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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022	L\$152.7072/US\$1.00	L\$154.4028/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

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JFK in mass burial



-at Du-Port Road Cemetery



MANO RIVER UNION
UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

MANO RIVER UNION CONDEMNS VIOLENT PROTEST IN SIERRA LEONE: CALLS FOR CALM & DIALOGUE

The Mano River Union is deeply concerned over the protests of Monday 8th and Wednesday, 10th August 2022 in the Republic of Sierra Leone. The MRU condemns the recent violent protest of Wednesday August 10 that led to the loss of human lives and the destruction of properties.

The Mano River Union Secretariat calls for calm and is ready to join other international partners to encourage national dialogue.

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Continental News

Blinken in Rwanda to Discuss Congo Tensions, Human Rights

KIGALI, RWANDA —U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in Rwanda, the last stop on his three-nation tour of Africa where he has articulated Washington's new strategy for engaging with sub-Saharan African nations as

governments support rebels opposed to each other.

In a meeting Thursday with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Blinken is expected to discuss efforts to ease the tensions. Rwanda is rejecting a new report by United Nations experts saying they have "solid evidence" that members of

Congo on Tuesday, he said the U.S. will support African-led efforts to end the fighting.

Rwandan authorities in turn accuse Congo of giving refuge to ethnic Hutu fighters who played roles in Rwanda's 1994 genocide that killed ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus. There have long been tensions between the countries. In the late 1990s, Rwanda twice sent its forces deep into Congo, joining forces with rebel leader Laurent Kabila to depose the country's longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Both Rwanda and Congo deny the charges of backing rebel groups, and Rwandan authorities have rejected the latest report by U.N. experts as a move "to distract from real issues." Rwanda also asserts that its security needs cannot be met while armed fugitives from the genocide continue to operate from inside Congolese territory.

A meeting between Kagame and Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in Angola on July 6 produced a statement calling for a return to normal diplomatic relations, a cessation of hostilities and the "immediate and

unconditional withdrawal" of the M23 from its positions in eastern Congo.

But M23, which comprises mostly ethnic Tutsis from Congo, continues to hold its positions near the border with Uganda, keeping the spotlight on Rwanda. The chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a letter to Blinken last month called for a comprehensive review of U.S. policy toward Rwanda and noted his concern that Washington's support for Rwanda, widely described by human right groups as authoritarian and repressive, is not in line with U.S. values.

The State Department said Blinken in Rwanda also

will raise democracy and human rights concerns, including transnational repression and the limited space for the opposition. Paul Rusesabagina, a permanent resident of the U.S. who is jailed in Rwanda after his conviction last year on terror-related charges, also is on the agenda. Rusesabagina, who achieved fame with the film "Hotel Rwanda" for sheltering ethnic Tutsis during the genocide, was a recipient of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In a statement ahead of Blinken's visit, Rwanda's government said it "looks forward to a robust exchange of views on governance and human rights, as has always been the case in the Rwanda-U.S. bilateral relationship. VOA



Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the President's Office in Urugwiro Village

"equal partners."

Blinken comes to Rwanda at a particularly difficult time for Africa's Great Lakes region, with the small central African nation at odds with vast neighbor Congo over allegations that both

Rwanda's armed forces are conducting operations in eastern Congo in support of the M23 rebel group.

Blinken has said reports of Rwanda's support for M23 appeared "credible." After meeting with authorities in

Seven Charged in Brutal South Africa Gang Rape

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA —The National Prosecuting Authority in South Africa says at least 14 men out of dozens arrested face rape charges in an attack on a group of women who were making a music video earlier this month.

A court on Wednesday charged seven men in connection with the gang rape, prosecuting authority spokeswoman Phindi Louw Mjonondwane told VOA, adding that seven more would face rape charges tomorrow.

They are all part of the 80 men initially arrested in a major police sweep following the incident, she confirmed.

The women had been making a music video two weeks earlier in the mining area of Krugersdorp outside Johannesburg when they were attacked by a group of masked, armed men.

Mjonondwane said all of

those charged with rape were foreign nationals, including from Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

"Seven accused appeared at the Krugersdorp Magistrate's Court facing charges ranging from multiple counts of rape, sexual assault, contravention of the immigration act, as well as robbery with aggravating circumstances," she said.

Many of those arrested are

believed to work as illegal miners, known here as zama-zamas. The incident has sparked anger in local communities, as well as xenophobia, with mobs attacking the zama-zamas.

Police had said they would use DNA kits to try to identify the alleged attackers from among those rounded up, as well as a police lineup. However, Mjonondwane



A resident gestures after the burning of shacks and belongings as mobs searched for alleged illegal miners in protest

Explainer: What's Behind the Rising Conflict in Eastern DRC



Rising violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has refocused attention on the long-running conflict in the region primarily between the Congolese army and the reconstituted rebel group M23. As part of a three-nation Africa visit, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken plans to travel to the country Aug. 9-10 on a mission that includes advancing peace. Blinken also aims to ease smoldering tensions between the DRC and its neighbor Rwanda.

If unchecked, the volatility "risks reigniting interstate conflict in the Great Lakes region," the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an arm of the U.S. Department of Defense, warned in a June report.

More than 100 armed groups operate in eastern DRC, an unsettled region where conflict has raged for decades but has escalated in

recent months. Human Rights Watch accuses M23 of "summarily" killing at least 29 civilians from mid-June through July 25. Nearly 8,000 people have died violently since 2017, according to the Kivu Security Tracker, which monitors conflict and human rights violations. More than 5.5 million people have been displaced — 700,000 this year alone, according to the United Nations. The Norwegian Refugee Council identified the DRC as the world's most overlooked, under-addressed refugee crisis in 2021, a distinction it also held in 2020 and 2017. Fueling the insecurity is a complicated brew of geopolitics, ethnic and national rivalries, and competition for control of eastern DRC's abundant natural resources.

The fighting has ramped up tensions between the DRC and neighboring Rwanda, some of which linger from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, during which ethnic Hutus killed roughly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. BBC

would not comment on how those charged had been identified.

Despite having a very high rate of rape and gender-

based violence, South Africa — which celebrated Women's Day on Tuesday — was shocked by the brutal attack. BBC

EDITORIAL

EPA's assessment in Cape Mount desires more

FINAL REPORT OF environmental assessment and water quality testing released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on spillage of cyanide into the Marvov Creek and Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount county appears to be inexhaustive and stops short of holding anyone accountable. The report also fails to state clearly what measures have been put in place to avoid a repeat of said incident that threatens both human and aquatic lives.

RATHER, THE EPA says that all perimeters tested are appreciably below permissible limits it has set, and that the "water resource is safe for all intent and purpose."

THE STATEMENT "all perimeters tested are appreciably below permissible limits set" presupposes that the assessment was selective or restricted, in a matter that could have far reaching consequences and susceptible health problems.

THE AGENCY HAD earlier reported that a higher than permissible levels of free cyanide spillage from Bea Mountain Mining Company led to pollution of the Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount.

ON MAY 24, 2022, Bea Mountain confirmed receiving similar reports and subsequently warned residents in the surrounding areas on June 3, 2022 to avoid using the water streams for any purpose, pending detailed assessment.

ONE WOULD HAVE thought that said detailed assessment may have included bringing to book entities or individuals responsible, and actions to avert a reoccurrence. But as it stands, residents are being told water from the river is once again, safe for "all intent and purpose."

HOWEVER, THE FACT remains that both Bea Mountain and the New Liberty Gold Mine still operate in the county, and the former still uses cyanide that could spill again down stream the river and pose further environmental threats.

IT IS IMPORTANT that agency such as the EPA does everything in executing its responsibility in ways that leave no room for suspicion because of ambiguity. What advice did the Agency give to Bea Mountain regarding the operation of its plant that led to spillage of cyanide into river and creek used by citizens for drinking and other purposes?

ALREADY, A LOCAL chief from the affected area has raised concern about the assessment conducted by the EPA and findings released, contending that their lawyer is not in the know and so villagers would not fetch water from the affected river and creek until otherwise.

SOMETHING IS NOT adding up. The EPA should get down to villagers who are the direct victims of the pollution not only to allay their fears, but to assure them of measures put in place to avert a reoccurrence as well as to bring perpetrators to book.

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COMMENTARY

By Phillip A. Sharp and
Julien Patris

What Biotech Innovation Needs

CAMBRIDGE - The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped attitudes toward public health, fiscal policy, and the state's role in the economy. Demands for greater supply-chain resilience and strategic autonomy in developing and producing medicines have given rise to the concept of "life-science sovereignty."

