Reports (CPRs), and supports award closeouts. The Specialist (Trainee) provides guidance related to administrative award modifications. The Specialist (Trainee) is responsible for carrying out day-to-day activities under the mentorship of more senior Office employees.

This position is a part of an established career ladder, which provides for the potential to progress to the FSN-10 and, subsequently, to the FSN-11 grade level. There is no potential for the Job Holder to become a permanent FSN-09 in this work assignment. Attainment of higher grade levels is contingent upon the Specialist (Trainee) successfully completing required training, meeting agreed-upon objectives and milestones, and performing in a Fully Successful (or equivalent) manner. Promotion to the FSN-10 and to the target FSN-11 grade levels is not mandatory, and failure to achieve those high levels of performance may be the basis for dismissal.

B. Major Duties and Responsibilities

a. The Specialist (Trainee) is responsible for providing basic project acquisition and assistance support to USAID/Liberia Technical Offices, DO and AO Teams. USAID programs are diverse and multi-sectoral. The Specialist (Trainee) is required to provide basic and limited acquisition assistance to designated Technical Offices, DO, and/or AO Teams, and to support a variety of programs/projects/activities. These programs/projects/activities are implemented through complex Government contracting and grant mechanisms, including but not limited to purchase orders, competitively negotiated technical assistance agreements, contracts, cooperative agreements, Participating Agency Service Agreements (PASA), and sole source contracts, requiring the Specialist (Trainee) to become familiar with the full range of USAID procurement instruments.

b. The Specialist (Trainee) is assigned work in such a manner as to provide training and the basis for independent selection of appropriate procurement instrument types for the situation at hand, and to accurately apply USG procurement laws, regulations, policies, and procedures governing each type of instrument. The developmental nature of the assignment provides exposure to the acquisition of goods and various types of services. The Specialist (Trainee) will become equally familiar with the procedures for acquisition of goods, and for managing personal service and non-personal service contracting actions.

c. The Specialist (Trainee) is expected to work with higher-level Specialists/Officers, and with technical specialists/activity managers in DO and AO Teams throughout the Mission, assisting in the preparation of annual procurement plans, clear and concise statements of work, and supporting documentation. The Specialist (Trainee) will develop the ability to provide authoritative technical guidance to technical specialists/activity managers pertaining to their procurement-related responsibilities and procedures. Specific developmental duties include: Pre-Award Duties – the Specialist (Trainee) participates in meetings on procurement planning; collates data, and prepares and updates tracking tools in order to monitor pending procurements; works with clients to assist in the preparation of justifications, waivers, and other necessary approvals, as needed; and, reviews GLAAS Requisitions (REQs) for completeness and clarity before endorsing them to higher-level Specialists/Officers. Prepares solicitation documents in GLAAS, electronically posts Simplified Acquisitions and Personal Services Contracts; and, works with higher-level Specialists/Officers to ensure compliance with FAR and AIDAR advertisement requirements, including publication of synopses and solicitations, as prescribed. The Specialist (Trainee) works with higher-level Specialists/Officers to prepare Requests for Proposal and Requests for Application. The Specialist (Trainee) assists higher-level Specialists/Officers in pre-award activities for competitive solicitations, and with pre-award assessment surveys of potential contractors or recipients, in order to ensure eligibility prior to an award being made.

Post-Award Duties – the Specialist (Trainee) assists higher-level Specialists/Officers in monitoring performance as required by the terms and conditions of the award, through reviews of performance and reviews of financial reports. The Specialist (Trainee) manages the assigned developmental portfolio, assuring that funding is available when required; and, under the guidance of higher-level Specialists/Officers works with AO Teams/CORs/AORs to assure targets/milestones are set and being met (or that remedial action is taken), and that the overall goals of the program/project/activity are met. As assigned, the Specialist (Trainee) conducts site visits and attends meetings. The Specialist (Trainee) provides guidance to technical personnel, and assists in programmatic duties as required to avoid contractual/legal improprieties, seeking guidance from higher-level Specialists/Officers as required. The Specialist (Trainee) assists in researching and resolving issues that may arise during contract performance, including changes, work stoppages, disputes, implementation problems, defaults, cost overruns, unacceptable performance, and payment problems.

d. The Specialist (Trainee) assists in the conduct of closeouts of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements after completion. These include ensuring contract audits are conducted in a timely manner, preparing performance documentation, and resolving outstanding issues noted in audits.

Performs other duties as assigned or required.

• Supervision controls

The Acquisition Specialist (Trainee) works under the general supervision of the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee, or a higher-level Specialist/Officer, who makes assignments in terms of the broad range of developmental procurement actions the Trainee will perform.

The Specialist (Trainee) will independently initiate necessary coordination with requesting Mission CORs/AORs, Technical Offices, and DO and AO Teams, providing basic policy guidance on how to best fulfill requirements, with OFM and RLA as necessary, and with staffs of other agencies, and with awardees. The Specialist (Trainee) will keep the higher-level Specialist/Officer, and/or the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer, and/or his/her designee, updated through status reports and verbal briefings. Completed work is reviewed closely at this level, in terms of reviewing the procurement approach for results achieved, in meeting delivery schedules, and in the selection of appropriate contract methods.

• Supervisory Relationship

This is a non-supervisory position.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. Education:

Possession of a Baccalaureate Degree or the equivalent of a four-year US college/university (or equivalency accreditation if a non-US institution) degree in accounting, law, business, finance, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, and/or organization and management is required.

2. Prior Work Experience:

Three or more years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition and assistance, development assistance, or a closely related field is required. One year of this experience must have been gained working in a position equivalent to no less than the next lower level of FSN responsibility in this or a related occupation, within a USG organization the Host Government, the private sector, or within an international or donor organization, in an English-language work environment.

3. Work/Residency Permits:

Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia

4. **Language Proficiency:**
Level IV (Fluent) English, both oral and written, is required.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The Contracting Officer (CO) reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offers. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far>.

