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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 04, 2023	L\$153.6649/US\$1.00	L\$155.3491/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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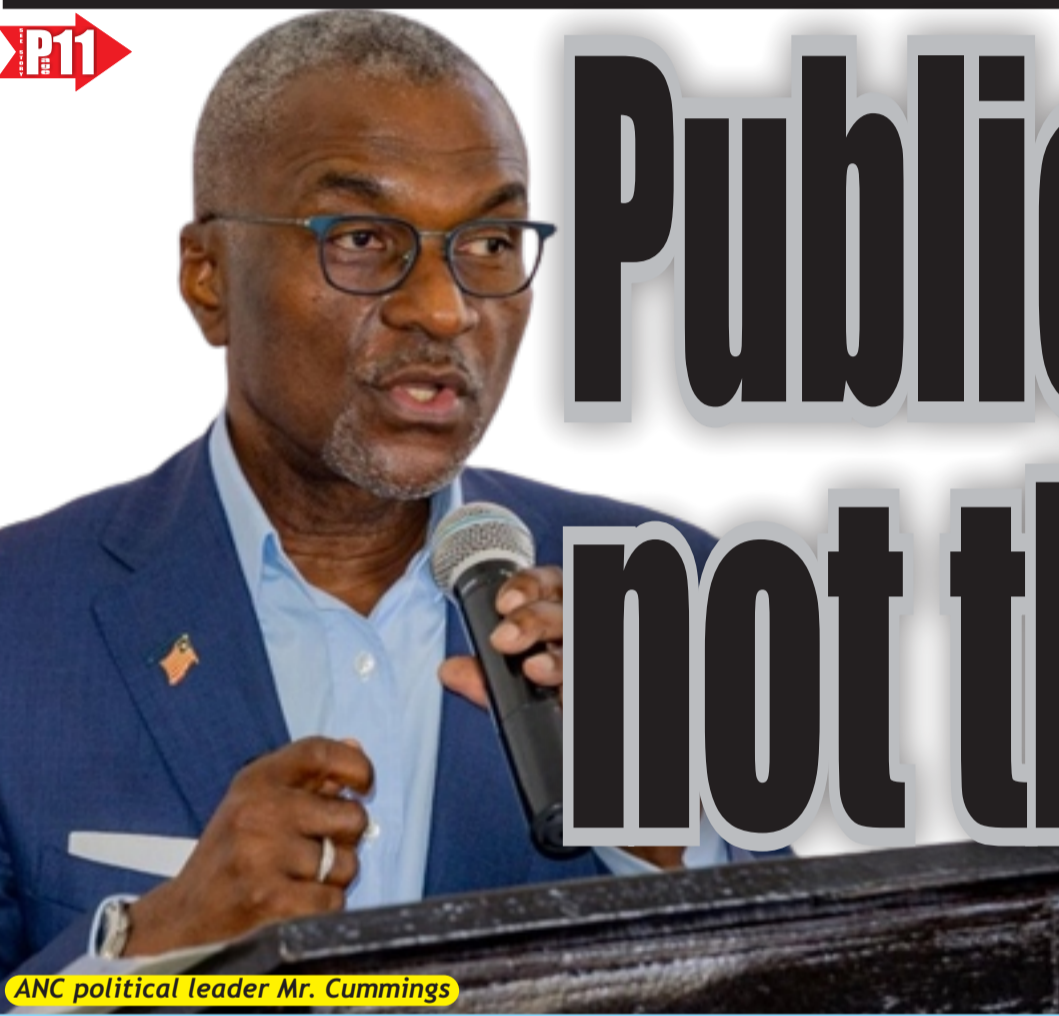
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VOL. 12 NO. 235 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 04, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



ANC political leader Mr. Cummings

Public experience not the problem

-Cummings



Imminent split in Presbyterian Church

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**

Christmas Season na Come!!!

Watch out for plenty good good things from
y'ello Santa this year!

Yello SANTA

Continental News

Tanzania's leader lifts ban on political rallies

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan has lifted a six-year ban on political rallies imposed by her hard-line predecessor, John Magufuli. Her decision is part of her 4Rs initiative - Reconciliation, Resilience,

said they detracted from the key challenge of building the economy.

Africa Live: More stories from across the continent

Mrs Samia announced the reversal of his policy at a meeting with opposition politicians.

"Our duty as a government will

in prison, before the prosecution dropped charges of terrorism against him in March 2022.

His arrest had raised doubts about Mrs Samia's commitment to reforms after she became president following Mr Magufuli's death in 2021.

Another opposition politician, Zito Kabwe, told AFP news agency that the president's decision to lift the ban was a "big move".

"This is the right that was snatched by the state through an illegal presidential decree," he added.

Mrs Samia also promised to look into opposition demands for changes to the constitution.

Opposition parties say the constitution gives too much power to the president. They also want changes to safeguard the independence of the electoral commission and the courts.

Mrs Samia is the leader of the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), which has been in power for more than half a century.

It has often been accused of rigging elections, and of harassing and intimidating the opposition. It denies the allegations. BBC

be offering protection for the rallies," she said.

The chairman of the main opposition Chadema party, Freeman Mbowe, said he welcomed the announcement.

"The move is first of all a return to a right guaranteed in the constitution and our laws," he added.

Mr Mbowe spent seven months



Samia Suluhu Hassan is Tanzania's first female president

Reforms and Rebuilding.

She acknowledged parties had the right to hold rallies but she urged them to be "civil" and not to "trade insults"

Mr Magufuli had banned rallies in between elections in what was seen as an attempt to weaken the opposition.

He dismissed rallies as a waste of time and money, and

Bodies of 28 people found in Burkina Faso

The bodies of 28 people who were shot dead have been discovered in Burkina Faso's north-western town of Nouna, the government has said. A civil society group blamed the killings on armed civilians claiming to be members of a government-backed volunteer force fighting jihadists. The government did not comment on the claim, but said it was investigating.

Burkina Faso has been hit by a decade-long insurgency that has displaced nearly two million people.

The military seized power in Burkina Faso last January, promising an end to attacks, but the violence still rages.

The government said the bodies were discovered on 30 and 31 December.

It condemned the "unacceptable violence" and called for calm, pending the outcome of an investigation.

The incident had occurred at a time when the government had initiated the "mobilisation of the whole

people for unity of action in the fight against terrorism", it added.

The government has formed the Homeland Defence Volunteers (VDP), recruiting civilians into its ranks to fight militant Islamists.

A civil society group, the Collective Against Impunity and

Stigmatisation of Communities (CISC), said that armed civilians, claiming to be members of the VDP, carried out the killings in retaliation for an attack by suspected militants between 29 and 30 December.

There is no independent confirmation of its claim. BBC



Conflict in Burkina Faso has forced nearly two million people to flee their homes

Somalia Hiring 3,000 Teachers After Quadrupling Education Budget

Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced Sunday the country will hire a record 3,000 new teachers to try to bridge a wide education gap. The move follows a four-fold increase in the Somali ministry of education's budget for 2023. But critics note funding for education is still poor, and that insecurity and poverty have pushed the majority of Somali children out of school.

The New Year's Day budget announcement by President Mohamud marked one of Somalia's most ambitious education campaigns in years. Mohamud said Somalia this year will hire 3,000 more

Mohamud last year declared all-out war on the Islamists and federal troops and their backers have since made gains in taking back territory under that was under the group's control.

Al-Shabab-run areas of Somalia are locked out of Somalia's formal education system, as the group imposes a curriculum based on a harsh interpretation of Islam.

President Mohamud in his New Year's Day speech vowed to eliminate the militants in 2023.

The president last week quadrupled Somalia's education budget this year to \$34 million. While it is the highest education budget in years, critics say it's still far from the funding needed to instruct the country's youth.