French President Emmanuel Macron, for example, has announced an ambitious plan calling for France to produce at least 20 new biotherapies by 2030. With financing from the French public investment bank, his government's La French Care initiative aims to support the domestic biotech ecosystem and turn France into a "pioneer mRNA nation." Similarly, many other governments - from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom - are doubling down on their domestic biotech sectors.

This attention is welcome, but will it be enough? As the COVID experience has shown, securing approvals for a handful of vaccines and therapeutics requires hundreds of clinical trials for existing and new compounds - many of which fail. Medical innovation is expensive, and the costs and risks associated with it tend to be misunderstood by policymakers and ordinary citizens alike.

Consider the story behind ribonucleic acid interference (RNAi) therapeutics, a new category of medicines that target the genetic causes of disease and use small interfering RNA (siRNA) to "turn off" harmful proteins at their source. These treatments have virtually unlimited potential, but the journey from scientific possibility to real opportunity for patients has been very long.

The discovery of the structure and function of DNA in the 1950s launched a sustained research effort to understand the biological mechanisms underpinning the process of gene expression. Building on those breakthroughs, Andrew Fire and Craig Mello discovered RNAi, or "gene silencing," in 1998, for which they won the Nobel Prize in 2006.

Fire and Mello's discovery generated widespread excitement about siRNA's possible use as a new type of therapy. Pharmaceutical companies invested heavily in this new area of research, but they soon encountered technical challenges in turning RNAi technology into therapeutics. The most salient problem was how to deliver siRNA to the right place in the human body for it to work effectively (that is, to the organ in which the disease gene was expressed). The difficulties of navigating this uncharted territory led many researchers and companies to lose hope.

By the early 2010s, most large pharmaceutical firms had terminated their investments in the technology entirely. Only a handful of companies - including our own, Alnylam - remained committed, eventually solving the delivery problem with lipid nanoparticles (LNP) as a carrier for RNAi. There are now four RNAi therapeutics approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency, and LNPs are being used in the mRNA vaccines for COVID-19. But it is important to remember that it took Alnylam 20 years and nearly \$7.5 billion to reach this point.

The story of RNAi holds important lessons about "life-science sovereignty." First, success takes more than scientific excellence and public support. Today, Greater Boston is a world-class biotech hub, hosting more than 1,000 biotechnology-related companies. But building this ecosystem took 50 years, starting in the 1970s with the founding of Biogen.

The Boston biotech ecosystem owes its growth to several interacting forces. The presence of world-class biomedical expertise within Harvard University and MIT certainly helped, but the availability of interdisciplinary skills such as engineering, business, finance, computing, and data sciences was also essential. So, too, was the young industry's proximity to some of the world's largest research hospitals. Bringing together the scientific and medical communities was critical for clinical development. Finally, early venture capitalists and investors in Boston and New York provided the necessary funding.

A second lesson concerns "sovereignty," a concept that can be problematic, because it implies a nationalist orientation. In fact, for any life-science ecosystem to succeed, it must be internationally oriented and open, so that it can tap scientific know-how, talent, and capital from around the world. There is a reason why many of the largest European and Japanese pharmaceutical companies - Sanofi, Novartis, Takeda, and Ipsen - invested in facilities in Boston.

To help domestic companies grow internationally, governments need to ensure that their policies are conducive to attracting both human and financial capital from abroad. The UK seems to understand this. Through its Biobank, a large-scale biomedical database and research resource, it is leveraging National Health Service (NHS) data to build partnerships with global companies and researchers, ultimately leading to the development of new medicines.

Third, medical innovation requires considerable funds from both the public and private sectors. Here, Europe continues to trail the United States. Much more funding will be needed for it to catch up and - perhaps more importantly - not be overtaken by China in the global biotech race.

Finally, to ensure financial sustainability and a continuous cycle of investment, market and policy incentives must be aligned to reward innovation. Here, too, Europe is far behind the US. Because the European market is so fragmented, it takes much longer for innovations to become accessible there, leading to lower returns on investment. Between the limited growth opportunities and the commercial risks associated with unfavorable market access, there are many disincentives for investment in research capacity and clinical trials.

A more unified European market, where new innovations are evaluated in a timely and reliable fashion, could fix these problems and create a virtuous circle of investment and growth. But it will require a change of mindset. Decision-makers need to start looking at life-science innovation as a strategic investment instead of a health-care cost.

They also need to improve access to new innovations, as the NHS has done with its population health management initiative, using patient medical histories to provide early and broad access to new treatments. Many other innovative solutions exist, but shepherding them to adoption and use will require more dialogue and a new social pact between the biotech sector, policymakers, and the public.

Phillip A. Sharp, Institute Professor of Biology at MIT, is Director of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Scientific Advisory Board and a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Julien Patris is Head of Policy for International Markets and Country Manager for Belgium and Luxembourg at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.



Lord, I begging them mehn, leh them lee my man small

Dear Father,

Wa one they say my man na do again, I jus hearing his name all over de place leh he na win som kina big lotto. Hmm, yor man na wasay again oo, my son.

Father, da watin he na do again. You go so, Porcupine, you come so da Porcupine, every weh you pass da Porcupine. Oh, you na hear, they say yor man wor defening how de pepo say he can steal de village money.

Lol, I begging them mehn, leh them lee my man small mehn aah. My man say da parable he wor speaking in to tell de pepo somethin. Da de thin yor na understand na, yor jus passing all around-must you?

De pepo na know da parable Jesus used to teach him pepo in and wein he fini he can say you da get ear mot hear.

So, wein de pepo na understand they suppose to ask him question for him to explain-Da fire! De man mot com talk som again so yor can say he get Central Bank to him house.

Bor Father, wait small ya, leh me understand dis thin here. Da de man say stealing ay good or da de pepo say? Ok, wrong question. Da watin my man really say over there?

Um huh, da na you asking de right question my son. Wait, leh me explain. Yor man say, every day de pepo can say Porcupine da rogue, Porcupine da rogue. Bor he know he na rogue. Bor he say jus incase he wor rogue and he wor taking de village money and building fine, fine mansion all over de village or giving de money to de pepo in de village in him name, da na bad thin. Ehn? You say watin, wait na, de man da Robinhood?

Wait na my son. Yor man say de reason why it na bad da becos, wein he died fini, wein all de pepo grandchildren them com and see all de fine, fine mansion them they will say our village fine. He say, becos he will na carry de fine, fine mansion them with him to de great beyond.

Father, leh talk so and talk so too oo. I think my man wor saying de right thin bor it wor coming out de wrong way oo. Oh, wa do you mean, you na start to support yor man too?

Yes na, becos he say de orlor big, big pepo da wor in de Old Lady kitchen too wor stealing from de village bor they wor carrying them own to Uncle Sam and his cousin them village. Bor him own, they using it to be building fine, fine, mansion here. Ehn, so tell me na my son, dis one you jus talk it geh hay inside?

Oh, bor Father, me I jus telling you somthin, I na talking in parable like my man oo. Da somthin I trying to find sense inside de thin my man talk. De thin da makay every body jus calling him name around here. In fact, I vex na sef. Da my mehn one da rogue?

My son, nobody talking here like yor friend. De orlor rogue them sholor their mouth, da yor friend going around de play dividing money. De orlor pepo acting mean wit their own.

Aah you see, so da de one na make my man de only rogue ehn. Bor all de cat them jus eating and acting like nathin happening. Anyway, da yor bisnay, all I know my man say he wor speaking in parable. He be Jesus?

OPINION

By Arvind Subramanian
and Josh Felman

Three Globalization Shocks Could Hurt China and Help India

PROVIDENCE - Over the past decade and a half, financial, health, and geopolitical shocks have pummeled world trade. The 2008 global financial crisis devastated the banks that financed much of the world's commerce, and then triggered a secular decline in economic growth. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic closed factories and upended global supply chains. And now Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted food and energy supplies, threatening to divide the world along geopolitical lines.

Some argue that these three shocks might even lead to the death of globalization. But the reality is likely to be more complex: The disruptions will probably transform the global trading system rather than shrink it, with the impact varying across countries. Significantly, China will probably lose, while India might even gain.

Starting in the early 1990s, developing countries advanced as a group for almost two decades, rapidly catching up to rich countries' standards of living. This convergence was facilitated by hyper-globalization, whereby trade liberalization and large declines in transport and communication costs swiftly increased opportunities for the developing world. China and India benefited enormously, leading to the largest reductions in poverty the world has ever seen.

This golden age ended with the 2008 global financial crisis. Since then, national growth trajectories have varied considerably. China's deceleration has been dramatic: After decades of double-digit annual expansion, GDP growth has now slowed to almost zero. But other countries such as India have continued to grow (apart from in pandemic-hit 2020), albeit less rapidly on average than before. Why the difference?