The technical evaluation committee may conduct reference checks, including references from individuals who have not been specifically identified by the offeror, and may do so before or after a candidate is interviewed.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Language Proficiency:** Fluent English ability (Level IV Reading, writing, speaking) is required. Short listed applicants will be evaluated through a written test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview. (Pass/Fail)
- Job Knowledge:** Maximum number of points is 40. The applicant must have a general knowledge, or the ability to quickly gain such general knowledge of the position duties as articulated in the required job knowledge essay. Candidates meeting the minimum requirement will receive a maximum of 20 points. Additional points, up to maximum 40 points, will be given to candidates with more extensive, relevant job knowledge as articulated in the following job knowledge essay(s):
 - Provide a comprehensive overview of the Acquisition and Assistance process in a government or organizational context. Include key steps, principles, and the significance of this process in achieving organizational objectives. (250 words max.)
 - Describe various contract types used in Acquisition and Assistance. Compare and contrast fixed-price contracts, cost-reimbursement contracts, and time-and-materials contracts. When is each type most appropriate, and what are the associated risks? (250 words max.)
 - Outline the source selection process in Acquisition. What factors are considered in evaluating proposals? How does the government or organization ensure fair and competitive procurement practices? (250 words max.)
 - Explain the significance of ethical considerations in Acquisition and Assistance. How can potential conflicts of interest be identified and addressed? Discuss the role of transparency and accountability in ethical procurement practices. (250 words max.)
- Skills and Abilities:** Maximum number of points is 60 – Demonstrated skills in the statement of duties as detailed in Section 11 above. Short listed applicants will be evaluated through a skills test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview. Candidates meeting the minimum requirement will receive a maximum of 40 points. Additional points, up to the maximum 60 points, will be given to candidates with more advanced skills and abilities.
- Reference check** - Pass/fail

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form [AID 309-2](#) and a detailed, current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed 3 pages providing email address and a daytime telephone number;
- Offerors must submit a supplemental document in response to the job knowledge essay.
- Offerors must submit four references, two from the current and two from a previous employer. From each employer, one must be a supervisor and the second a peer/coworker, along with their contract information. If not currently employed, all references may come from previous employers.
- Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3, and submitted to the Point of Contact in Section I.
- Offeror submissions must clearly reference the Solicitation number on all submitted documents.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Complete the USAID/Liberia Applicant Google form. To get to this form, copy and paste this link into your internet browser <https://forms.gle/V5wWpTmzrRhXYQEK7>

V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD

- The CO will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:
 - Background investigation forms
 - Medical clearance forms

- Ensuring Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors - Please be advised that, upon award, the contractor will be required to follow the Mission policies and/or directives from the U.S. Department of State regarding COVID-19 requirements.

VI. BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a CCN PSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

- BENEFITS:**
 - Foreign Service National Defined Contributions Plan (FSN DCP) – Eligible for the FSN DCP.
 - Annual Leave – PSC is entitled to 15 workdays (120 hours) for the first three years of employment
 - Sick Leave – Sick Leave is granted as needed.
 - Health Insurance.
- ALLOWANCES (as applicable):**
 - Transportation Allowance
 - Miscellaneous Allowance

VIII. USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs

USAID regulations and policies governing CCNPSC and TCNPSC awards are available at these sources:

- USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), Appendix J, “Direct USAID Contracts With a Cooperating Country National and with a Third Country National for Personal Services Abroad,” including contract clause “General Provisions,” available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/aidar>
- Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1 available at <https://www.usaid.gov/forms>. Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

Line Item

ITEM NO (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION) (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
0001	Compensation, Fringe, Benefits and Other Direct Costs (ODSc) - Award Type: Cost - Product Service Code: R497 - Accounting Info. TBD	1	Lot	\$ TBD	\$ TBD at Award after negotiations with contractor

- Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directives/Contract Information Bulletins (AAPDs/CIBs) for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs>
- Ethical Conduct. By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the “Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch,” available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with General Provision 2 and 5 CFR 2635. See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations>.
- PSC Ombudsman**
The PSC Ombudsman serves as a resource for any Personal Services Contractor who has entered into a contract with the United States Agency for International Development and is available to provide clarity on their specific contract with the Agency. Please visit our page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/personal-service-contracts-ombudsman>.

The PSC Ombudsman may be contacted via: PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov

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

Français

Le Président Weah Annule le Vote du Libéria Contre le Cessez-le-Feu à Gaza

Éditorial

Dans une démarche surprenante, le président libérien George Weah a pris des mesures immédiates pour

pour son plaidoyer en faveur de la paix, n'a pas perdu de temps pour rectifier la position du Libéria. Il a instruit le ministre des Affaires étrangères Dee-

Malgré les efforts des États-Unis et du Libéria pour bloquer les appels au cessez-le-feu au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, une majorité significative de 153 nations a voté en faveur de la résolution lors d'une session d'urgence de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies le 12 décembre. Cette décision majoritaire a servi de réprimande aux États-Unis et à certains de ses alliés.

L'action rapide du président Weah pour annuler le vote du Libéria souligne son engagement à s'aligner sur les sentiments mondiaux en faveur de la paix. Dans un départ notable par rapport à la position initiale du Libéria, le président a affirmé : "Notre vote ira avec les autres pays qui ont voté pour la diplomatie et non la guerre." Il a également rejeté toute insinuation selon laquelle le vote pourrait être une tentative de ternir la réputation de son gouvernement alors qu'il approche de la fin de son mandat.

La réponse proactive du président libérien reflète une préoccupation plus large pour l'impact du conflit en cours à Gaza. Le président Weah a révélé qu'il avait précédemment contacté le président israélien Benjamin Netanyahu, exhortant une approche diplomatique pour rétablir la paix. Dans une lettre datée du 4 novembre 2023, le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

L'hygiène, un mode de vie

Le spectacle des volontaires, parmi lesquels des jeunes hommes, des femmes, et des aînées, qui s'attellent au nettoyage de nos rues ne peut que susciter une profonde émotion, car il incarne un patriotisme ardent.