A Somali teacher explains the lesson to students inside a school classroom in Mogadishu, Somalia.

teachers to address a shortage that has hindered learning.

In an interview with VOA, Somalia's Ministry of Education Director General Mohamed Hassan says the teachers are sorely needed.

He says one thousand teachers are on the government payroll in Mogadishu and all the regional states combined for the past five years. Hassan says the ministry's latest report shows only a quarter of school-age children have access to education.

Hassan says the new teachers will be recruited with priority given to areas of Somalia that have little access to education.

He says special opportunities will be given to districts where there are very few school students and also to areas where the Khawarij were dislodged. Khawarij, which loosely translates as "those who deviate from the Islamic faith," is the term Somali authorities use to refer to the Islamist militant group al-Shabab.

Suad Abdulle is the founder of the Somali Institute of Special Educational Needs and Disability. She tells VOA that poor funding is the main reason why most Somali children are failing to attend school.

Abdulle says close to 70% of children are not in school because of several factors. The first one is the lack of funding, she says, as a large percentage of Somalis are living on less than a dollar per day while most schools in the country are private.

Mohamed Osman Ali is a teacher at Faruq Primary and Secondary School in Mogadishu.

He says the increased funding, while much less than to other ministries, will still help boost education.

Ali says education in Somalia has suffered underfunding for the longest time. He says ministries such as defense and security get more than ten times what we get in the education sector. Ali says he is happy the government is now increasing funding to enable Somali children to go to school. VOA

EDITORIAL

Lack of political will is killing Liberian integrity institutions

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR to Liberia, Michael McCarthy, recently urged Liberia’s leaders to be bold in supporting integrity institutions in the country, warning that their fate will strongly influence the fate of the nation.

AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY also underscored that Liberia’s integrity institutions urgently need political will to fulfill their mandates, and disclosed that leaders of integrity institutions in the country have informed him that the U.S. Global Magnitsky sanctions of corrupt officials have given them more breathing room to fulfill their mandates.

HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR noted that more than just breathing room, integrity institutions need full backing of Liberia’s political leaders, and that it is one thing for leaders to say they support the work of public auditors, but it is another to allow full and complete audits, and to respond to the deficiencies they uncover just as it is one thing to claim to support corruption investigations and yet another to allow investigations to be undertaken without political interference.

WE COULD NOT HAVE agreed with Amb. McCarthy any better. Leaders or government’s professed commitment to supporting integrity institutions should move from lip-service to practical actions if these institutions must execute the functions that they were established for.

BUT AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR sadly observed, these institutions such as the Internal Audit Agency, General Auditing Commission, Financial Intelligence Agency, the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission, and the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative merely exist by names.

IF MANY OF THESE integrity institutions are now being allotted much smaller budgets than they enjoyed in previous years, leaving them with less purchasing power, as Mr. McCarthy pointed out, how can they do their work effectively?. It is difficulty, if not impossible, for anyone to believe that would perform miracles.

CLEARLY, LACK OF political will from the Weah administration is gradually starving integrity institutions to death unless something is done urgently to reverse this ugly trend.

THE AMBASSADOR ADDED that to make matters worse, most of them never receive the full amount appropriated to them by the legislature, and starved of funds and unsure whether, or when, they will receive their next allotment, they are nowhere near as effective as they should be.

AMB. MCCARTHY: “It is one thing to say you want transparency in Liberia’s extractive industries, but it is another to publicly disclose all government extractive industry concession and exploration agreements and revenue, publicly calling out illegal actors. It is one thing to support the Code of Conduct, but it is another to enforce compliance with asset declaration requirements. By now, I think you get my point.”

AS WE CLOSE THE year 2022, we can but only hope that leaders would give heed to the concerns raised by the U.S. Envoy by prioritizing support to integrity institutions, because their works send an important signal to the international community about the country’s commitment to providing accountable leadership that would endear public confidence. These are benchmarks thru which democratic institutions gauge our sincerity to public service.

COMMENTARY

By Simon Johnson

The Next Stage of the Hot Cold War

WASHINGTON, DC - After a year of big surprises, led by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the global spike in inflation rates, and the collapse of cryptocurrency ventures, what kind of year will 2023 prove to be? This kind of short-run question is hard to answer, because repercussions of events spread so quickly and unpredictably across our globalized world. But the last 12 months highlighted one major trend that will shape what happens next, in 2023 and beyond: the decline of Russia.

Russian aggression is nothing new. Moscow has been invading other countries since the mid-1990s and has occupied parts of Ukrainian territory since 2014. But the brutality of Russia’s attacks since late February far exceeds what is acceptable to most countries. The most recent phase, destroying civilian energy infrastructure, is widely seen as amounting to a war crime. It is unlikely to change the course of the war, which Russia is losing.

In the bigger picture, Russia has again entered a period of secular decline, during which it will have limited access to Western investment, technology, or consumer goods. Russia’s empires have collapsed before, in 1917-18 and again when the Soviet Union imploded in 1989-91. In both cases, the collapse took a while to get going, and then proved quite complete. Of course, historically Russia has also been able to reassert control, using its own resources during the Civil War of 1917-22 and getting a lot of help from Western companies during the 1990s.

This time, too, we should expect a long struggle for power within Russia, implying serious existential risks for the world, including who ends up controlling Russian nuclear weapons. But the more direct economic impact will be reflected in the world energy market. Demand for Russian fossil fuels is way down.

Before its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia produced about 10.8 million barrels of oil per day, of which around eight million were exported (either as crude or refined products). The sharp decline in Russian economic activity means that more oil is available for export, but the European Union, the United States, and their allies are now buying crude from other suppliers - and the same will be true for refined products from February 2023.

The International Energy Agency predicts that Russian oil exports will fall to around six million barrels per day over 2023-24. Over the medium term, India might buy 2 million barrels and China could sop the rest - assuming both countries want to become more dependent on a malevolent and unreliable partner.

Purchases by India, China, and a few others can still result in a lot of free cash flow and tax revenue for Russia. Whoever leads Russia will put much of these proceeds into building and buying weapons - including missiles with which it can hit a wide range of countries from long distance. NATO member countries are, one hopes, protected to some extent by the threat of retaliation, but Russia can be expected to engage in sabotage and other deniable attacks on Western energy infrastructure (and similar vulnerable strategic targets). Russia is on its way to becoming the best-financed pariah state ever.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union was careful not to attack Western Europe and the US too directly (and vice versa). Instead, both sides used proxy wars and other forms of pressure. This time, however, we should expect much more direct confrontation. The Russian elite have boxed themselves into a corner, with a bizarre set of beliefs - right-wing nationalism on steroids - and long-range weapons. Giving ground - literally or metaphorically - to these extremists, will only embolden them to take more.

The need to limit over time how much cash Russia can spend on aggression is why the price cap on Russian oil exports is so important. The evidence so far is that this is working as intended, enabling India and China to buy Russian oil at a big discount compared to world prices.

But further measures are needed, including accelerated investments in renewable energy to reduce world demand for oil. If we continue to depend on Russia and its allies in the OPEC+ cartel, the ability and temptation to disrupt our economies will be immense. There is now a pressing national security dimension to the energy transition.

High inflation in the 1970s had multiple causes, beginning with tight economies in the 1960s (and the Vietnam War). But the problems were exacerbated by two oil price shocks, in 1973 and 1979. OPEC+ members understand that they have the power to do this again, at a time of their choosing - or the next time Russia asks for a favor.

Oil demand and supply are quite unresponsive to oil prices in the short run, but historically quite responsive over 5-10 years. In 2023 and beyond, the West needs to focus more intently on reducing demand for fossil fuels, particularly oil, and increasing the supply of alternative energy sources (outside the control of Russia and OPEC).