The global shocks have proved particularly damaging for China because they have come on top of an ongoing, secular loss of competitiveness, as labor migration from farms to factories has started to reach its limits, causing wages to rise. Johns Hopkins University's Shoumitro Chatterjee and one of us (Subramanian) estimated that declining competitiveness has caused China to lose out on about \$150 billion worth of exports.

Moreover, the shocks themselves have had an asymmetric impact. After 2008, trade in goods stopped growing as a share of global GDP, while trade in services continued to rise. This affected China more severely, because it is a manufacturing powerhouse, whereas India is a competitive services trader. As a result, China's exports-to-GDP ratio decreased from its pre-2008 peak of 36% to 18.5% while India's declined by much less, from 25% to about 19%.

The long-term consequences of the shocks could be very serious for China. For starters, the country has reached an inflection point in its development, where it needs to navigate the difficult transition from middle-income to upper-income status. When South Korea attained China's current level of development (a GDP per capita of roughly \$15,000 in purchasing-power-parity terms), its further transition required exports to surge by another 25 percentage points of GDP.

The prospect of China being able to replicate this seems remote, in large part because the world's political willingness to absorb Chinese exports has reached its limits. The COVID-19 shock has forced a reassessment of globalization, with countries seeking to reduce their reliance on imports of critical goods such as pharmaceuticals.

Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to a broader geopolitical realignment, with the United States and its allies on one side and Russia and China on the other. This reordering comes on top of a longer-standing superpower rivalry between the US and China. The severe Western sanctions against Russia and the resulting weaponization of interdependence have further sharpened the geopolitical divide.

Meanwhile, China's growth model is under huge stress. The real estate and construction boom that powered the economy's rapid expansion for decades has come to an end, leaving many leading developers close to bankruptcy. Demographic trends are far more adverse than the country's official population statistics indicate. And President Xi Jinping's embrace of state intervention is undermining entrepreneurship and economic dynamism - the domestic wellsprings of growth.

This will leave China more dependent on exports, just at a time when global demand is dimming. Consequently, the Chinese growth model may be in even more serious trouble than many believe.

But as China's prospects darken, those of other countries are brightening. For example, countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Indonesia have increased their exports at extraordinary rates. All have seized the opportunity created by the \$150 billion of manufacturing export space that China has vacated.

At the same time, the global shocks have increased opportunities for services exporters. The COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged services firms to allow their staff to work from home. But if workers for a Boston-based firm can log in from Boise, then why not from Bengaluru? Indeed, services trade has boomed over the past few years, benefiting India.

Similarly, "friend-shoring" of production will boost countries perceived to be friendly to the West. A growing number of firms have exited Russia, and foreign capital is fleeing China, aggravated by Xi's domestic policies. At the same time, integration efforts among the US-led alliance are increasing, with India having resumed negotiations on free-trade agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom.

But to gain from the globalization shocks that have differentially favored services and open, pluralistic democracies, India will need to change its policy direction. It will need to reverse its recent inward turn and become more open economically. At the same time, it needs to improve what we call the "software of economic and political policymaking," ensuring the rule of law, even-handed treatment of all investors, robust domestic institutions, and social stability, all of which are critical for creating a favorable environment for sustained economic growth.

In sum, the three shocks to globalization have squeezed opportunities for China while enlarging them for India. Of course, China can overcome its challenges, just as India can seize the initiative. But in each case, success will require a reassessment of current domestic policies and governance.

Arvind Subramanian is a senior fellow at Brown University and a distinguished non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development. Josh Felman is Director of JH Consulting.

Facts and Rumors about the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) News from the Communities.

- 1 Rumor** You do not need to get a license/registration from NaFAA before fishing.

FACTS: Fishing without registering and obtaining a license from NaFAA is illegal and those caught will be arrested, their equipment seized, and sent to court for prosecution. The prices for registration and licensing, per calendar year, are: LS\$3,200.00 for peddling canoes, US\$200.00 for 1-15 Hp; US\$475.00 for 16-40 Hp; US\$1,250.00 for 41-100 Hp; US\$1,500.00 for Migrant Fisherman, and US\$350.00 for recreational fishing.
- 2 Rumor** To register and get license from NaFAA, you need to be a citizen with a passport and National ID card.

FACTS: To register, you need to obtain a simple application form from NaFAA/CMA office at Freeport, Bushrod Island, fill out the form and obtain a deposit slip from NaFAA for payment. This applies to all fishing categories except for recreational fishing, where you need to submit a letter of intent, with copies of business registration and tax clearance.
- 3 Rumor** To get your license, you need to pay an additional US\$100.00.

FACTS: Once you have paid for your yearly registration within one of the categories mentioned, there is no other money required.
- 4 Rumor** NaFAA does not respond to calls.

FACTS: NaFAA responds to every customer call. The customer service hotline number, -231 777 001 193 is always on. The number can also be used to report corruption, beach seining, fishing without a license, or using chemical/dynamite for fishing.
- 5 Rumor** NaFAA is selling fishing nets and outboard motors that were freely given to them.

FACTS: NaFAA does not sell any fishing equipment. Fishing nets were distributed free of charge to registered/licensed fishermen and outboard motors were also freely given to fishing cooperatives to manage the groups.



The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) was created by an Act of National Legislation on October 9, 2017. It previously functioned as the Bureau of National Fisheries and operated as a unit within the department of Technical services of the Ministry of Agriculture from 1956 to 2017.

NaFAA's mandate is to improve the institutional framework for fisheries management: through adaptive research; community and stakeholder participation and improve fish quality and value addition technologies for enhanced economic returns in fisheries.



Facts and Rumors About the Liberian Electricity Corporation (LEC) from the Communities

- 1 Rumor** LEC connection requires you to have a job or own a business, and one must also have a valid passport, and it takes up to six months for a new customer to get connected.

FACTS: According to the LEC, it takes two (2) weeks for first-time customers to get connected, and one only needs a valid National ID card or a Passport to start that process.
- 2 Rumor** To get an electricity meter at LEC, one will have to pay more than US\$100.00 per house.

FACTS: According to LEC, a household meter is sold for just US\$22.00. The other meters costs are: US\$372 for a three-phase meter for large customers and US\$1000 for Industrial/Higher capacity.
- 3 Rumor** LEC cannot do anything to people who are caught stealing electricity.

FACTS: First, power theft is illegal, and people caught stealing electricity will be arrested and turned over to the Liberian National Police for a charge, and sent to court for prosecution. LEC also wants to discourage power theft, because it presents a serious safety issue for the public, including utility workers. Stealing electricity is dangerous and can cause electric shock, fire, and explosion which can lead to serious injury or death. Power theft can also affect the electricity bills of other customers, directly or all customers generally.
- 4 Rumor** When you have an issue with your connection, don't call LEC, they will not come. Get an electrician in your community to check your line and resolve the issue.

FACTS: If there are any issues with your LEC meter or line, all you need to do is call the LEC customer service hotline at 4500 and state the problem you are facing. This call has no charge to you.
- 5 Rumor** There is no way to report power theft in the community because it is the same LEC workers that are stealing the power and making the connections.

FACTS: First, people making illegal connections are not LEC workers. Second, you can report all power theft cases or suspected cases by calling/texting the hotline: 4600, and LEC will send a response team to the location. This call has no charge to you.



The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) is implementing several projects, including rehabilitation and expansion of the electricity network infrastructure to increase access to electricity in line with the Government of Liberia's (GoL) plan to expand electricity services to cover 70% of Monrovia and 35% nationwide by the year 2030.

The Liberian energy sector has been supported by the World Bank in collaboration with other international donors, including: the Government of Norway, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the KfW Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union (EU).



The Liberian Legislature recently enacted into law an act to re-establish the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC). Here are a few things you need to know about the new act:

- **Two New Commissioners:** The number of Commissioners at the LACC has been increased by two, from five (5) to seven (7) persons.
- **New Structure:** The departments at the LACC have been restructured, namely; Administration & Supervision, Education & Prevention, Monitoring & Investigation and Prosecution.
- **Prosecutory Power:** The new Act gives the LACC the Direct Power to Prosecute any person, organization or entity who commits an act of corruption.
- **Selecting Committee Members:** The head of the Ad-hoc committee will be appointed by the president, while the other eight member will be selected from the GAC, the LNBA, PUL, LBA, Anti-Corruption Civil Society Organization, LICPA, and a person from the International donor community that supports anti-corruption work in Liberia.
- **Selection of Commissioners:** A nine persons ad-hoc committee will be set up by the president will publicize the opening period for the submission of applications for the appointment of the commissioners, within 15-working days, from the deadline for submission of the application.
- **Tenure of Chairpersons:** The Executive Chairperson and three of the commissioners will now serve for seven (7) years instead of five (5), and the Executive Vice Chairperson and two of the commissioners will serve a term of five (5) years each.