Cette initiative, orchestrée en prévision des festivités et en préparation de l'investiture imminente du président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et du vice-président élu Jeremiah Kpan Koung en janvier 2024, témoigne d'une mobilisation collective sans précédent.

Ces bénévoles massivement engagés dans l'assainissement de la capitale et de ses environs opèrent une véritable révolution dans notre approche de la préservation de notre capitale, démontrant qu'il est temps d'assumer nous-mêmes ce que nous attendons du gouvernement.

Cependant, l'entretien de la ville ne devrait pas être circonscrit uniquement aux périodes de Noël ou d'investiture. Il doit plutôt devenir un mode de vie pour nous, Libériens. Nul besoin d'attendre une occasion particulière pour nettoyer notre cité et son environnement. Il convient d'instaurer une pratique quotidienne, hebdomadaire, voire mensuelle, afin de donner l'exemple à la génération future, tout en démontrant que la propreté n'est pas seulement une question d'hygiène, mais revêt également une dimension spirituelle.

Malheureusement, Monrovia se trouve actuellement jonchée de débris et d'ordures à chaque coin de rue. Même des édifices publics tels que le Capitole et d'autres lieux ne sont pas épargnés par ce fléau. L'herbe a envahi le Capitole, qui souffre du manque d'eau courante et de toilettes fonctionnelles. Il est dès lors compréhensible que le président élu Boakai ait choisi d'organiser son programme inaugural à cet endroit, afin d'assurer une remise en état adéquate.

Une telle situation n'était pas envisageable par le passé, particulièrement durant les ères Tubman, Tolbert, Doe et plus récemment Sirleaf, lorsque les institutions étatiques responsables du maintien de la propreté de la ville étaient pleinement opérationnelles, telles que la Corporation de la Ville de Monrovia et la Corporation des Eaux et Égouts du Libéria.

La CVM est chargée d'appliquer les ordonnances de la ville, tandis que la CLEL assure le bon fonctionnement du système d'assainissement et de l'approvisionnement en eau dans la capitale. Malheureusement, ces institutions ont totalement décliné en raison d'une mauvaise gestion et de la corruption. La CLEL n'est plus en mesure de fournir à la ville des services d'eau courante et d'assainissement, laissant les rues jonchées d'excréments dus à des canalisations d'égouts obstruées.

Parallèlement, la CVM a implosé sous la direction du maire récemment sanctionné, Jefferson Tamba Koijee.

Il est essentiel que l'administration à venir du président élu Boakai maintienne le groupe actuel de volontaires pour contribuer régulièrement au maintien de la propreté de la ville et de ses environs, afin de manifester la fierté libérienne.

En effet, déchets et excréments constituent des foyers de prolifération pour les cafards, les rats, les mouches, les moustiques et autres rongeurs, qui pénètrent directement dans les foyers, contaminant nourriture et eau potable et propageant des maladies telles que le choléra et la diarrhée. Un environnement propre est un environnement sain, favorisant la santé de la population.



Pres. Weah

annuler le vote du Libéria contre un cessez-le-feu humanitaire dans la bande de Gaza déchirée par la guerre. La décision, initialement prise le 13 décembre, a placé le Libéria en position isolée parmi les nations africaines en opposition aux appels mondiaux à mettre fin aux hostilités entre Israël et le Hamas. Le président Weah n'a pas seulement annulé ce vote, mais a également exprimé son engagement inébranlable à promouvoir la paix et la diplomatie sur la scène internationale.

Maxwell Saah Kemayah d'annuler le vote initial, soulignant sa position personnelle contre la promotion de la guerre et de l'instabilité politique dans des nations étrangères. S'exprimant lors d'un service religieux le dimanche 17 décembre, le président Weah a déclaré catégoriquement : "Celui qui a voté pour la guerre est méchant, et il a voté pour lui-même, pas pour nous, et Dieu ne lui épargnera pas la vie."

Le vote initial du Libéria contre le cessez-le-feu humanitaire, effectué aux côtés de neuf autres nations, dont les États-Unis, a attiré l'attention et la critique internationales.

Le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson fait preuve de résilience face aux sanctions américaines

Dans une démonstration audacieuse de résilience, l'ancien seigneur de guerre libérien et actuel sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Yormie Johnson, minimise l'impact des sanctions américaines, affirmant son innocence et contestant les accusations portées contre lui.

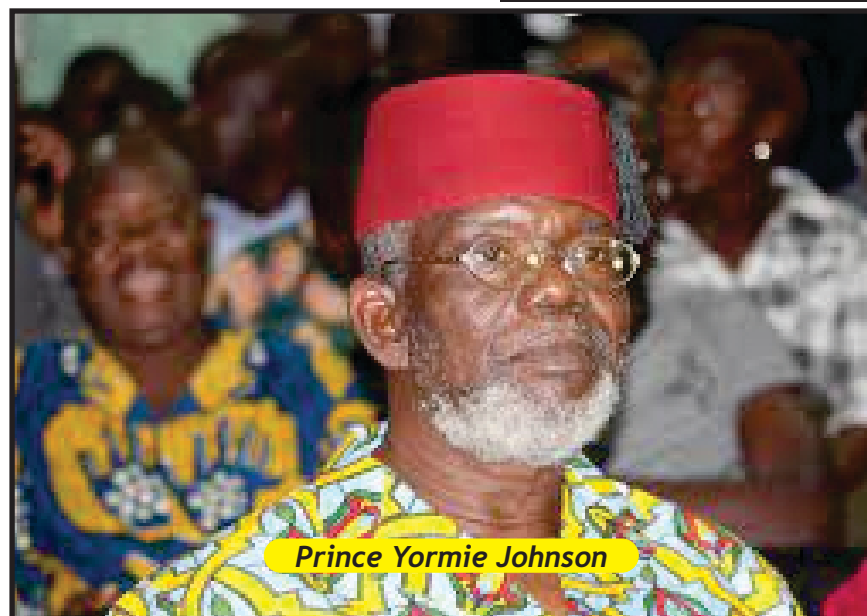
Le sénateur de 71 ans, s'adressant à une congrégation à son Christ Chapel of Faith Ministries à Paynesville, déclare que la tempête de sanctions des États-Unis ne l'intimide pas.