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OP-ED

By Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca

America’s New Era of Industrial Policy

BERKELEY - A new breed of industrial policy is taking hold in the United States. Under President Joe Biden’s leadership, the federal government has created major new programs through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (\$550 billion), the CHIPS and Science Act (\$280 billion), and the Inflation Reduction Act (\$394 billion). These are not traditional spending measures to stimulate demand. Rather, as Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen explains, they are supply-side investments to boost US economic capacity, both overall and in key sectors such as semiconductors and renewable energy.

While the individual provisions and funding processes differ, all three programs are based on the public-private model that has been critical to US competitiveness over the past century. They are designed to crowd-in and accelerate private investment, not substitute for it. Hence, a significant part of their funding - in fact, the majority, in the case of the IRA and CHIPS - comes in the form of tax credits for businesses.

The programs also will encourage more supportive regulatory changes - for example, in the permitting and siting of green-energy projects - by state and local governments, which are responsible for the bulk of economic development in the US. And they share various features that have come to define a new “sustainable and equitable” approach to industrial policy. These include a focus on regional economic development based on local priorities, with an emphasis on capacity-building in marginalized communities; explicit links to post-secondary education and workforce development; and cross-sector integration with key services, such as health care and education.

While the success of these programs will require collaboration by state and local governments, those authorities will also be competing for the new funding and investments. For example, the CHIPS Act’s \$39 billion for investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing will be allocated by the Department of Commerce, which will assess companies’ proposals for grants and loans partly on the basis of support from state and local governments. Accordingly, several states are now developing generous incentives to help their companies.

The states will also be competing - alongside their companies, civic organizations, and non-profits - for \$122 billion in climate-related funding under the IRA. While the Department of the Treasury oversees tax credits, a new \$27 billion Environmental Protection Agency grant program - the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - makes \$7 billion directly accessible to cities and states, and earmarks \$20 billion for non-profit entities that invest directly in green projects using other financing entities such as non-profit green banks. Twenty-three green banks already exist in 17 states, including California, and have leveraged \$2 billion in public funds to mobilize \$7 billion in green investments.

All three bills include place-based programs designed to promote inclusive growth, and these have elicited complementary efforts at the state and local level. California, for example, has introduced a Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) with a four-year \$600 million budget to support regional collaboration and inclusive development; and Phoenix has committed significant local funding and made regulatory changes to attract a \$40 billion investment by TSMC in new semiconductor production.

Broadband deployment is especially important for regional economic development. As the COVID-19 pandemic showed, the US still has a glaring digital divide, with more than 24 million Americans lacking high-speed broadband, and many more lacking digital literacy. Thanks to the infrastructure program and the American Rescue Plan before it, however, more than \$100 billion in federal funding has been allocated to bring broadband to every household. It is the largest public investment to connect Americans since the creation of the interstate highway system. Still, closing the gaps in middle- and last-mile connectivity is a highly local challenge, and coordination across all levels of government is crucial.

Finally, a healthy, skilled workforce is the most important factor in attracting and retaining employers and businesses in key sectors. Hence, many states, cities, and regions have been increasing their investments in workforce development to ensure that their residents have the right skills to benefit from new job opportunities in infrastructure, semiconductors, and climate-related industries.

California is a case in point. The state spends more than any other on higher education, and has invested in new community-college apprenticeship programs and career pathways for technical education in its public schools. At their best, programs to develop the workforce run from preschool to higher education and then to employer engagement.

The Biden administration’s three big industrial policy programs all recognize the importance of human capital in building supply capacity, and each provides some support for skills development - primarily through tax credits to employers. The IRA, for example, contains a dozen energy-related tax credits to expand access to apprenticeships and jobs at prevailing wages. But a proposed \$40 billion provision for workforce-skills development did not make it into the final bill, which means that the task has been left largely to cities, states, employers, and individuals.

By design, the new regional economic-development efforts are cross-sectoral and cross-governmental - from the state and local level to the federal level. Often, regional development efforts have one or more backbone institutions leading the charge and engaging with other community-based organizations and key sectors and institutions, such as education and health-care providers. In California, the Central Valley Community Foundation has created a development plan (of 19 priority investments totaling roughly \$4 billion over the next decade) under the guidance of a steering committee comprising 300 community leaders. Many similar efforts are in the works around the country, and many more are needed.

Industrial policy is central to Biden’s economic agenda. Getting an industrial policy right is never easy, and getting a place-based one right will prove even more challenging. But doing so is now essential to achieving more equitable and sustainable growth.

Laura Tyson, a former chair of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration, is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the Board of Advisers at Angeleno Group. Lenny Mendonca, Senior Partner Emeritus at McKinsey & Company, is a former chief economic and business adviser to Governor Gavin Newsom of California and chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

OPINION

By Peter Singer

In Defense of the Art-Targeting Climate Activists

MELBOURNE - Last July, two activists from Just Stop Oil entered London’s National Gallery and made their way to John Constable’s The Hay Wain, an iconic painting of rural England as it was 200 years ago. After covering the painting with an image of environmental destruction, they glued their hands to the frame and awaited arrest.

Three months later, another pair of activists went to the National Gallery and threw tomato soup at Vincent van Gogh’s Sunflowers. In the Netherlands, one activist glued his head to Johannes Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring, while another poured something red over him. In Vienna, members of Last Generation, an organization named to make the point that we are the last generation able to prevent catastrophic climate change, poured black oily liquid over Gustav Klimt’s Death and Life. And in Potsdam, others smeared mashed potatoes onto Claude Monet’s Haystacks.

In all these incidents, the activists chose paintings protected by glass, drawing attention to great works of art, but not damaging them. With The Hay Wain, the message was that if we do not stop using fossil fuels, scenes like the one Constable painted will be gone forever.

The title of the Klimt reminds us that climate change is a life-and-death issue. The activists used the Girl with a Pearl Earring to challenge our values, asking the shocked onlookers how they felt when they saw the beautiful painting apparently being ruined. “Do you feel outraged?” they asked - and then answered their own question: “Good. Where is that feeling when you see the planet being destroyed before your very eyes?”

We value art, but what we stand to lose from climate change is incomparably more significant. Everything we value on this planet is at stake, including the continuity of both human and non-human life. Why, then, do many people support the goal of stronger action against climate change, yet oppose the actions taken by Just Stop Oil and Last Generation?

It’s happened before. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” is a response to eight white clergymen who, writing in a Birmingham, Alabama, newspaper, had agreed with King’s goals, but not with his “extreme” actions (which were entirely non-violent). They urged King to wait patiently for “a more convenient season.” King replied that he found this lukewarm acceptance “more bewildering than outright rejection.” Eco-activists may experience a similar bewilderment when they are criticized by people who say that they share their goals but object to their non-violent attempts, which, while taking care to avoid damaging the art, seek to raise awareness of the importance of avoiding fossil fuels.

We honor many protesters, past and present, who broke the law to advance a good cause. Suffragettes targeted great art in their struggle to obtain votes for women, and, unlike today’s eco-activists, deliberately slashed paintings. Today, however, we regard them as heroic feminist pioneers. In the United States, King’s birthday is a federal holiday. We support the courageous women of Iran in their protests against the theocracy there. And yet we do not also support non-violent protests against government policies that are manifestly insufficient to achieve the goal, embodied in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, of limiting global warming to 2°Celsius, and preferably 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels?

In seeking a conviction against the people who glued their hands to the frame of The Hay Wain, the prosecutor sought to distinguish the actions of the suffragettes from those of the activists on trial by saying that the former “had no democratic means by which they could further their cause,” whereas today “We have an established democracy.”