To read the entire act, kindly click this link: shorturl.at/kmPW4



PAW to establish rehabilitate At-risk youth

Pentecostal Assembly of the World (PAW) reveals plan to establish a rehabilitation center in Liberia to cater to At-risk youth.

Bishop Dr. Leo M. Simpson of the 35th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assembly of the World West African Region, said the center, which will be established at the Samuel Grimes Memorial High School in Kakata, Margibi County, will partner with A.M. Kyne Collegiate Resource Center to rehabilitate drug-addicted youth in the country.

Bishop Simpson further reveals that friends from the United States of America are expected to arrive in Liberia next month to initiate funding for the program. He says drug addiction poses serious threat to the youthful population of Liberia, cautioning that if nothing is done now to alleviate this threat, it could leave a serious toll.

The veteran Liberian educator

addiction in Liberia.

He says if the situation is not tackled adequately now, it could create serious threat for the nation.

Mr. Kyne discloses that beginning Monday, August 15, his organization will embark on intensive 10 days training on methods necessary to rehabilitate drug-addicted youth in Kakata, Margibi county.

He says the training will involve people from the community to enable them to understand when somebody is involved in addiction.

Mr. Kyne adds that partnership and collaboration with other organizations are vital in battling drug addiction in the society, adding that government along cannot do it all.

President George Weah recently said failure of Liberian parents to take care of their responsibility has contributed to increase of at-risk



continues that the rehabilitation center will ensure that drugs-addicted youth receive necessary treatment and counseling to stabilize them.

Dr. Simpson made the disclosure here Wednesday, 10 August while speaking with reporters at his office in Old Road community.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director of the A. M. Kyne Collegiate Resource Center, Adam M. Kyne, says the partnership with PAW to rehabilitate disadvantaged youth in Samuel Grimes Memorial High School will not be institutionalized.

According to him, institutionalizing drug-addicted youth is obsolete, adding that drug-addicted people are already traumatized and need counseling rather than stationing them in an institution.

He explained that drug addiction is a brain disease that needs special attention and notes that it is estimated that 100, 000 youth are faced with drug

youths in the country despite government efforts.

President Weah made the observation after a series of sporting activities at the Invincible Park in Monrovia on Saturday, June 26, 2022, aimed at raising funds to build a rehabilitation center for at-risk youths across the country.

He said the executive development initiative will construct a rehabilitation center for at-risk youth and that after completion, volunteers will be needed to teach and mental the at-risk youths during their rehabilitation process.

"Our desire to make sure Liberian youths are served is important, and also the essential part of our work is to promote health and at the same time promote at-risk youth." President Weah said. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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River Cess lawmakers applaud students' high WASSCE performance

River Cess County Legislative Caucus has hailed senior high students of the County for their academic accomplishment in the just-ended West African Senior Secondary Certificate Exams (WASSCE). The Caucus through its Chairperson Dr. Rosanna G.D.H Schaack said

and 21 girls.

All of the girls passed, but one boy failed, thus constituting a hundred percent passage.

She congratulated the County Education Officer, District Education Officers, teachers and students of River Cess County for reaching the top scores this

Representative of Electoral District #1, I congratulate the CEO, DEOs, all of our teachers and students of River Cess County," she said.

"I also congratulate the parents and guardians who have supported our students in reaching the top scores this year," the lawmaker continued. The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) is Africa's foremost examining board established by law to determine the examinations required in the public interest in the English-speaking West African countries.

It is tasked to conduct the examinations and to award certificates comparable to those of equivalent examining authorities internationally.

WASSCE was administered at 334 centers in the 15 counties from 31 May to 17 June 2022. The overall performance of the candidates at the passing rate of at least a subject on the examination is encouraging as compared to their counterparts who sat the same examination nationally for the first time in 2018.

Nine subjects were offered on the examination with the Arts candidates sitting for seven of the nine subjects while the Science candidates sat for a minimum of eight of the nine subjects. --Press release

legislators heavily invested three months' salaries for five teachers in the Sciences at the Cestos High School at the beginning of this academic year.

River Cess, accordingly, sent 50 students to sit the WASSCE this year. The number included 29 boys,

year. The River Cess County lawmaker also congratulated the parents and guardians who have supported their children's education in attaining such an academic feat.

"On behalf of the River Cess Legislative Caucus and in my own name, as



legislators heavily invested three months' salaries for five teachers in the Sciences at the Cestos High School at the beginning of this academic year.

River Cess, accordingly, sent 50 students to sit the WASSCE this year. The number included 29 boys,

AMEU condemns attack on its campus

-Call on LNP to investigate the matter

The Administration of the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) has condemned a reported attack on its campus Wednesday afternoon, 10 August 2022. The alleged attack was carried out by some young men wearing khaki. It is believed the attackers were members of the Students Unification Party (SUP), but the facts are yet to be established.

Members of SUP were recently attacked by pro-government rioters. One of the rioters who hails from AMEU was subsequently suspended by the institution in connection to the attack.

AME University said in a release that it considers the incident on its campus as not just an attack on peaceful young men and women, but on the peace and stability of the State.

According to the statement, AMEU is

encouraging its students, staff, and users of its facilities to go about their normal activities as calm has been restored by the security guards, with the assistance of the Liberia National Police.

"We condemn this attack in no uncertain terms and call on the Liberia National Police and relevant state

actors to investigate this matter to its logical conclusion and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice," the statement said.

On Wednesday afternoon, some khaki-wearing young men threw stones and other harmful objects during normal academic activities at AME University, damaging cars and properties near the university.

The young men visited the AMEU after a tip-off that the former student Council President Abduraham Barry, a



Liberia's Palava Hut mechanism delivering quick wins in long, winding road to justice



Monrovia, Liberia; August 11, 2022: The National Palava Hut hearings, the recommended restorative justice mechanism for crimes of "lesser gravity" committed during Liberia's 14-year civil war, kicked off in Sanoyea on Wednesday, 10 August with the Chairman of the Independent Commission on Human Rights, Cllr T Dempster Brown, calling for justice all crimes committed during the war.

"There must be justice for all the heinous crimes committed during the war if Liberia is to sustain the peace and stability we are enjoying now," said Cllr Dempster Brown promising that "the Commission will not rest until the war crimes court is established".

Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker said Liberians have the duty to sustain peace, appealing to the youth to embrace forgiveness and reconciliation in resolving their differences in order to build back Liberia better.

"The Liberia we want, it is

student of the AMEU and member of the Coalition for Democratic Change Council of Patriots (CDC-COP) was spotted on campus.

AMEU recently suspended Barry after the CDC - COP attacked and badly wounded SUP members on 26 July.

Speaking to this paper, the Communication Director of AMEU Fidel Saydee said he was told by a security guard of the institution that a group of young men went to the university in search of student Abduraham Barry.

He said they forcefully entered the campus of the university in search of Barry.

He added that there was also an ongoing training of a group of journalists from different institutions in the auditorium of the university, but it was disrupted.

The Liberia National Police in a release has with immediate effect launched an

only Liberians who can make it," she said.

UNDP's Resident Representative in Liberia Stephen Rodriques commended the reconciliatory approach of the Palava Hut mechanism but called for the review and implementation of the other important recommendations of the TRC report.

The Palava Hut mechanism has to date resolved 277 war-related cases of human rights violations involving more than 500 people - 275 victims and 244 perpetrators.

This has been accomplished through four hearings, presided over by elders, with technical support from the country's Independent National Commission on Human Rights. The Palava Hut hearings are a traditional restorative justice and accountability mechanism recommended by Liberia's erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a complementary mechanism to recommendations to establish a

investigation into disturbances at the AMEU.

According to the LNP, upon police's arrival on the campus, one of the perpetrators in person of Darius Tweh was arrested and is currently in police custody. The LNP said it has invited SUP's leadership to the office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police for Crime Services (CSD), Col. Prince Mulbah to answer to allegations levied against them by AMEU.

But addressing a news conference Thursday, 11 August, SUP disassociated itself from the violence at AMEU.

SUP said it is a peaceful institution and it will obtain justice for its members in a peaceful manner.

SUP has called on the LNP to stop calling its leadership's numbers because they will not appear at any conference or investigation in the absence of the International Human Rights Commission.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe laments bad governance under Weah

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Less than 15 months to Liberia's Presidential Election, Incumbent President George Weah and his CDC-led government

again branded the Weah administration as a "bad government" that has placed the country in "Intensive Care Unit."