Johnson maintient son innocence, affirmant n'avoir rien fait de mal et que les États-Unis sont au courant de son dossier. Avec défiance, il déclare : « Je n'ai rien fait de mal ; l'Amérique connaît mon dossier, et je suis une personne meilleure. Cette tempête destinée à m'impliquer est faible. Elle ne peut pas me déplacer d'ici pour aller ailleurs ».

S'exprimant sur le thème « Traverser les tempêtes de la vie », s'inspirant de Psaumes 23:4-6, l'ancien général rebelle devenu évangéliste suggère que bien que la tempête de la guerre ait quitté le Libéria, les troubles internes persistent. Il note : « Maintenant que la tempête de la guerre a été écartée, les Libériens cherchent toujours des ennuis ; ils battent encore le tambour de la guerre, cherchant des ennuis quand il n'y en a pas ».

Johnson va plus loin en alléguant que les sanctions américaines à son encontre ont été initiées par des individus qu'il identifie comme des Américo-Libériens. Il pointe du doigt le chef du Parti politique collaborateur (CPP) Alexander Cummings, le commentateur politique Henry P. Costa et l'activiste des droits de l'homme Cllr. Jerome Verdier,

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Prince Yormie Johnson

Français

Starts from page 8 **Le Président Weah**

président Weah a imploré le dirigeant israélien de faire preuve de retenue pour l'humanité, en particulier pour les vies de civils innocents, notamment des enfants, pris au piège des combats.

Bien que le président Weah souligne son engagement envers la paix mondiale et la stabilité, il précise que sa décision d'annuler le vote du Libéria n'est pas une condamnation des États-Unis. Au contraire, il affirme son alignement avec les Nations unies et la communauté mondiale en plaidant pour une résolution pacifique des conflits.

L'insistance du président Weah sur la paix est ancrée dans son éthique personnelle et ses expériences en tant qu'ancien ambassadeur de la paix. Il a affirmé : "Comment un George Weah, le président que vous connaissez, pourrait-il voter contre la paix ? Avant de voter, j'ai rencontré le ministre des Affaires étrangères pour savoir comment nous allions voter, et nous avons convenu de voter pour la paix et la diplomatie pour mettre fin à la guerre à Gaza."

Malgré le caractère non contraignant des résolutions de l'Assemblée générale, leur importance politique et leur poids moral sont indéniables. Dans ce cas, l'appel de la communauté internationale à un cessez-le-feu à Gaza constitue un symbole poignant de la préoccupation collective mondiale pour les droits de l'homme et la

nécessité de privilégier les solutions diplomatiques aux interventions militaires.

Le vote initial contre le cessez-le-feu, regroupant le Libéria, les États-Unis, la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, le Paraguay, l'Autriche, la République tchèque, le Guatemala, la Micronésie et Nauru, a mis en lumière une position minoritaire face au consensus international général. L'inversion ultérieure par le président Weah souligne la nature fluide et réactive des relations internationales, où les dirigeants doivent naviguer entre des considérations géopolitiques complexes tout en restant attentifs aux sentiments mondiaux.

L'assurance du président Weah que le vote du Libéria s'alignera désormais sur les pays plaidant pour la diplomatie et la paix résonne avec la majorité des nations qui privilégient la résolution des conflits par le dialogue. Son action décisive à la suite du vote initial du Libéria témoigne de son engagement envers une gouvernance éthique et une coopération internationale.

Alors que la communauté internationale se débat avec les complexités du conflit à Gaza, l'inversion du président Weah constitue un exemple notable d'un leader reconnaissant et rectifiant une erreur en accord avec les valeurs mondiales. Cela met également en lumière l'équilibre délicat que les dirigeants doivent trouver en représentant leurs nations sur la scène mondiale tout en défendant les principes de paix et d'humanitarisme.

Starts from page 8 **Le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson**

les accusant d'avoir influencé les États-Unis pour imposer des sanctions.

Cllr. Verdier, ancien président de la Commission de vérité et de réconciliation du Libéria, avait précédemment impliqué Johnson et d'autres anciens seigneurs de guerre dans des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité, préconisant leur poursuite.

Malgré les défis auxquels le comté de Nimba a été confronté pendant les périodes tumultueuses du Liberia, Johnson établit des parallèles entre la lutte du comté pour sa défense et le conflit entre Israël et la Palestine, soulignant la nécessité de résister aux tempêtes et de surmonter l'adversité.

« Les tempêtes peuvent parfois vous rapprocher de Dieu ; elles peuvent vous désarçonner, mais vous devez être fort pour surmonter

cette tempête », affirme Johnson. Il évoque le passé turbulent du comté de Nimba, soulignant des moments où le gouvernement considérait le comté comme un ennemi de l'État et les épreuves endurées par son peuple.

Tout en reconnaissant que la tempête physique à laquelle le comté de Nimba a été confronté est passée, Johnson affirme que de fausses accusations persistent. En 2021, les États-Unis l'ont sanctionné en vertu de la loi Magnitsky mondiale, l'accusant d'implication dans le financement de jeux d'influence avec des ministères et des organisations gouvernementales à des fins personnelles. L'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia a publié une déclaration l'accusant d'avoir proposé la vente de votes lors de plusieurs élections libériennes en échange d'argent.

En réponse, Johnson nie vigoureusement les allégations et met au défi le gouvernement américain.