Yet activists for climate change have a powerful response to this argument. Today, it seems self-evident that democracy requires allowing women to vote, but not much more than a century ago, conservatives argued that women had no need to vote because their interests were already protected by their husbands or fathers. We laugh at that argument now, but we may be equally blind to serious flaws in our own democracies.

Ask yourself who will suffer the most if we fail to prevent catastrophic climate change. The answer is the young and those yet to be born - both categories unrepresented in our political systems. In Justice Across Ages, Juliana Uhuru Bidadanure, a professor at Stanford University, cites statistics showing that even among people old enough to vote, those aged 18-35 are significantly unrepresented in legislatures. In the US, this bias against the young is built into the constitution, which restricts membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate to those who are at least 25 and 30 years old, respectively, and the US president may not be younger than 35.

For countries that do not have constitutional barriers against younger legislators, Bidadanure suggests a remedy. Following the example of countries that have quotas to ensure a voice for indigenous people, or other minorities, we could have quotas for younger people. Thomas Wells, of the Leiden Institute for Philosophy, has suggested electing representatives who serve as trustees for future generations. And, of course, we could lower the voting age, to 16 or even lower.

In the absence of any such measures, eco-activists can properly claim that their non-violent civil disobedience is justified by the failure of our democracies to show sufficient concern for the interests of future generations. Like the suffragettes more than a century ago, today’s young people have no voice.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-23-000002

2. ISSUANCE DATE: December 29, 2022

3. CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: January 16, 2023, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia

4. POINT OF CONTACT: Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

5. POSITION TITLE: Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL])

6. MARKET VALUE: USD \$35,104 – USD \$56,160 - FSN-10
- 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.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.
11. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) position sits within the USAID Liberia Health Office, Service Delivery Team, and supports the development of and reporting on PEPFAR strategic information and monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems in support of Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representatives (C/AORs), Activity Managers and Advisors managing Mission PEPFAR programs/projects/activities as well as the interagency PEPFAR team.

The SI Specialist provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection, use and analysis of large complex data sources; and surveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders. He/she serves as the coordinator for meeting key reporting timelines related to the interagency Liberia PEPFAR program. The incumbent will be responsible for reporting on progress toward achieving PEPFAR ~~tasks~~ as well as translating strategic information into improved PEPFAR programming, responsive service delivery and providing accountability for use of PEPFAR resources. S/He will coordinate data collection across the implementing agencies for all PEPFAR data streams, including performance indicators, site improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) results, and expenditure analysis data.

The job holder guides USAID Implementing Partners (IP) and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; provides assistance in development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to thebroader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders. The incumbent may be expected to perform work-related travel.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

A. Program/Project/Activity Performance Management and Reporting (50%)

- Responds to strategic information inquiries; gathers and compiles regular updates for OGAC, PEPFAR West Africa Region, USAID/Washington; assists CORs/AORs/Activity Managers by interfacing directly with implementing partners on data reported to USAID, the interagency and/or to the Government of Liberia (GOL).
- Addresses program-related vulnerabilities; and shares pertinent information on other development partner programs. S/he conducts regular site visits to review and provide feedback on program implementation, this may include meeting with beneficiaries.
- Provides technical guidance to Health Office, Mission staff, IPs, and other USG agencies on MEL concepts, processes, design, training, and best practices. Provides guidance to IPs in understanding of the Performance Monitoring Plan systems, and their role in the process, and advises on specific measurement techniques appropriate for their programs/projects/activities.
- Provides technical strategic information (SI) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expertise to the Program Office, USAID/Washington, and oth USG agenciesto plan and manage Health Office responsibilities related to the PMP, including collection, assessment of validity, and improving data quality. Develops innovative and cross-cutting monitoring tools, including Data Quality Assessment and Improvement (DQA/I) tools in coordination with the Program Office and SI/MEL contractors; tracks and maintains multiple sets of key indicators, common indicators related to standard components in all USAID programs/projects/activities, indicators at the strategic objective level, and detailed indicators at the activity level; and, ensures proper collection of data, and that indicators serve is an appropriate measure of their corresponding result.
- Leads, designs, and performs assessments/studies/research requiring independent analysis and interpretation, on a regular and recurring basis; studies and research are cross-cutting and include substantive and often sensitive Mission and Health Office topics. Briefs Health Office and Mission leaders on findings and makes recommendations to impact strategic, operational, and programmatic direction.

B. Technical Support (35%)

- Provides guidance to PEPFAR/Health team on defining measurable indicators and targets for desired results addressed by their program/project/activity, and edits quarterly, semi-annual, and annual performance reports. Provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection use and analysis of large complex data sources; andsrveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders.
- Provides technical direction to the PEPFAR team to monitor progress toward objectives as detailed in the Regional Operations Plan (ROP).
- Provides technical and operational support to ensure necessary and timely program-level data analytics requirements from OGAC are accurately interpreted and communicated to relevant USG agencies, in preparation for the annual ROP/Strategic Direction Summary (SDS) planning and development process, as well as country and program - level quarterly reviews.
- Serves as a key member of the Mission's M&E Team coordinated by the Mission's Program Office; and as a reviewer of Mission evaluation designs and reports, participating on Mission evaluation teams.
- Guides USAID IPs and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; contributes to development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to the broader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders.
- Provides support on the development of standards and indicators for assessing program effectiveness and quality to be assessed on site visits and feedback provided to program staff.
- Provides support to strengthen the capacity of USAID and partners staff in the use of appropriate data management systems to measure and track progress made toward achieving targets based on required indicators. Advises on data collection and program monitoring tools and systems.
- Leads work and coordination with IPs to ensure PEPFAR data reporting requirements are met on a timely basis. Related activities include reviews of guidance documents, PEPFAR targets for the annual ROP, quarterly progress reports, and stakeholder meetings to analyze progress against targets.
- Assists in the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data from various sources including SIMS (Site Improvement Monitoring System), Data for Accountability, Transparency, and Impact Monitoring (DATIM), District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), and facility and partner-level data.
- Participates in the review and approval of annual work plans and periodic reports of USAID partners.

C. Representation & Public Speaking (15%)

- Attends external meetings, committees, and task teams, including GOL-facilitated technical working groups, as needed to represent the Liberia/PEPFAR interagency team.
- Supports development and presentations for research publications and/or abstracts for national and international conferences and symposiums.
- Presents PEPFAR program performance results, research results and M&E plans to OGAC, USAID/Washington, USAID/Liberia, PEPFAR interagency stakeholders and external stakeholders that include other development partners, private sector partners, GOL, USG counterparts from other countries and PEPFAR IPs.
- Actively engages in local SI capacity building of host country governments and other local organizations to strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of data for program planning and direction.

- **Travel:** International and local travel may be required.