Cllr. Gongloe stressed that the government's

Liberians poorer.

Speaking Wednesday, August 10, to OK FM in Monrovia, he said instead of transforming the lives of Liberians, the Weah regime has promoted corruption at its peak, noting that the President himself is not leading by example, owing to the questionable wealth he is amassing since he came to the Presidency.

He said Liberia under President Weah is bleeding and needs to survive at the hands of a good President, thus vowing to defeat President Weah in the 2023 elections by winning at least 65 percent of the votes in the first round.

The former president of the Liberia National Bar Association lamented that the Liberian people are facing hardship because the government has deserted them and prioritized enriching its officials, while the citizens languish in abject poverty.

He said this needs to stop by electing a better leader that will deliver the country from a failed state to prosperity. - *Editing by Joathan Browne*



continue to receive lashes from opposition politicians for bad governance.

The latest attack is from presidential hopeful Cllr. Taiwan Gongloe, who has

"Change for Hope" mantra has brought hopelessness, rather than hope and that its "Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development" has made

Cavassa farmers laud MoA for support

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

A group of farmers in Maryland \county under the banner Cavassa Transformation Corporate, has commended the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the European Union for providing farm equipment to enhance its activities.

The donation was done in Boneken, Electoral district#3, Maryland, bringing together cavassa farmers, EU representatives, Maryland County Agriculture Coordinator Christian Nickel Natt, and members of the Cavassa Transformation Corporate.

Items donated include 4 pieces of Gari fryer, 15 pairs of feet wears, 500-gallon Polytank, one dewatering machine, one set of Seiver, two pieces of tube and wheelbarrows, among others.

the Chief Executive Officer of the Cavassa transformation Corporate Winston Johnson, lauded both the Ministry of Agriculture and the EU for the donation, which he said would go a long way in

buttressing their farming effort.

"I'm overwhelmed; I will first of all give thanks to the Liberian government for keeping the peace and supporting farmers through donor fund", Johnson expressed.

He welcomed the presence of the European Union in Liberia and for collaborating with the Ministry in ensuring farmers in the country are supported."We are not the

first and we will not be the last, because the European Union through it CDO has been working assiduously with farmers in the country. So, we are happy to meet our objectives, knowing the mandate we have to ensuring that we help the government in fighting hunger in Liberia", he added.

He stressed that with the mandate from the County Agriculture Coordinator, the project will gradually grow from its previous 1.3 metric tons to at least four to five metric tons. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Arms Commission warns against reckless discharge of firearms

By Kruah Thompson

The Chairman of the Small Arms Commission of Liberia, Attorney Teklo Maxwell Grigsby, II condemns in the strongest term, reckless discharge of fire arms by state security officers.

Atty. Grigsby says it has come to the attention of the Commission that there are careless discharges of firearms by individuals in different security institutions.

Speaking at the Ministry of Information's briefing on Thursday, August 11, 2022, Chairman Grigsby indicated that as Liberia goes to elections next year, the Small Arms Commission will derive a policy for people, carrying firearms.

Therefore, he made it clear to heads of security institutions that any officer, who recklessly discharges a firearm to injure or murder another person or citizen, said officer will be penalized in line with law.

exercise is going to be happening from September up to the elections."

He says from now up to the elections any security officer who has State weapon should be mindful of how it's handled because anyone who will recklessly use them will be prosecuted.

"Not even a legislator is allowed to possess a firearm and at the same time no unit under the law of Liberia is also allowed to issue a firearm except the Liberia National Small Arms Commission, with the approval of the President", he adds.

He explains that under the old law of Liberia, both the EPS and Police were responsible to give lessons, but under the new law, no institution is allowed other than the Commission, stressing that anyone caught will be persecuted by law as well.

He discloses that since 2013, the United States Embassy near Monrovia has been providing



Attorney Teklo Maxwell Grigsby, II, addresses the press at MICAT

He calls on all security institutions in the country to make a public report on these discharges, and to go beyond by visiting homes of victims. He says under the new regulation will require all private military institutions to have a competent clearance beyond their unit.

Atty. Grigsby notes that under the standard operating procedures of most units, when they are trained to the usage of a specific arm such as bush master, "you are not to possess an AK-47 raffle or some other weapons.

"You are to use only the weapon you were trained with. The Commission is going to follow up on that. and this

support to countries across Africa to initiate activities on what is called 'Silence the GUN.'

Under this silence, GUN member states will organize to talk with the public and security institutions in the country about the need to silence GUN in Liberia, Atty. Grigsby explains.

An agent of the Executive Protection Service (EPS), the elite guards of the Liberian Presidency shot and killed a man identified as Valentine Teck Johnson on late Sunday, June 3, 2022, near Police Academy Junction in Paynesville, including similar incidents involving police discharging firearms on citizens. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Français

Le PNUD s'associe à MCC pour lancer un programme de gestion des déchets Cash for Work

Le PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement), en partenariat avec la Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) et en collaboration avec le programme des Volontaires des Nations Unies (VNU), lancera le 13 août 2022 une opération d'assainissement dans 10 quartiers à Monrovia et ses environs pour résoudre le problème de la mauvaise gestion des déchets.

L'opération s'accompagnera de la fourniture des revenus à court terme pour soutenir les communautés défavorisées en terme de moyens de subsistance, en mettant l'accent sur les jeunes.

L'opération fait partie du projet de création de moyens de subsistance et d'emplois du PNUD et du gouvernement du Libéria. Il vise à favoriser l'accès aux revenus pour les populations vulnérables, notamment les jeunes, les femmes et les personnes handicapées.

Le projet sera mis en œuvre en étroite collaboration avec les

dirigeants communautaires et les départements des services communautaires et de gestion des déchets solides de la MCC. Quatre cents volontaires communautaires sont recrutés à cet effet dans 10 communautés actuellement confrontées à des difficultés en raison de la couverture limitée des systèmes de collecte des déchets. Il s'agit des quartiers comme Jallah Town, Slipway, Vai Town, Plumkor, West Point, PHP, Saye Town, Capitol Hill, Buzzy Quarter, God Bless You

Community, Bras & People's United Community. Les bénéficiaires ont été sélectionnés à la suite d'un processus de tirage au sort transparent et participatif qui a assuré l'équilibre entre les sexes. Il s'agit des jeunes âgés de 18 à 35 ans.

Au cours des vingt prochains jours, les volontaires participeront à la collecte des déchets, au nettoyage des plages et des berges pour soutenir l'amélioration de la gestion des déchets et de

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Les fauteurs de troubles électoraux face à La Haye

Ceux qui causeront des meurtres lors des élections de 2023 seront transférés à La Haye pour y être poursuivis, a mis en garde Me Dempster Browne, président de la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (INCHR).

Lors du lancement officiel d'une audience sous l'arbre à palabres dans le district de

Sanoyea, dans le comté de Bong, Me Browne a averti: "Nous ne pouvons pas continuer à rester comme ça."

Me Browne a dit que l'INCHR fera pression pour que ceux qui causeront des meurtres lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023 soient transférés à La Haye pour y être poursuivis. la Commission des droits de l'homme, a-t-il insisté,

est déterminée à faire son travail.

« Là où il n'y a pas de justice, il n'y a pas de réconciliation. Les victimes ne concilient leurs différences que lorsque ceux qui ont commis des crimes sont punis », a-t-il fait remarquer, avant d'expliquer que la Commission des droits de l'homme est chargée de promouvoir et de protéger les droits des citoyens.

Me Browne a rappelé que des crimes odieux ont été commis pendant les 14 années de guerre civile au Libéria, et que les massacres commis dans certaines parties du pays étaient des crimes contre l'humanité dans en vertu du droit international. « Dans le seul comté de Bong par exemple, 75 personnes, dont des femmes, des enfants et des personnes âgées, ont été massacrées pendant la guerre », a-t-il déploré.

Il a ajouté qu'il existe des crimes nationaux qui peuvent être jugés en vertu des lois

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Éditorial

Privilégions la démocratie et disons non à la violence

Le Libéria semble progressivement s'écarter de la voie de la tolérance politique et de la cohésion démocratique pour se diriger vers une culture d'intolérance et de violence, ce qui risque de replonger ce pays dans un effondrement total. Ce type de comportement nous a déjà conduit par le passé à des conséquences inimaginables où nos citoyens, en particulier femmes et enfants, ont subi le poids d'un État qui est dans le chaos.

La violence sponsorisée se faufile dans l'arène politique du pays à tel point que si elle n'est pas contrôlée maintenant, elle pourrait plonger ce pays dans une autre série de troubles et d'autodestruction.