L'ouverture vers la Chine de Kissinger va hanter la politique américaine en 2024

Par Daron Acemoglu et Simon Johnson

BOSTON - Même ceux qui ont d'amères critiques à formuler à l'encontre de Henry Kissinger reconnaissent que la visite du président américain Richard Nixon en Chine en 1972 a changé la géopolitique à tout jamais. Avant que Kissinger n'orchestre cette ouverture diplomatique, les dirigeants américains décrivaient le monde par la formule « capitalisme contre communisme » et quiconque avait des amis communistes risquait d'être étiqueté comme un dangereux « rouge ». Après Kissinger, le contrôle sans limite du Parti communiste chinois a été autorisé à prospérer au sein de l'économie de marché mondiale.

Pourtant si l'on a beaucoup fêté la « réussite » économique de la Chine, on a bien souvent perdu de vue les coûts de la stratégie chinoise de Kissinger aux États-Unis et dans le monde entier. Si Donald Trump redevient président début 2025, cette stratégie va probablement avoir le dessus, mais sous une forme plus dangereuse.

Des décennies durant, Kissinger s'est montré un fervent partisan d'une reprise des relations commerciales avec la Chine, et il a gagné beaucoup d'argent par la réouverture de ces marchés. Cela impliquait, entre autres, d'accorder son soutien à Deng Xiaoping après le massacre de manifestants pacifiques sur la place Tiananmen le 4 juin 1989. Moins de deux mois plus tard, Kissinger écrivait :

« Aucun gouvernement au monde n'aurait toléré que la place principale de sa capitale soit occupée huit semaines durant par des dizaines de milliers de manifestants qui ont bloqué l'entrée du bâtiment principal du gouvernement. En Chine, une démonstration d'impuissance dans la capitale risquait de déclencher le régionalisme et la politique des potentats locaux dans les provinces. Une répression était donc inévitable. Mais sa brutalité a été choquante - sans parler de la propagande et des procès stalinien qui lui ont succédé. »

Cette observation a ensuite été suivie d'un paragraphe contenant la définition la plus claire possible de la *realpolitik* de Kissinger :

« Pourtant, la Chine reste trop importante pour la sécurité nationale américaine pour risquer de sacrifier cette relation sur l'autel des émotions du moment présent. Les États-Unis ont besoin de la Chine comme contrepoids possible aux aspirations soviétiques en Asie et ont besoin que la Chine reste pertinente aux yeux du Japon comme un acteur clé dans les événements asiatiques. La Chine a besoin des États-Unis comme contrepoids aux ambitions perçues des Soviétiques et du Japon. En retour, la Chine exercera une influence modératrice en Asie et ne défiara pas l'Amérique dans d'autres régions du monde. Ces réalités n'ont pas été modifiées par les événements. »

Cela est devenu le refrain standard parmi les gourous américains de la politique étrangère et les chefs d'entreprise poursuivant des investissements en Chine. L'économie chinoise a décollé dans les années 1990, en grande partie parce que les entreprises basées à Hong Kong, à Taïwan, en Europe et aux États-Unis ont rivalisé d'empressement en construisant des usines visant à employer de la main-d'œuvre chinoise bon marché. Mais une fois qu'une économie commence à croître, les travailleurs veulent tout naturellement (et raisonnablement) des augmentations de salaires, qui peuvent provenir soit de la concurrence sur le marché du travail, soit de l'organisation collective et de l'exigence d'un meilleur salaire.

C'est ce qui s'est finalement passé lors des révolutions industrielles britanniques, européennes et américaines. Alors que les propriétaires d'usine étaient initialement à l'aise avec l'utilisation de la violence pour réprimer les travailleurs (comme dans le massacre de Peterloo de 1819 et la grève de Homestead de 1892), la pression politique a augmenté et des réformes ont été adoptées. Ces changements ont marqué le début d'une prospérité partagée à l'ère industrielle. Les gains de productivité ont commencé à être partagés avec des travailleurs mieux organisés et opérant dans un environnement politique plus démocratique, puis la technologie a commencé à être déployée de manière à créer de nouveaux emplois mieux rémunérés.

Durant des décennies, le marché intérieur de la Chine a été réduit et son principal attrait pour les investisseurs a été son offre essentiellement illimitée de main-d'œuvre bon marché - un atout soutenu par des infrastructures financées par le gouvernement et des politiques conçues pour plaire aux propriétaires d'entreprises. Encouragée par la Maison Blanche, la Chine est devenue le premier emprunteur de la Banque mondiale dans les années 1990, puis a été admise à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en 2001, à la demande

des investisseurs étrangers et des responsables du G7.

Le boom de la Chine après son accession à l'OMC a été rendu possible par une sous-évaluation délibérée du renminbi (contraire aux règles et normes du Fonds monétaire international) et par une répression continue exercée sur les travailleurs. Cette combinaison a rapidement conduit à une augmentation des importations chinoises bon marché aux États-Unis, accélérant ainsi le déclin industriel dans le Midwest et dans d'autres parties du pays, avec plus de deux millions d'emplois perdus entre 1999 et 2011.

Bien sûr, l'intégration de la Chine à l'économie mondiale lui a permis d'atteindre une croissance rapide du PIB, créant ainsi la classe moyenne la plus importante au monde. Mais les inégalités ont grimpé en flèche et la croissance économique a surtout profité aux professionnels urbains instruits et bien connectés, plutôt qu'aux agriculteurs et aux travailleurs ordinaires, dont les revenus restent réduits. Une voie de développement alternative moins dépendante de la main-d'œuvre bon marché et des exportations subventionnées (comme dans d'autres parties de l'Asie de l'Est) aurait pu être bien meilleure pour la classe ouvrière chinoise.