- **Supervision Controls:** None

- **Supervisory Relationship:** The USAID Strategic Information / Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL] Specialist works within the Service Delivery Team, and under the direct supervision of the Service Delivery Team Lead or designee. The supervisor makes assignments in terms of overall objectives and resources available. The day-to-day work is directed by the Care and Treatment Program Management Specialist. Completed work is reviewed in terms of achievement of program/project/activity goals, products produced, effectiveness imeeting host-country and USAID objectives, and integration with other initiatives in the Office and Mission portfolio. Some technical direction may come from other professionals in the Office; in general, however, the incumbent will be expected to exercise considerable autonomy and best judgment in discharging the duties of the assignment.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** Minimum of bachelor's degree in social science, statistics, mathematics, mathematics, economics, computer science, epidemiology, health informatics, public health, infectious disease, zoonotic disease, biology is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five years of progressively responsible job related professional-level experience in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) and other surveillance systems, evaluation of program/project/activity implementation, in direct program/project/activity management, or in a closely related activity is required. Field experience as a public health program and/or technical officer, data collection, data quality evaluation and in fulfilling reporting requirements is required. Experience working in Liberia and/or in another African country and working in a multicultural bilingual environment is required.
3. **Post Entry Training:** Familiarization training in USAID- and PEPFAR-specific procedures, regulations, reporting tools and methods, and orientation to working from a donor-Agency perspective, will be provided. Successful completion of formal C/AOR training is necessary for proper job performance and will be provided. Training to maintain professional capability in the field, and other courses offered for professional USAID staff, as appropriate; and courses, seminars, conferences, and other activities in fields related to the function and needed to maintain and update professional qualifications may be provided as they become available, subject to availability of funds.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent proficiency) in English (reading, written and spoken) is required. Language competence may be tested.
5. **Job Knowledge:** The incumbent must have in depth, professional-level knowledge of development approaches and methods for performance analysis, data visualization, and program design, monitoring, and evaluation. The incumbent must have excellent knowledge of MEL systems, public health programming, and international donor operations in the sector. The incumbent must have knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of the host country; development problems in the health sector in the host country and the region; an understanding of the resources, resource constraints, and overall development prospects and priorities of the host country and the region. The incumbent must have working knowledge of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and of USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation, and of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities.
6. **Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent must have the ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate HIV-AIDS and clinical care activities. S/he must have strong verbal communication skills and diplomatic skills in order to form good working relations with technical level national and local government officials, other development partners and external stakeholders. Verbal communication skills must be sufficient to explain complex data analyses and interpret PEPFAR attitudes, priorities, and concerns. Writing skills must be sufficient to prepare and edit regular and ad-hoc reports with special emphasis on data visualization, in keeping with Agency and PEPFAR requirements. The incumbent must be proficient with Tableau, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and email platforms. S/he must have strong capacity to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial; must have skills in project programming and strategy development; and must be able to work effectively in a team environment to achieve consensus on policy, project, and administrative matters. The incumbent must have the ability to acquire knowledge of USAID programming policies, procedures, regulations, and documentation, and of the objectives and methodology of assigned activities.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

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

1. Selection Process

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

2. Evaluation Factors

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

FACTOR #1:

In 250 words or less, describe your experience collectingmanaging, and visualizing HIV and/or other health care data. Highlight your experience with the HIV continuum of care. Provide examples of your information management skills to collect, analyze,manage, and visualize data from the HIV prevention and treatment cascade.

3. Basis of Rating

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

Evaluation Factor: 10 points

Factor #1 10 points

Timed writing sample exercise: 50 points

The writing sample will demonstrate the candidate's ability to use a data management tool to interpret, analyze and visualize sample datasets for a typical PEPFAR HIV program.

Interview Performance: 40 points

Interview questions will provide the candidate the ability to:

- Management abilities
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Technical knowledge

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-23-000002 – Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LWSC boss on unsafe water, water theft

By Kruah Thompson

The Managing Director of the Liberian Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) Duannah Kamara has alarmed over increased illegal connections to the main water pump that supplies pipe borne water across Monrovia.

Mr. Kamara disclosed that



Police (LNP) for investigation.

According to him, the 5000 gallons of water that is pumped from the LWSC's reservoir could generate about US\$18,000 daily, but due to illegal connections, they are generating nothing.

He said the Weah administration promised few months back to send water all over central Monrovia, and to

be another generation that will need access to these facilities.

He specifically warned residents of Central Monrovia, Slipway, Buzzy Quarters and Mamba Point that water coming thru their pipes is not safe for drinking and cooking because it contains high content of chlorine.

However, the LWSC boss said residents of Sinkor up to Monrovia City Hall may use the water for any purpose, including drinking and cooking, because those lines are safe, while a team of professionals from the Corporation are already in the fields working to ensure safety of the water for the communities listed above.

"Until these professionals describe the water as clean and safe to use, no one from the places I named should drink or cook with the water," Mr. Kamara reiterated

Meanwhile, Kamara indicated that the restoration of the facilities was made possible through assistance from the Government of Liberia and its partners such as the World Bank.

Statistics show that for more than a decade, the water quality in Liberia has been a serious challenge. In 2016, only 25 percent of the population had access to clean water. Currently, of the 4.5 million people populating the country, more than one million are unable to access safe drinking water.

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about 50 thousand residents are illegally taking water from the LWSC, imposing huge production cost on the entity.

Speaking at MICAT special briefing on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, the LWSC Maning Director warned those in the habit of doing illegal connections to desist immediately.

He said management will shortly dispatch teams to various communities to arrest those involved and turn them over to the Liberian National

deliver on this, LWSC has started to pump water through its Ducor reservoir.

"The water coming out of Ducor reservoir is safe but the water going into the various lines that take the water to individual homes is described as something that is not safe," he added

Director Kamara indicated that these mini pumps have stayed long underground ("close to 25 years") and the leadership at that time did not take into consideration that there would

Weah is running a friendship gov't -Clarice Jah

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Former Margibi County Senator Clarice Alpha Jah has criticized President George Weah for running a one-sided Government, only made of members of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and friends.

Madam Jah who served as Senator of Margibi County during the 52nd and 53rd National Legislation on the ticket of the opposition Liberty Party (LP), asserted that the way President is running the country has resorted to increasing waves of underdevelopment in some key areas due to the lack of technical expertise.

Madam Jah noted that the absence of an inclusive government crowded with individuals with expertise are the root causes of the growing economic hardship among the local population.

She said the current governance structure is laden with individuals

and friends selected based on partylines.

To get results and keep the economic on track, Madam Jah suggested that President Weah rethink his approach and form a government of inclusion regardless of party lines with all hands-on deck.

She acknowledged the former regime of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as a government of inclusion.

She remembered that despite



Madam Clarice Jah

the huge challenges faced by the Ellen regime, the former President did all she could to have an opposition in frontline positions of her government. She added saying, that led to increase competition, and improvement of the country.

Meanwhile, the former senator has declared her intention to contest her county's senatorial seat in the upcoming general and presidential elections later this year.

Liberian educator seeks help for kids with Down Syndrome

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

In pursuit of its goal to ensure the survival of children living with Down Syndrome sickness, My Heart's Appeal, a local non-profit organization is seeking supports from the Government of Liberia, NGOs, prominent individuals and entities.

My Heart's Appeal Inc., has been in existence since 2011, catering to children and people with intellectual disabilities as a way of giving them a better life regardless of their current condition.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Madam Lovetie Major, asked the Government of Liberia for assistance to support children with special needs.

was the only person who was showing concern; it is against this backdrop that I developed interest in catering to kids with disabilities", Madam Major narrates.

The Liberian educator and humanitarian activist, says she has come a long way in catering for children with special needs, and presently runs daily services for them.

"I've come along with this since 1999 in America, and bringing it to Liberia, with My Heart's Appeal Foundation, was challenging, but despite all odds, I have come this far in catering to these children, in this small facility, my House, my late mother has given to me, catering to my Sister Titema, and other children with the Down Syndrome condition."



Madam Major said phase one project of the center is complete, but needs financial support from government to open it to the public.

She pleads with government, NGOs and philanthropists to support the My Heart's Appeal Liberia in operating its educational facility for children suffering from Down Syndrome.

Children with intellectual disability find it hard to learn, which means they need extra time and help to learn new skills. Kids in such condition need special cares, something, Madam Major said parents of these children are unable to provide.

She explained to The New Dawn that children with intellectual disability will typically experience difficulties with reasoning, problem solving, memory, planning, and judgement, among others, so they need extra time and help to learn.

"What prompts me to get involved in this initiative, I had a sister, who had Down Syndrome and needed somebody to take care of her, and at that time I

She says it has been her desire to make her sister feels a part of society, and functional by enabling her to acquire education as others could, and went beyond in building a resource center without any support from national government.