Dans une déclaration conjointe publiée le mardi 2 août 2022 sur les violences du 26 juillet à Monrovia, la communauté internationale (Nations Unies, Union européenne, Amérique et Royaume-Uni) a dit que le Libéria s'était bien fait remarquer par des élections libres, équitables et transparentes au cours des deux dernières décennies, ce qui avait fait du pays un exemple de stabilité et de démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Il serait donc bien dommage que les Libériens veuillent remplacer cet acquis par la violence.

La communauté internationale a mis en garde que la violence n'est pas le bon moyen de résoudre les différends. « Que les divergences politiques soient résolues par le dialogue ».

« Nous encourageons donc tous les acteurs à agir de manière responsable et à adopter les principes de tolérance, de démocratie et de constitutionnalisme pour un processus électoral inclusif, transparent et pacifique au Libéria en 2023 », a écrit la communauté internationale dans son communiqué.

Travailler à un processus électoral démocratique pacifique en 2023 devrait être l'agenda de tous les Libériens épris de paix. Les futures élections seront un tournant quant à déterminer si nous, Libériens, sommes prêts à continuer sur la voie de la paix et de la stabilité politique.

Il est dans notre meilleur intérêt et dans l'intérêt de nos générations de maintenir un environnement politique socio-économique où chaque citoyen peut s'efforcer de nourrir son potentiel donné par Dieu. On ne peut y arriver dans le chaos et la haine l'un contre l'autre.

Nous devrions être les derniers dans la sous-région à vouloir agir d'une manière qui risquerait de nous ramener à notre horrible passé qui a soumis notre cher pays à la guerre, à la pauvreté, à la maladie et à la misère. N'avons-nous pas appris nos leçons?

Avons-nous besoin que la communauté internationale nous rappelle d'où nous venons au cours de la dernière décennie et demie qui nous a placés en dessous de nos voisins ? Nous devrions avoir honte de vouloir toujours être l'enfant problématique en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le temps presse. Il faut que nous nous mettions ensemble en tant que Libériens pour faire avancer notre patrie dans la paix, la diversité, la tolérance, l'unité, le développement économique et la prospérité. La mentalité du crabe ne doit pas avoir sa place dans notre processus politique et de construction de la nation.

Français

Le PNUD s'associe à MCC pour lancer un programme

l'assainissement dans leurs communautés. Ils recevront une allocation quotidienne de 5 dollars US, soit 100 dollars US sur la période de 20 jours.

Pour assurer la pérennité de l'intervention, le PNUD met à disposition un lot d'outils pour chacune des communautés. Les communautés seront mises en relation avec des entrepreneurs privés de déchets qui achèteront des déchets plastiques à des fins de recyclage. Les communautés seront également liées à des entreprises communautaires pour soutenir la collecte des déchets de maison en maison tandis que les dirigeants des communautés se sont engagés à ce que les volontaires soient retenus sous forme d'un corps de volontaires communautaires pour mener la tâche concernant la gestion des déchets dans leurs communautés.

La situation actuelle des déchets à Monrovia reste une préoccupation environnementale et sanitaire pour les membres des ménages, car ils sont soumis à des risques de souffrir de maladies transmises par les déchets en raison d'une mauvaise gestion des déchets.

Il existe des preuves qui montrent une corrélation linéaire entre les défis de la gestion des déchets et les moyens de subsistance des populations.

"La réponse contribuera à améliorer l'accès aux revenus et aux moyens de subsistance pour la population, à améliorer le statut socio-économique des communautés grâce à des transferts monétaires et à promouvoir le volontariat", a déclaré E. Abraham Tumbey Jr. Point focal du PNUD pour le programme de création d'emplois et de moyens de subsistance.

En plus des revenus monétaires, les communautés posséderont et géreront les outils achetés par le projet pour les campagnes de nettoyage de routine.

Le programme VNU soutient la mobilisation et la coordination communautaires, la supervision stratégique et la supervision pour le suivi et l'évaluation, tandis que le MCC travaillera avec les superviseurs communautaires pour soutenir la planification, le suivi quotidien et la supervision du travail et pour accroître le sentiment d'appropriation et de volontariat pour la gestion des déchets.

Les fauteurs de troubles

libériennes, mais les crimes internationaux ne peuvent être traités que par un tribunal des crimes de guerre.

Le patron de l'INCHR s'est demandé comment la paix peut être maintenue et la réconciliation avoir lieu au Libéria alors que ceux qui ont commis des crimes bluffent partout dans le pays sans que justice soit rendue.

"Et donc la commission des droits de l'homme est déterminée à faire tout son possible pour traduire ceux qui ont commis ces crimes

odieux en justice en faisant pression", a-t-il promis.

Me Browne a rendu hommage aux victimes de la guerre civile, y compris celles de son comté natal River Gee, où des crânes d'êtres humains pendaient partout aux points de contrôle.

Il a donc exhorté les victimes à exprimer ce qu'elles ont dans le ventre, car personne ne peut rien leur faire.

« Mais nous vous disons que pour maintenir la paix dans ce pays, il doit y avoir de la justice », a-t-il conclu.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Phillip A. Sharp
et Julien Patris

Ce dont a besoin l'innovation biotechnologique

CAMBRIDGE - La pandémie de COVID-19 a refaçonné les mentalités concernant la santé publique, la politique budgétaire et le rôle de l'État dans l'économie. Les exigences autour d'une plus grande résilience des chaînes d'approvisionnement, ainsi que d'une autonomie stratégique dans le développement et la production de médicaments, ont donné naissance au concept de « souveraineté en sciences de la vie ».

Le président français Emmanuel Macron a par exemple annoncé un ambitieux projet consistant pour la France à produire au moins 20 nouvelles biothérapies d'ici 2030. Financée par la Banque publique d'investissement française, l'initiative La French Care entreprise par son gouvernement entend soutenir l'écosystème national des biotechnologies, et faire de la France une « nation pionnière dans le domaine de l'ARNm ». De même, de nombreux autres gouvernements - des Pays-Bas jusqu'au Royaume-Uni - redoublent d'efforts dans leur secteur biotechnologique national.

Évidemment positive, cette démarche sera-t-elle pour autant suffisante ? Comme l'a démontré l'expérience du COVID-19, l'obtention des approbations pour une poignée de vaccins et produits thérapeutiques nécessite plusieurs centaines d'essais cliniques autour de substances existantes ou nouvelles - dont un grand nombre aboutissent à un échec. L'innovation médicale est onéreuse, et les coûts et risques qui s'y rattachent ont tendance à être mésestimés par les dirigeants politiques comme par les citoyens ordinaires.

Prenons le cas des produits thérapeutiques recourant à l'acide ribonucléique interférent (ARNi), une nouvelle catégorie de médicaments qui cible les causes génétiques d'une maladie, et qui utilisent un petit ARN interférent (pARNi) pour « éteindre » à la source certaines protéines nocives. Bien que ces traitements présentent un potentiel quasiment illimité, le parcours depuis la possibilité scientifique jusqu'à l'opportunité réelle pour les patients se révèle extrêmement long.

La découverte de la structure et fonction de l'ADN, dans les années 1950, a amorcé un effort soutenu de recherche visant la compréhension des mécanismes biologiques qui sous-tendent le processus d'expression génique. Sur la base de ces avancées, Andrew Fire et Craig Mello ont découvert en 1998 l'ARNi, ou « l'extinction des gènes », et remporté pour cela un prix Nobel en 2006.

La découverte de Fire et Mello a suscité un enthousiasme généralisé autour d'une possible utilisation du pARNi en tant que nouveau type de thérapie. Les sociétés pharmaceutiques ont massivement investi dans ce nouveau domaine de recherche, mais elles ont rapidement rencontré des difficultés techniques pour créer des produits thérapeutiques à partir de la technologie pARNi. Le principal problème consistait à déterminer comment faire parvenir le pARNi jusqu'à l'endroit visé du corps humain, pour qu'il fonctionne efficacement (c'est-à-dire jusqu'à l'organe dans lequel le gène était exprimé). Les difficultés de compréhension de ce territoire inconnu ont conduit de nombreux chercheurs et sociétés à perdre espoir.

Au début des années 2010, la plupart des grandes sociétés pharmaceutiques avaient achevé leurs investissements dans cette technologie. Seules quelques sociétés - dont la nôtre, Alnylam - sont restées impliquées, et ont fini par résoudre le problème de l'acheminement du pARNi grâce aux nanoparticules lipidiques (NPL). Quatre produits thérapeutiques recourant au pARNi sont aujourd'hui approuvés par la Food and Drug Administration américaine ainsi que par l'Agence européenne des médicaments, et les NPL sont utilisées dans les vaccins à ARNm contre le COVID-19. Il est toutefois important de garder à l'esprit que 20 années et près de 7,5 milliards \$ ont été nécessaires à Alnylam pour parvenir à ce stade.