Quel que soit le vainqueur des élections à présidence américaine en novembre prochain, la Maison Blanche sera confrontée à une Chine de plus en plus agressive, même si les exportations chinoises restent des composantes essentielles de la majeure partie de ce que les Américains produisent et consomment. Bien que Trump parle d'un match important consistant à tenir tête à la Chine, son approche transactionnelle sans principes représente une intensification de la *realpolitik* cynique de Kissinger. Comme Kissinger, il rejette la nécessité de défendre des valeurs telles que les droits humains et la démocratie.

Mais pour aggraver les choses, la théorie de Kissinger sur l'histoire chinoise s'est avérée totalement fautive. « Les dirigeants chinois doivent réaliser, ou leurs successeurs apprendront, a-t-il averti en 1989, que la réforme économique est impossible sans le soutien de groupes instruits qui ont fourni une partie de la ferveur en faveur du bouleversement et sans celui des travailleurs qui ont fourni une grande partie de la force brute ». Pourtant, en l'occurrence, le Parti communiste chinois a utilisé la réforme simplement comme un instrument pour attirer des capitaux étrangers et de la technologie. Maintenant que la direction du parti se concentre davantage sur sa puissance et sur son statut mondiaux, les réformes dérégulatrices ont été abandonnées - et même inversées.

Tel est l'héritage de Kissinger. Plutôt que de s'appuyer sur celui-ci, les États-Unis et leurs alliés devraient adopter une approche davantage fondée sur des principes aussi bien à l'égard de la Chine que du commerce au sens plus large. Telle était la vision originale des accords de Bretton Woods de 1944, lorsqu'il était entendu que l'accès sans entrave au marché américain ne devait être offert qu'aux pays ayant un engagement fort en faveur des droits humains et de la liberté politique. Alors que les États-Unis redéfinissent leur engagement économique mondial, ils doivent veiller à ce que les politiques nationales d'innovation, d'investissements et d'emploi servent l'objectif d'une prospérité partagée pour tous les travailleurs américains.

La politique chinoise de Kissinger, fondée sur sa conception plutôt étroite de la puissance américaine, n'a pas réussi à prendre tous ces aspects en compte. Trump, lui aussi, ne s'intéresse qu'au pouvoir - son pouvoir à lui. Une deuxième présidence Trump pousserait la mentalité de Kissinger à sa conclusion logique, en bénéficiant à quelques-uns au détriment du plus grand nombre.

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, co-auteur (avec Simon Johnson) de *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023). Simon Johnson, ancien économiste en chef du Fonds monétaire international, professeur à la Sloan School of Management du MIT et co-auteur (avec Daron Acemoglu) de *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Disabled community benefit food rations

By Lincoln G. Peters

Several persons living with disabilities in Montserrado Electoral District #1 over the weekend benefited from assorted food items for the festive season. The food

disabilities. He made specific reference to visually impaired persons for the Christmas and New Year seasons. "Our organization is deeply concerned about people living with disabilities and will do everything in our power to construct this modern state-of-

the Government of Liberia, and other well-meaning citizens to help support their worthy initiatives. For his part, the Deputy Director for Administration at the Commission on Disabilities, Mr. Fallah Boimah lauded the Hope for Community Development. He appreciated the founder and Vision Bearer Mr. Ralph Dagoseh for being the fisher of people living with disabilities in Liberia. Receiving the donation on behalf of the Nimba United Deaf and Blind Association, Mr. Daniel Logan graciously thanked the organization. He described the donation as timely and reminded the Hope for Community Development for assistance because the houses they currently live in are in deplorable conditions.

Speaking to a couple of beneficiaries, they appreciated the Hope for Community Development for the gesture during this festive season. The Hope for Community Development is a not-for-profit organization based in Canada with a branch in Liberia, and solely working with disabled people, specifically visually impaired persons.

With limited financial resources, Hope for Community Development has assisted approximately six thousand visually impaired youths and families with basic needs in Liberia.

carry him as its standard bearer and they brought Winston Tubman, yet he remained with the party and served as advisor.

"In 2014, you told me that you were bringing Mr. Tubman, I never had problem. I gave him chance and I served as advisor. Today, if you bring anybody, I will not have problem, I will be an advisor. But, with all that you will still come to me for support. You had standard bearer in 2014, but I was the one supporting the party" President Weah concluded. -Editing by Othello B. Garblah

public statements, and where these statements were delivered," Tweh argued.

"Contrary to your institution's claim that Pillar One has 58 promises/commitments, the pillar actually has nine (9) commitments across the following sub-sectors," the UP-Chief Scribe continued.

CENTAL wants sanctioned officials prosecuted

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) has challenged the new Board of Commissioners at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to prosecute sanctioned officials.

"The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia is deeply concerned about the alleged involvement of additional three high-profile Liberian Government officials in corruption and human rights abuses," CENTAL said.

In a release issued over the weekend, CENTAL said the institution wholeheartedly welcomes the courage and latest actions of the U.S. government to impose sanctions on additional Liberian officials.

CENTAL noted that the sanctioned officials are believed to have abused their offices by stealing from poor Liberians and engaging in human rights violations.

"We appreciate the visibly strong commitment of the Americans and other development partners to support efforts to

unscrupulous behaviors," the release said.

"It would be unfortunate that our partners are exerting efforts to deal with corruption while we who experience the devastating effects of corruption sit supinely and refuse to meaningfully act," CENTAL lamented.

It called on all well-meaning Liberians to join efforts to demand the Liberian Government to timely and credibly prosecute persons accused of corruption in the country.

On Monday, 11 December 2023, under Executive Order 13818, the Treasury Department of the United States of America designated Samuel D. Tweah, Minister of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and Senators Albert Chie and J. Emmanuel Nuquay for their alleged involvement in corruption in Liberia.

The three designated high-ranking Liberian Government officials are accused of soliciting, accepting, and offering bribes to manipulate legislative processes and public funding, including activities in the mining sector.

Earlier on 8 December 2023, the



Chief Cyril Allen

rations were distributed by the Hope for Community Development Humanitarian Organization to visually impaired members of the Nimba United Deaf and Blind Association in the district.