Madam Major continues that at least 75 Down Syndrome children are currently enrolled at the My Heart's Appeal Liberia Foundation in Gaye Town, Old Road in a pilot phase and approximately hundred more kids are waiting to be enrolled, but the facility needs expansion.

"That's why I said, we need support to expand our facility; this place is small to enroll all of these children, as you can see this huge number of children, a little over 75, while nearly hundred others are waiting to enroll, but we cannot take all of them."

She discloses three acres of land have been secured along the Robertsfield highway to construct a permanent recreational center for the kids, but this requires financial support.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Paynesville School of Biblical Studies graduates first batch of students

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Paynesville School of Biblical Studies (PSBS) outside Monrovia has graduated its first batch of students since it was established in 2020. The ceremony held on the theme: "Preach the Word",

graduates have been approved, noting that for the fact that they've willingly come to acquire biblical knowledge, God has granted them his approval, and they should lead by good example in spreading the good news about Jesus Christ. "When you are teaching,



saw 14 candidates receiving associate degrees in Pastoral Theology and Theology, respectively. Commencement speaker Bro. Charles Dennis, of the Central Monrovia Church of Christ, urged the graduates to be steadfast in the Biblical knowledge acquired and to lead by examples. He said the

work very hard to make sure what you preach is from the Bible. Do not preach what you think. Preach what the Bible says. The Bible is the Word of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit and it is what He uses to change us. God uses preaching taken from the Bible!" He also urged the graduates to make use of the lessons they

have learnt during their studies as tools for transforming the communities in which they find themselves. At the same time Bro. Dennis encouraged the local congregation to support those who have graduated from the Paynesville School of Biblical Studies as teachers of the gospel.

The Valedictorian of graduating class, Gaye E. Summerville, expressed appreciation for the profound support from the GSA Road Church of Christ, for making it possible for them to study the Bible at the institute.

For his part, the Minister of the GSA Road Church of Christ and Director of the Paynesville School of Biblical Studies (PSBS), Alfred Zayzay Beyan, reminded the graduands of the honor in successfully going through the Bible teaching and the responsibilities ahead of them. He encouraged admonish them not to sit on their knowledge saying, "It's our prayer that you will diligently apply the knowledge you have gained through this Oral Bible School and that you are well equipped to work in your various ministries."

Minister Beyan, also noted the school that began with an initial enrollment of 22, saw

Teachers end convention in Lofa

By: Kruah Thompson

The National Teachers Association of Liberia has ended its 66th National Delegates Convention in Voinjama, Education, Prof. D. Ansu Sonii, Deputy Education Minister for Fiscal Affairs, Lofa County Senator Stephen J. Z. Zargo, chairman of the Lofa Legislative Caucus; authorities of Lofa County school system, heads of



Lofa County. Held under the Theme: "The Transformation of a Nation Depends on others. Teachers", the convention brought together eight (8) M. Nyumah, told journalists at delegates from each of the fifteen counties of Liberia. that the forum has been The gathering was organized to focus on several developmental plans of the

the Labor Congress of Liberia, and representatives of civil service union, among several NTAL President, Mrs. Mary W. the opening of the convention that the forum has been

Association in the next four years.

Mrs Nyumah noted that the four days gathering provided an opportunity for school authorities to voice out the many challenges they are

faced with. She said corps of officials of the Association were to be elected and subsequently inducted into their respective offices to steer the affairs of the Association in the next four (4) years. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Public experience

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momentum. "We need to see basic systems in place. An economy that works for all Liberians. An equal opportunity for Liberian entrepreneurs to compete and to grow their businesses, in an environment that is totally dominated by foreign businesses," he said.

Cummings said Liberians expect a health system that will provide reliable standard of care for the sick, noting that JFK Hospital should not turn patients away because they do not have money to pay up front, or because the hospital does not have beds available.

Cummings spoke of the need to promptly pay civil servants' better salaries as well also create opportunities for farmers to expand their farms and make money by being able to sell what they produced.

He emphasized the imperative need to provide youth with the critical skills needed to be on par with their peers in the region, with reference to 21st century skills such as IT, computer programming and software engineering.

"How do we create an environment where our young people can have the resources and support needed to start

their own businesses, and to grow those businesses, move from being job seekers to become job creators, Cummings said.

He said to create a wholesome functioning society is the primary reason for contesting the Presidency.

He said Liberia need serious people to fix the problems and meet challenges of nation building.

The CPP Standard Bearer said he has traveled throughout the country and have seen, the longing on the people faces for a better life, a government that will works for them, and not just focused on squeezing citizens' pockets to collect taxes, but to use the state's resources to create wealth for its citizens before taxing that wealth.

Cummings reacted to claims of his desperation for the Presidency, saying, "if you are a patriotic Liberian, you should be desperate too." The CPP Standard Bearer said he is desperate to see a Liberia where children aren't out of school because their parents can't afford it. "Desperate for a future where parents don't have to go through the pain of seeing their children going to bed hungry at night and where people don't have to die of simple, preventable diseases," he said.

Imminent split in Presbyterian Church

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an alleged "urgent issue."

He claimed that Rev. Morgan left all the Church leaders in Yekepa without giving any excuse.

"You know, it was a gross disrespect to those people so they decided to suspend him," said Gayflor.

Following alleged multiple calls seeking his whereabouts, Gayflor claimed that Rev. Morgan later texted him (Gayflor) and stated that he had returned to Monrovia for an urgent issue.

"He was not sick, he only told me he had an issue in Monrovia, and that he had to attend to it," said Gayflor.

Additionally, Gayflor said the local Church in Monrovia decided not to renew Rev. Morgan's contract because he had allegedly made the leadership shame in Yekepa.

Gayflor alleged that Rev. Morgan was not the pastor proper for the Church, challenging him to provide a copy of the contract he signed with the Church if he has any. He

said Rev. Morgan did not convince the Board of Elders that he could run the Church properly while serving on probation.

He alleged that Rev. Morgan "was more of a social person than a spiritual person."

According to Gayflor, out of 21 members of the Board of Elders of the Church, about three are against the decision not to renew Rev. Morgan's contract.

Through an alleged voting process, Gayflor said an overwhelming majority of 17 members of the Board of Elders agreed not to renew Rev. Morgan's probation.

In place of Rev. Morgan, he said the Church has selected Rev. Cornelia Green Wesley to be in charge while it searches for another pastor, or to even retain her.

Gayflor argued that Solo belongs to no auxiliary in the church and that Rev. Morgan is not a called pastor of the church, but he was only acting. He said the Church is 190 years old, and it has no history of any congregation breaking away.

LWSC boss on unsafe water

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Kamra said USAID and other partners were instrumental in making sure water is restored to the city. "USAID just gave us a

report; we were ranked 13th among countries with a lack of safe drinking water, and they had to approve a budget for us.

Français

Que craint la vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor ?

La vice-présidente libérienne Jewel Howard-Taylor a dit qu'elle ne se sent plus en sécurité. Elle a même demandé au ministère de la Justice de procéder à une enquête sur une prétendue menace dont elle aurait fait



l'objet. La prétendue menace en question proviendrait de l'intérieur du Parti national patriotique (NPP) dont elle est la leader politique. C'est le parti de son ex-mari, l'ancien président Charles Ghankay Taylor qui fut condamné par la cour pénale

internationale. James Biney, sénateur du comté de Maryland, serait soupçonné. Il est accusé par l'aile du NPP fidèle à la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor d'avoir proféré des menaces à l'encontre de leur leader.