L'histoire du pARNi produit d'importants enseignements concernant la « souveraineté en sciences de la vie ». Premièrement, la réussite exige davantage que l'excellence scientifique et le soutien public. Aujourd'hui, Boston et sa périphérie se démarquent comme un pôle biotechnologique de classe mondiale, accueillant plus de 1 000 entreprises liées au secteur biotechnologique. La construction de cet écosystème a toutefois nécessité 50 années, à partir des années 1970

avec la création de Biogen.

L'écosystème biotechnologique de Boston doit sa croissance à plusieurs forces en interaction. Si la présence d'une expertise biomédicale de classe mondiale au sein de l'Université d'Harvard et du MIT y a évidemment contribué, la disponibilité de compétences interdisciplinaires, telles que l'ingénierie, les affaires, la finance, l'informatique et les sciences des données, s'est également révélée essentielle. La proximité de ce secteur naissant par rapport à certains des plus grands hôpitaux de recherche au monde a par ailleurs constitué un atout. La réunion des communautés scientifique et médicale a été indispensable au développement clinique. Enfin, les sociétés de capital-risque et les investisseurs de Boston et New York ont apporté les financements nécessaires.

Le deuxième enseignement concerne la « souveraineté », un concept parfois problématique dans la mesure où il s'accompagne d'une connotation nationaliste. En réalité, pour qu'un écosystème des sciences de la vie prospère, il doit être internationalement orienté et ouvert, afin de pouvoir puiser dans les savoir-faire scientifiques, talents et capitaux du monde entier. C'est l'une des raisons pour lesquelles nombre des plus grandes sociétés pharmaceutiques européennes et japonaises - Sanofi, Novartis, Takeda, et Ipsen - ont investi dans des installations à Boston.

Pour permettre aux sociétés nationales de se développer au niveau mondial, les gouvernements doivent veiller à ce que leurs politiques soient de nature à attirer les capitaux humains et financiers de l'étranger. Le Royaume-Uni semble avoir compris cette nécessité. Au travers de sa Biobank, une ressource de recherche et base de données biomédicales à grande échelle, le pays tire parti des données de son National Health Service (NHS) pour bâtir des partenariats avec des sociétés et chercheurs internationaux, afin d'aboutir au développement de nouveaux médicaments.

Troisième enseignement, l'innovation médicale nécessite des fonds considérables de la part des secteurs public et privé. Sur ce point, l'Europe demeure à la traîne par rapport aux États-Unis. Des financements bien supérieurs seront nécessaires pour rattraper ce retard, et - peut-être plus important encore - si elle ne souhaite pas être dépassée par la Chine dans la course mondiale aux biotechnologies.

Enfin, afin d'assurer stabilité financière et cycle continu d'investissements, le marché et les politiques d'incitation doivent être alignés pour récompenser l'innovation. Ici encore, l'Europe accuse un important retard par rapport aux États-Unis. Le marché européen étant très fragmenté, des délais bien supérieurs sont nécessaires pour que les innovations deviennent accessibles, ce qui aboutit à de moindres retours sur investissement. Opportunités de croissance limitées, risques commerciaux associés à un accès défavorable au marché, les dissuasions sont nombreuses sur la voie de l'investissement dans les capacités de recherche et les essais cliniques.

Un marché européen plus unifié, au sein duquel les dernières innovations seraient évaluées de manière rapide et fiable, pourrait permettre de résoudre ces difficultés, ainsi que de créer un cercle vertueux d'investissement et de croissance. Mais il faudra également que les mentalités changent. Les décideurs doivent commencer à considérer l'innovation en matière de sciences de la vie comme un investissement stratégique, plutôt que comme un coût de santé publique.

Il leur faut également améliorer l'accès aux dernières innovations, comme le fait le NHS à travers son initiative de prise en charge de la santé de la population, en utilisant les historiques médicaux des patients pour fournir un accès précoce et étendu à de nouveaux traitements. De nombreuses autres solutions innovantes existent, mais leur transcription en adoption et utilisation exigera davantage de dialogue, ainsi qu'un nouveau pacte social entre le secteur biotechnologique, les dirigeants politiques et le public.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Phillip A. Sharp, professeur de biologie au MIT, est directeur du comité scientifique consultatif d'Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, et lauréat du prix Nobel de physiologie ou de médecine. Julien Patris est directeur des politiques relatives aux marchés internationaux, ainsi que directeur pays pour la Belgique et le Luxembourg, chez Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

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Liberian women subjected to modern-day slavery: The danger of human trafficking

Why are some people so wicked? Why do they keep others in bondage? Are they not aware of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons? These questions are tailored to put into context the abuse of Liberian women in the Republic of Oman. They were deceived or coerced into modern-day slavery by human traffickers who created the illusion of prosperity on the coast of the Arabian Peninsula - thousands of miles from West Africa.

Human trafficking is extremely abusive. It takes away a person's autonomy or right to self-determination. The victim becomes the "personal property" of the trafficker. The United Nations defines Trafficking in persons as: "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person

with slavery because of its involuntary nature. The Liberian Frontier Force acted under the directives of President C.D.B King to institutionalize forced labor.

From the 1940s up to the late 1980s, Liberia did not experience human trafficking near the scale of Fernando Po. However, the Liberian civil war ended the era of respect for human dignity. Human traffickers took advantage of a post-conflict country facing economic challenges and weak rule of law. The Global News Network (GNN) Liberia, FrontPage Africa, and other media institutions recently reported the abuse and enslavement of over three thousand (3000) Liberian women in Oman and other parts of the Middle East. They were taken away by traffickers who prey on the social and economic vulnerability of women and children across Africa.

The United States government is leading the global effort against trafficking in persons. They have acknowledged some steps taken by the administration of President Weah to end human trafficking. According to the US State Department Report for 2022, Liberia was upgraded from Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2 citing that "the government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity."

In furtherance, the Resident Judge of Criminal Court "E" at the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Cornelius Wennah, was named Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero by the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. The Judge is on record for pushing the authorities to consider the participation of traditional leaders and civil society actors in the fight against human trafficking. While working at the Ministry of Justice, he prosecuted seven trafficking cases. The US government praised the Liberian Judge for assisting the International Development Law Organization to develop an international-standard-level human trafficking training curriculum for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel, all to raise awareness and strengthen justice sector actors' capacities to prevent and address human trafficking. Judge Wennah was instrumental in the development and adoption of a trafficking bench book for judges and a handbook for law enforcement and prosecutors.

The aforementioned achievements, including the setting up of a Task Force and a Special Anti-Trafficking Unit at the Liberia National Police, are laudable but insufficient. The voluntary participation of all Liberian women remains indispensable. Only a collective approach can put an end to this scourge. Liberian women must buttress the efforts of the governments of the United States and Liberia by engaging in civic education about the danger of Trafficking in Persons. This is the most effective way for Liberia to reach Tier 1 - fully compliant with the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

Liberian women must stand together regardless of tribe, religion, or political affiliation. You must unite against the crime of human trafficking. The torture of Liberian women in Oman is unacceptable and must stop!

Amb. Rufus Dio Neufville is the Executive Director of the People Action Network and a former Member of the House of Representatives, Republic of Liberia. He can be reached at rufus.neufville@gmail.com.



having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation".

The three most common types of human trafficking are forced labor, debt bondage, and sex trafficking. Many experts believe that forced labor, also known as involuntary servitude, is the biggest in this evil triangle. It is commonplace that some gullible societies overlook the violation when individuals are compelled to work against their will. Debt bondage exists where an individual is held to work until an obligation is satisfied. Sex trafficking, which I believe is the most gruesome, mostly affects women and children from poor families. The victims are drugged, abused, and forced into prostitution. Children are also pushed into the horrible arms of sexual predators and sadists around the world.