Items distributed include 20 bags of 25kg rice, 4 cartons of cooking oil, and 15 sacks of mineral water, among many others. Making the distribution, the Country Director of the Hope For Community Development, Mr. Newton Beh termed the distribution as a way of putting smiles on the faces of persons living with

the-art multi-purpose facility for them," he added. According to Mr. Beh, Hope Community Development will break grounds for a modern facility for visually impaired persons in 2024. The facility when completed will contain housing units, a school, a clinic, a playground, and a worship center. The Country Director further stated that the facility will help keep visually impaired persons off the street, begging, and it will hold approximately one thousand disabled people. However, Mr. Beh is appealing to other humanitarian organizations,

Weah reacts to CDC expulsion threats

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Alternative National Congress of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings to form a stronger opposition alliance.

Disclosing this on December 4, 2023, when he appeared on Voice of Liberia live morning talk show, Mr. Koijee said their party is in conversation with Mr. Cummings to build a stronger opposition alliance to keep the feet of President-elect, (Joseph) Boakai to the fire.

"We are having conversations with the ANC and the CPP by extension, to bring the parties together to build a stronger

opposition alliance. With this alliance, we will keep the feet of the government-elect to the fire. And so, we are having conversations with Mr. Cummings and other political parties to build a stronger opposition alliance for 2029," Koijee confirmed.

But President Weah maintained that if the CDC brings somebody as its political leader and standard bearer in 2029, he is willing to step back and be an advisor.

According to him, in 2014 the party decided not to



defend democracy and fight against corruption and other crimes and abuses in the country," the release said.

CENTAL therefore called on the U.S. Government and other development partners to continuously take strong and decisive actions against public officials and other individuals believed to have abused human rights.

It further called for decisive actions against officials who have engaged in corruption and undermined the country's democracy. In line with the due process of law, the pro-democracy organization has called on the LACC and other relevant state institutions to seek the support of the U.S. Government to timely investigate and credibly prosecute current and previous government officials sanctioned and designated by the U.S. Government.

"In part, this is important to ensure that those culpable for the allegations levied against them are made to fully account for their

US Government similarly designated Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson T. Koijee for his alleged involvement in human rights violations and corruption. Mayor Koijee is alleged to have engaged in corrupt acts, including bribery and misappropriation of state assets for private political movements.

Additionally, he is accused of controlling paramilitary organizations allegedly comprised of former combatants and recently released prisoners who are believed to have violently disrupted government critics' demonstrations and opposition activities.

According to CENTAL, the United States Department of State's sanctions underscore the United States' commitment to holding accountable those involved in corrupt practices and human rights abuses globally.

The US Secretary of the Treasury, Janet L. Yellen said the sanctions reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to promoting respect for human rights and holding perpetrators accountable.

UP disagrees with NAYMOTE

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independently holding the government accountable to the people. However, the UP strongly believes that this must be done with a high degree of fairness, lack of bias, and a sense of patriotism and professionalism. The UP noted that in NAYMOTE's report released on 30 November 2023, it indicated that the

"promises or commitments" were derived from the Unity Party's manifesto, campaign rallies, media engagements, and public statements.

Your report however failed to tell the listening public how many of the promises came from: Unity Party's manifesto, campaign rallies, media engagements,

US candidate slams sanctions against Liberians

U.S. Presidential Candidate Senator Rollan A. Roberts, II, has slammed the sanction imposed on Liberian officials, describing it as 'America's systematic, institutional, and abusive corruption, targeting every nation to act in THEIR countries best interest and firmly believe it is EVIL to expect another country to act against its best interest. That is doing wrong by the people. America has grown accustomed to our own leaders not acting in the best interest of our citizens that it seems insignificant to require other national leaders to do the same. The difference is they are more honest about their corruption than America is. Ours is the worst kind. Ours is a self-righteous corruption. I will end American corruption every place I find it as President. Many of the sanctions we have currently imposed, I will immediately lift from individuals and nations around the world as President. We must start doing right as a nation again. We have committed some of the greatest crimes against humanity and acts of corruption in the name of world order, control, and dominance this world has ever known. This wielding of power and thinking is antiquated and ineffective, and the United States needs a President and leadership that understands this. We do not need arrogant, cocky politicians showing how tough they are when they are too old to tie their own shoes or fasten their own diaper. We need strong, humble, wise, gracious leaders made of steel that govern in the fear of God in the best interest of the people and nation he's given us authority over.' The U.S. State Department said pursuant to Section 7031(c), it has publicly designated Mr. Tweah, Sen. Albert Chie, and Sen. J. Emmanuel Nuquay, for their alleged involvement in significant corruption by abusing their public positions through soliciting, accepting, and offering bribes. The U.S. government accused the top Liberian 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 Ruthoria Brown Nuquay, and Tweah and Nuquay's minor children are also designated. Earlier on 8 December 2023, the U.S. Treasury Department designated Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Koijee. 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.



US Presidential Candidate Sen. Rollan A. Roberts II

struggling African nation of Liberia.'

In a statement posted on his campaign page, Sen. Roberts, a Republican from West Virginia noted: "Just last week, the United States sanctioned several Liberian officials, one of whom was Liberia's Finance Minister, Samuel Tweah."

"The sanctions against the individuals", he continued, "include a lifetime ban for them and all family members of traveling to the United States and a lifetime ban on using the U.S. (global) financial banking system."

"What corruption did they commit so heinous worthy of destroying their lives and that of their families?" Sen. Roberts queried. "The Liberian Finance Minister favored the Liberian company, ArcelorMittal Limited (AML), for a national contract over an American company, High Power Exploration, Inc. (HPX), and prevented HPX from using the rail in Liberia to move their product to Guinea. So, because the Liberian Finance Minister favored a Liberian enterprise over a foreign enterprise, we must ruin their lives and make an example out of them for future governments to do what we say, award contracts to whom we say, and bow to the whims and wishes of the foreign power whether it is in your nation's best interest or not. While the message was sent, I can assure you it was not well received by Liberians in or out of Liberia," he added.