Le NPP, dans une

communication qui date du 27 décembre 2022, a accusé M. Biney d'avoir dit dans le chat-room du parti que la décision de la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor de reconnaître Stanley S. Kparklann comme président national du NPP lui coûterait cher. « Le sénateur, dans son message, a menacé la vice-

présidente en disant : " Madame, quel cadeau de Noël vous nous avez offert ! Par ceci, vous avez tracé la ligne, et croyez-moi sur parole aujourd'hui, votre dernière décision de reconnaître M. Kparklain comme président du parti vous coûtera cher. Vous avez mis en jeu tout ce que vous aviez politiquement. C'est à vous de demander à vos conseillers de décoder ce que je viens de dire pour comprendre son interprétation. Je vous souhaite un Noël béni" », s'est plaint le parti.

Le NPP qui fut au pouvoir dans les années 90 sous la houlette de l'ancien président emprisonné Charles Ghankay Taylor fait désormais partie de la Coalition au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC).

Mais il est secoué par une crise interne de leadership au point de se scinder en deux courants rivaux, l'un dirigé par la vice-présidente Taylor et l'autre par M. Biney. Chacun des deux courants rivaux ont organisé deux congrès distincts le même jour et au même endroit. L'intervention de la Coalition au pouvoir pour réconcilier les deux tendances n'y a rien fait. Personne ne veut faire de concession. La

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Le Libéria et les EAU signent un accord de coopération

En marge de l'inauguration de l'hôpital moderne des Émirats arabes unis à Bopolu, dans le comté de Gbarpolu, les gouvernements du Libéria et des Émirats arabes unis, ont signé un accord de coopération bilatérale pour le développement des infrastructures.

L'accord signé le jour même de l'inauguration de l'hôpital approfondira l'amitié entre les deux pays en matière d'autonomisation économique et de services essentiels.

Le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, a signé au nom du Libéria, tandis que le ministre des Affaires étrangères et des Relations des Émirats arabes unis, Sheikh Shakhboot Nahyan Al Nahyan, a signé pour le gouvernement arabe.

Un aperçu de l'accord a également révélé le commerce des biens et services, l'investissement et l'agriculture, y compris les activités de transformation agricole, le bétail, la pêche

et l'acquisition ou la location de terres agricoles.

Cela comprend également l'énergie et les énergies renouvelables, les mines et l'industrie, les infrastructures, la construction, l'immobilier, le tourisme, les télécommunications et les transports, entre autres.

"Les parties peuvent décider de coopérer dans d'autres domaines qui semblent plus avantageux, compte tenu des priorités de la politique économique des États parties", précise l'accord.

"Pour mettre en œuvre la coopération économique et technique dans le cadre du

présent accord, les parties encouragent les sociétés spécialisées et les milieux d'affaires concernés à explorer les possibilités d'exécution de projets dans divers domaines de coopération économique et technique", a-t-il ajouté.

Toujours selon l'accord, les pays accorderont des facilités et des incitations spéciales aux investisseurs dans les deux pays si ces actions sont conformes à leur législation en vigueur et aux obligations et engagements internationaux des deux pays.



Éditorial

Le manque de volonté politique tue les institutions libériennes d'intégrité

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, demande aux dirigeants libériens d'avoir le courage de soutenir les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique, car le sort de la nation en dépend.

Selon l'ambassadeur McCarthy, le manque de volonté politique affecte ces institutions d'intégrité et les empêche de remplir leur mission régalienn, quoi qu'elles semblent ragaillardies par les sanctions américaines Magnitsky à l'encontre des fonctionnaires corrompus. « C'est une chose de dire qu'on veut la transparence dans les industries extractives du Libéria, c'en est aussi une autre de rendre publics tous les accords et revenus de concession et d'exploration des industries extractives et dénoncer publiquement les acteurs illégaux. C'est une chose de soutenir le Code de conduite, mais c'en est une autre de faire respecter les exigences en matière de déclaration de patrimoine », a dit le diplomate américain.

L'ambassadeur américain a récemment fait le tour de plusieurs institutions d'intégrité et rencontré des dirigeants et des employés de ces institutions, dont notamment l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative libérienne pour la transparence des industries extractives.

"L'un des objectifs de cette récente série de réunions", explique M. McCarthy, "était d'évaluer si les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique avaient constaté des améliorations en matière de gouvernance responsable à la suite des sanctions du département du Trésor américain annoncées en août".

Il a attiré l'attention des libériens sur trois points essentiels à retenir, à savoir : le Libéria ne prospérera pas sans des institutions d'intégrité qui fonctionnent bien, les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria ont besoin de plus de ressources, et les institutions d'intégrité ne peuvent pas réussir sans une vraie volonté politique.

L'ambassadeur a fait observer que la plupart des institutions chargées de l'intégrité sont composées de personnes travailleuses, dévouées et motivées, des gens qui veulent faire du Libéria un pays meilleur où il fait bon vivre, mais malheureusement, beaucoup d'entre elles ont des budgets bien insignifiants et un pouvoir d'achat très négligeable. Pire, la plupart d'entre elles ne reçoivent jamais le montant total qui leur est alloué. Dans certains cas, selon le diplomate américain, les déficits de financement représentent plus de 50% du montant accordé aux institutions dans le budget national. Ce qui, bien évidemment, entraîne des coupes importantes dans les fonds opérationnels, au point de ne plus avoir de carburant ou d'ordinateurs portables pour les enquêtes et les audits.

Selon lui, au cours des 20 dernières années, les États-Unis et le Libéria ont travaillé ensemble pour construire un Libéria prospère pour l'avenir de tous les Libériens, et après le conflit civil, les Libériens se sont réunis en 2003 pour reconstruire les institutions démocratiques du pays, ainsi que des garanties pour protéger sa gouvernance démocratique, dont les principales étaient les institutions d'intégrité du pays qui ont été construites, financées et dotées de certains des esprits les meilleurs et les plus brillants du Libéria.

Ces institutions ont été créées par la loi et conçues pour être à l'abri de l'ingérence politique, et en combinaison avec un environnement de société civile robuste et des médias libres dynamiques, elles donnent au Libéria des atouts uniques pour maintenir sa démocratie, alors que le pays a construit son post-fondation de guerre sur la démocratie et l'État de droit, la communauté internationale en a pris note et les entreprises multinationales sont revenues sur les côtes du Libéria, et la croissance du PIB s'est accélérée de 2003 à 2011.

Mais au cours de la dernière décennie, l'élan a changé et les dirigeants libériens ont accordé moins de soutien politique et financier aux institutions d'intégrité vitales du pays, l'économie a ralenti, la corruption a augmenté et les entreprises internationales ont commencé à chercher ailleurs des opportunités d'investissement.

Selon l'ambassadeur, le potentiel économique du Libéria reste énorme, mais cela ne se réalisera pas sans une gouvernance démocratique responsable que les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria sont censées promouvoir. Nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec M. McCarthy. Il est temps que les dirigeants joignent l'acte à la parole. Le soutien des institutions de moralisation de la vie publique devrait être une priorité.

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis l'a si bien dit. Les institutions telles que l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria n'existent que par leur nom. C'est triste, très tristes.

De toute évidence, le manque de volonté politique de l'administration Weah affame progressivement les institutions d'intégrité et affaiblit la lutte contre la corruption

Nous voilà en 2023. Nous ne pouvons faire qu'espérer que les dirigeants tiendront compte des préoccupations soulevées par le diplomate américain en accordant une importance aux institutions d'intégrité.

Français

Que craint la vice-présidente

crise aujourd’hui est à son plus haut niveau.

Le parti a déposé une plainte officielle auprès du ministère de la Justice contre M. Biney, à en croire un communiqué signé par Morris G. Paye et approuvé par Stanley S. Kparklain, respectivement secrétaire général et président du NPP.

Ils estiment que les propos de M. Biney constituent une menace grave pour la sécurité et la vie de la vice-présidente de la République du Libéria et porte-drapeau du NPP.