The last known open act of slavery or human trafficking in Liberia was the Fernando Po Crisis, 1926-1940. The League of Nations found that the shipment of laborers to the Spanish Island of Fernando Po was consistent

JFK in mass burial at Du-Port Road Cemetery

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Administration of the John F. Kennedy Hospital has admitted to carrying out improper burial at Du-port Road-JCN Howard Cemetery in Voker Mission Community, Paynesville City, outside Monrovia, leading to pollution of the community. Recent investigation discovered that illegal mass burial was being carried out

dead bodies at the cemetery on Friday, August 5, 2022, led by a man identify as Seh Kamara, believed to be manager of the graveyard. When contacted, Mr. Kamara referred journalists to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital. The Chief Administrator of JFK, Dr. Jerry Brown admitted to the mass and improper burial carried out at the JCN Howard Cemetery

Dr. Brown also held a brief meeting with resident of the Voka Mission Community, who wholeheartedly accepted his apology and asked the hospital to spray the cemetery. The Chairman of the community, Boye Nehwon, who spoke on behalf of residents, thanked Dr. Jerry Brown and the entire JFK team for admitting to the act. He however, lamented the deplorable congestion of the



at the Duport Road- JCN Howard Cemetery in Voker Mission Community by the JFK hospital. This suspicious act was reported by community leaders after huge pollution took over the community. Community dwellers had invited journalists to the scene, after they noticed a strange vehicle with license plate number B11276 offloaded several bags of

and apologized to residents of the community. However, Dr. Brown noted that those responsible to ensure that over stayed or amputated body parts at the hospital are properly buried did not follow authorized procedures. He promised to take administrative action against those responsible and to disinfect the cemetery in a week's time.

cemetery and stressed the need to have it relocated. The community chairman blamed authorities of the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) for the incident and called for immediate closure of the cemetery to avoid reoccurrence. Most cemeteries in and around Monrovia are congested and poorly kept thus, threatening public health. *Editing by Joathan Browne*

UNDP hosts Palava Hut reconciliation talks in Bong

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

The Country Representative of UNDP-Liberia, Stephen Rodrique, calls on Liberians victimized from the country's 14 years civil war to put away their differences and reconcile with those who mistreated them in order to live together as one people. Speaking during the official launch of the Sanoyea District Palaver Hut Hearing in Bong County on Wednesday, 11 August Mr. Rodrique said before peace can exist in society, it must first exist in the heart of men and women, stressing this is the reason the Palaver Hut Hearing is very important. Mr. Rodrique this is not

about pushing or forcing people, but reconciliation so that at the end of the day, people must unite and work

together again as one. He encourages Liberians to support the Palava Hut Hearing mechanism that was



Starts from page 6 Liberia's Palava Hut mechanism delivering

war crimes court to render justice for war crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the civil war. "Traditional forms of justice, which focus less on punishment, are often far more efficient in clearing up cases and maintaining social cohesion. From Rwanda, it was estimated that it would have taken well over 100 years to try the cases arising from the genocide, yet the traditional Gacaca courts heard and resolved them cleared in a few years," said Mr. Rodriques. The Sanoyea Palava Hut hearings are themed "never again to war." Delegates visited a mass grave in the county. In the long winding road to justice, the Palava Hut mechanism has been providing a safe environment for victims to come face to face with their attackers to demand accountability and restitution. It has helped people across Liberia to find closure to the hurt, bitterness and hard feelings between community members. The hearings have addressed matters of assault and torture, forced displacement and forced labor, arson attacks, looting and

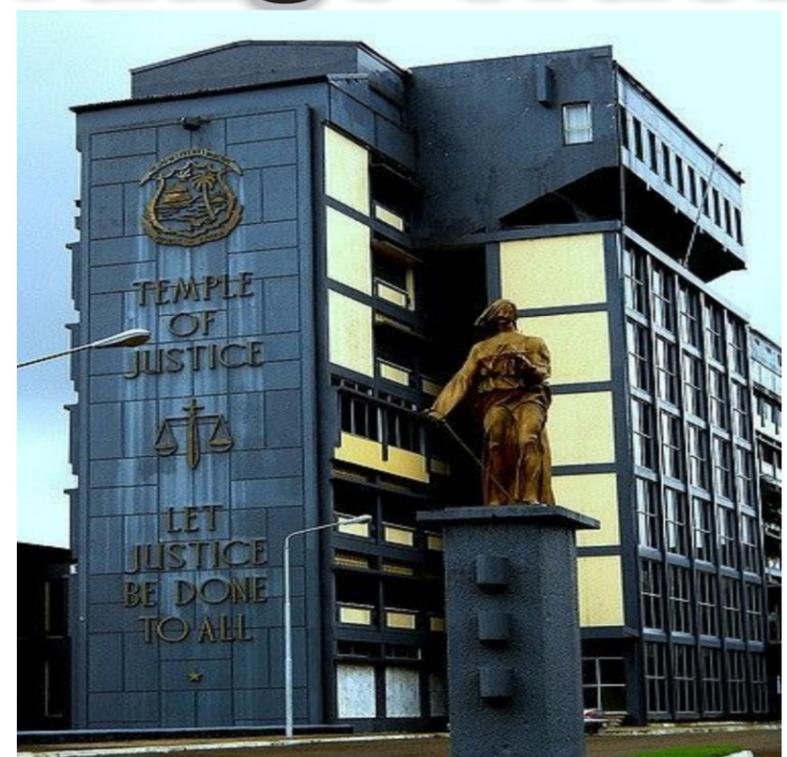
destruction of property, and desecration of sacred sites. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) has to date conducted Palava Hut hearings in four of the country's 15 counties - Tchien District, Grand Gedeh County (2016); Voinjama District, Lofa County (2017); Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount (2020); and in Central C District, Rivercess County (2021), with support from UNDP. A fifth hearing is taking place in Sanoyea District, Bong County. "I commend the INCHR for delicately facilitating the hearings, helping victims and their families recover from the trauma of war. It is especially refreshing to see perpetrators of crimes avail themselves for the hearings and thereafter take responsibility for their actions, restituting in ways that are acceptable to the victims and the community. These are high standards by which everyone in a healthy society must ascribe to," said Stephen Rodriques. UNDP, with funding from the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF), is supporting the Palava Hut Mechanism as part of its Peace Building, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion Programme.

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implemented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mr. Rodrique emphasizes that the war has ended in Liberia and there could be no point for any Liberian citizen to harbor grudge against their fellow compatriot, adding that peace should exist in the minds and hearts of everyone, who have been affected some ways. He calls on the international community to come to the aid of Liberia in buttressing a partnership that will address other recommendations of the TRC, noting that while other mechanisms will be put in place to protect the coming elections under the peace building, reconciliation and social cohesion project that runs from 2020 to 2024, the Independent National Commissions on Human Rights has accordingly conducted palava hut hearings in several counties, including Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Rivercess, and Grand Gedeh, respectively. The UNDP Country Rep continues that it is the same process ongoing in Bong County under the auspices of the INCHR with supported from the United Nations Development Program. Authorities at the human rights commission say the TRC recommendations were given to the INCHR by legislations for

implementation, as international development partners work along to have them fulfilled. Meanwhile, Mr. Rodrique reveals that the current hearing is the 5th Edition that promises Justice to war victims in the quest to handle circumstances and challenges from the war in which thousands of people lost their lives and millions worth of properties were destroyed. He says the TRC recommendation on a Palava Hut Hearing mechanism is aimed at seeking a stage for Justice. Sanoyea District Palava Hut Committee Chairperson Isaiah Harris, explains the mechanism will be put in place to create an enable environment to have Liberians victimized by the civil war reconcile their differences for peaceful coexistence. Mr. Harris says the hearings will ensure justice is given to those who deserve it, adding the Hut will be used for everyone in its environment to maintain the peace in Liberia. He notes the team has do its best to work in the timeframe provided to hear cases already recorded in order to guarantee the peace in the district that will create an avenue for proper and lasting development. *Editing by Joathan Browne*

Judge orders lawyers arrested



By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

Judge Boima Konto has ordered some lawyers from the Bong County Bar Association arrested for their failure to attend the opening of the August Term of Court. The Resident Judge of the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga, Bong County has instructed the Chief Clerk of the court to issue a writ of arrest for the lawyers from the local bar.

"Once we [take] oath and we're admitted into the Bar

Association, everyone of us should take charge of our responsibilities rather than always being absent from the court opening sessions," Judge Konto admonished.

Speaking recently at the opening of the Court in Gbarnga, Judge Konto blasted Bong County Bar Association members for being 'lackadaisical.'

He said their action would undermine the operations of the court if not handled speedily.

According to him, the Bar members will be arrested

and brought to the court to justify whether or not they should not be held in contempt. Judge Konto said members of the Bar who had judicial assignments will be considered, but those who allegedly refused to attend without any obligations will be arrested.

The NewDawn has not gotten the total number of those who are to be arrested, but an inside source has suggested that this might involve five lawyers.

"Members of the Bar are obligated to do the needful for the sake of the justice system," said Judge Konto. He noted that they took oaths to help protect the integrity of the court.

He warned that he won't rest in making sure that lawyers take charge of their responsibilities and that actions would be taken against any lawyer who refuses to adhere to the court's mandate. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

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