Outgoing Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah reacting to the US sanction at a press conference recently maintained that he has been sanctioned by the United States Department of State because he supposedly favored ArcelorMittal Limited (AML) over an American

million to the Government of Liberia through the national budget in 2019.

But reacting further to the sanction, Sen. Roberts indicated that the situation was brought to his office by an angry Liberian-American who holds dual citizenship.

Sen. Roberts: "My office was contacted by angry Liberian Americans that hold dual citizenship ready to renounce their hard-earned U.S. citizenship over the blatant corruption and greed displayed by these unwarranted sanctions. They are embarrassed to be Americans on this day.

As I have said before, in today's world, sanctions are not an effective tool. The U.S. dollar does not have the power it once had, and the growth and dependence on other currencies and alliances (BRICS) further demean and erode the effectiveness of sanctions. It simply drives business, finance, trade, goodwill, and social capital away from the United States.

There is no perfect country. There is no country where corruption does not exist. What makes America different is that she's the world leader and has been held up as the gold standard, the Christian nation, the beacon of hope and a better tomorrow for the rest of the world. But American corruption is no longer a single random act; rather, it is engrained into the Administrative State's protocol as a matter of standard procedure." Sen. Roberts went on.

"As President," he continued, "I will favor spending American taxpayer dollars with American companies over foreign companies. I will favor investing in U.S. enterprises with all things being equal. And I expect every President of

More complaints against RLJ Kendeja Hotel

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh funding my treatment. But I'm back to take my action; I need my redundancies", she maintains.

Another redundant employee of the RLJ Kendeja Resort & Villas in Rehab Community, ELWA, Paynesville, has accused the hotel management of illegal dismissal, while she was in her sick bed, without any benefit despite pleads to the management for her benefit. Ms Clara A. Dwapu tells the NEW DAWN that her relationship with the RLJ Kendeja Resort and Villas became sour when she suffered a miscarriage on the job while in the employed of the entity and was illegally dismissed.

"RLJ Kendeja Hotel sacked me while I was sick, bleeding from a pregnancy on the job in 2022. They did not

The former kitchen staff and other redundant workers at the RLJ Kendeja Resort & Villas had accused the management of ill-treatment, bad labor practices, and redundancies, which were published in this paper on December 8, 2023, but the management of the hotel denied the report, terming it as fabricated lies.

However, The NEW DAWN probes deeper, conducting extensive interviews with some of the aggrieved redundant staff on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, as they recounted how they were redundant without benefits, while others still in the employed of the hotel expressed fear of losing their job and intimidation from management.

In a 47-second audio, an employee of the hotel is heard warning that



Clara A. Dwapu

Prince Andrew Sarwah

care about my health condition. How long I worked at the hotel? My 13 years of service from 2009- 2022, but yet they fired me without salaries to my disbelief", Ms Dwapu laments, while speaking to this paper.

She continues: "RLJ Managements were very evil to me. I was sick, bleeding without committing any crime despite all my services at the hotel, but yet they sacked me without pay, forgetting to know it was through the hard work at the hotel that caused my illness, losing my baby. I was sick and the human resource manager, Boniface Kie, only shouted at me, telling me I was dismissed."

Narrating her ordeal in tears, she reveals that she presented details of her pregnancy and subsequent illness to the hotel, but yet management redundant her without salary.

"I communicated my condition to the management, but without concern they fired me; I was sick and needed to run after my health by going to Ivory Coast, with my husband

anyone who dares to speak out risk losing their job, raising fears among employees and contractors, who had expressed willingness to speak to the NEW DAWN on details of alleged ill-treatments at the hotel, but later declined the interview.

However, Prince Andrew Sarwah, who worked at Kendeja Hotel from 2018-2020, explains that he was redundant by the hotel management without notification, after working for more than two years without full employment and had to seek redress for alleged illegal reduction in his contract fees from US\$1, 364 to \$380.

According to Sarwah, at the time of his redundancy, over 21 staffers of the hotel were redundant in 2020, something that seems to clearly contradict General Manager Mr. Ambrose Houphourt's recent statements on radio, debunking NEW DAWN's publication about redundancy at the hotel. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Weah reacts to CDC expulsion threats

By Lincoln G. Peters
 President George M. Weah has reacted to speculations within his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) of plans by party officials to expel him from the CDC following his defeat at the polls on November 14, saying Liberians will reject any candidate the party put forward in 2029.



Speaking Sunday at his Church, Mr. Weah said there was no need for the CDC hierarchy to go through the troubles of expelling him, rather they can simply say they don't want him on the party's ticket as standard bearer in 2029 and he will gladly serve as

an advisor. But warned that Liberians will reject any candidate the CDC put forward other than him. Weah: "What I'm hearing about expelling me from the party that I will not be standard bearer. Listen, you

don't need to expel me from the party. All you can do is just tell me, my man, we don't want you to be our party standard bearer again, I will understand and serve as an advisor. But you can bring whosoever you want to bring and see if the Liberian people will vote for that person." President Weah's reaction

follows criticisms from a CDC steward, Dr. Lester D. Tenny who has been venting his anger at Weah after the November 14, Presidential runoff.

President Weah is the founder and financier of the CDC but in a recent conversation with Spoon FM, Dr. Tenny vowed that never again will Mr. Weah be allowed to run or contest on the CDC ticket as its standard bearer in 2029 and beyond.

Dr. Tenny: "I have read in several newspapers and even listened to radios where I heard President Weah blaming the Executive Committee of the Party for the defeat and describing the Executive Committee as insincere. Quote me, President Weah will never be the standard bearer of the CDC again."

To support Dr. Tenny's resolve, CDC Secretary General Jefferson Tamba Koijee, also speaking on the way forward for the CDC disclosed ongoing conversation and consultation with the

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