« Monsieur le ministre, le NPP considère la déclaration comme un grave problème de sécurité nationale qui doit attirer l'attention du ministère de la Justice pour procéder à une enquête pour s'enquérir des motifs et de l'intention de l'auteur », indique le communiqué.

« Nous reconnaissons qu’il y a un certain nombre de désaccords au sein du parti depuis le congrès biennal organisé le 7 octobre 2022, mais cela ne peut justifier des propos qui touchent à la sûreté et la sécurité de la vice-présidente ».

Burkina Faso : le calme est revenu au centre national d'entrainement de Pô

Au Burkina Faso, la tension a baissé dans le camp du centre national d’entrainement commando et de formation aux opérations spéciales où des soldats ont manifesté vendredi en séquestrant certains chefs hiérarchiques. Selon des sources sécuritaires, il s’agissait d’un mouvement d’humeur de soldats qui réclamaient leurs primes d’alimentation.

Les soldats du centre d’entrainement commando et de formation aux opérations spéciales étaient en colère contre le chef de corps. Ils ont

est toujours porté disparu. « Depuis le début du mouvement, personne ne sait où il se trouve », confie une autre source.

Selon un soldat, ce dernier serait dans un lieu sûr. « Il a préféré se mettre en sécurité, attendant un retour au calme », précise notre source.

L’agence d’information du Burkina Faso, citant des sources sécuritaires, souligne que « le calme et la sérénité sont de retour à la garnison de Pô à l’issue d’échanges francs et pédagogiques suite à "une journée mouvementée" ».

« La réorganisation de l’armée a commencé depuis



réclamé sa démission.

Ces soldats demandaient leurs primes de stages déjà effectués, des missions intérieures et d’alimentation. Ils avaient mis aux arrêts l’adjoint du chef de corps et le trésorier. Le chef de corps s’étant échappé face à cette colère, selon certaines sources.

Après des discussions, un officier a été chargé de gérer les affaires courantes en attendant la nomination d’un nouveau chef de corps. Le calme est revenu au sein de la caserne mais le chef de corps

quelque temps ».

Pendant ce temps, le président de la transition, Ibrahim Traoré, a présenté ses vœux à ses compatriotes. En tenue de combat et un béret rouge sur la tête, il a salué le courage et le travail des forces armées auprès des populations. Le capitaine a assuré que l’armée burkinabè a acquis du matériel aérien et terrestre avec le concours de certains pays voisins et que « la réorganisation de l’armée a commencé depuis quelque

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan
et Viral Acharya

Où sont passées toutes les liquidités ?

CHICAGO/NEW YORK - Le dysfonctionnement du marché des obligations d’État dans une économie développée est un avertissement précoce sur son instabilité financière potentielle. Au Royaume-Uni, le nouveau « mini-budget » proposé par le gouvernement a ressuscité le spectre de la dette souveraine non viable et a conduit à un élargissement spectaculaire des rendements des titres d’emprunt à long terme. En reconnaissant l’importance systémique du marché des obligations d’État, la Banque d’Angleterre a réussi son entrée, en suspendant son plan de retirer ses titres d’emprunt et en annonçant qu’elle allait acheter des titres d’emprunt sur une quinzaine de jours à une échelle proche de celle de ses ventes prévues pour les 12 prochains mois.

Depuis cela, les marchés se sont calmés. Mais aussi louable que puisse être la réponse rapide de la BdE, nous devons nous demander quelle est la responsabilité des banques centrales dans la fragilité actuelle des marchés financiers. Après tout, alors que les rendements des titres d’emprunt à long terme se sont stabilisés, la liquidité (à en juger par les écarts entre la demande et l’offre) ne s’est pas améliorée. De l’autre côté de l’Atlantique, le marché des bons du Trésor américain soulève également des préoccupations en matière de liquidité. De nombreux indicateurs au rouge vif, comme au début de la pandémie de COVID-19 en 2020 et à la suite de la faillite de Lehman Brothers en 2008.

Après deux années d’assouplissement quantitatif (QE) - lorsque les banques centrales ont acheté des obligations à long terme du secteur privé et émis des liquidités bancaires en échange - les banques centrales du monde entier ont commencé à réduire leurs bilans et la liquidité semble avoir disparu en l’espace de quelques mois seulement. Pourquoi le resserrement quantitatif (QT) a-t-il produit ce résultat ? Dans un article récent co-écrit avec Rahul Chauhan et Sascha Steffen (que nous avons présenté à la conférence Jackson Hole de la Banque de la Réserve fédérale de Kansas City au mois d’août), nous montrons que l’assouplissement quantitatif peut être assez difficile à inverser, parce que le secteur financier est devenu dépendant de liquidités faciles.

Cette dépendance se manifeste de multiples façons. Les banques commerciales, qui détiennent généralement les réserves fournies par les banques centrales pendant l’assouplissement quantitatif, financent leurs propres achats d’actifs avec des dépôts de demande à court terme qui représentent des créances fortes sur leurs liquidités en période de vache maigre. En outre, bien que les réserves des banques centrales des économies avancées soient les actifs les plus sûrs de la planète, elles offrent des faibles rendements, de sorte que les banques commerciales ont créé des flux de revenus supplémentaires en offrant une assurance de liquidité adossée à des réserves à d’autres. Cela prend généralement la forme de limites de carte de crédit plus élevées pour les ménages, de lignes de crédit conditionnelles pour les gestionnaires d’actifs et les sociétés non financières, ainsi que de relations entre courtiers et revendeurs qui promettent d’aider les spéculateurs à répondre aux appels de couverture (demandes pour des garanties de trésorerie supplémentaires).

Les spéculateurs ne se limitent pas aux fonds spéculatifs, comme nous l’avons appris récemment au Royaume-Uni. Ils incluent plutôt des fonds de pension normalement immobilisés qui se sont engagés dans des investissements dits « adossés au passif » : pour compenser le faible rendement des titres d’emprunt à long terme induit par l’assouplissement quantitatif, ils ont augmenté le profil de risque de leurs autres actifs, en prenant

davantage d’endettement et en couvrant tout risque d’intérêt lié aux produits dérivés. Bien que leur position couverte ait garanti qu’une augmentation des taux d’intérêt aurait un impact égal sur la valeur de leurs actifs et de leurs passifs, elle a également généré des appels de couverture sur leurs positions dérivées. Faute de liquidités pour répondre à ces appels, ils dépendaient de banquiers disposant de liquidités pour les soutenir.

En somme, durant les périodes d’assouplissement quantitatif, le secteur financier génère des créances potentielles substantielles sur les liquidités, en régénérant effectivement une grande partie des réserves émises. La quantité de liquidités disponibles est donc beaucoup plus faible que celle des réserves émises, ce qui peut devenir un gros problème en cas de choc, comme une peur induite par le gouvernement.

Notre étude constate également que, dans le cas des États-Unis, le resserrement quantitatif rend les conditions encore plus strictes, parce que le secteur financier ne réduit pas rapidement les créances qu’il a émises sur des liquidités, alors même que la banque centrale reprend des réserves. Cela rend également le système vulnérable aux chocs - un accident qui a toutes les chances de se produire prochainement. Au cours du dernier épisode de resserrement quantitatif aux États-Unis, même s’il a été relativement réduit, des augmentations inattendues de la demande de liquidités (comme une augmentation du compte du Trésor à la Fed) ont provoqué une dislocation massive sur les marchés des repos du Trésor. C’est exactement ce qui s’est passé en septembre 2019, ce qui a incité la Fed à reprendre ses injections de liquidités.

Le début de la pandémie en mars 2020 a été un choc de liquidité encore plus important, les entreprises ayant réduit les lignes de crédit des banques et des spéculateurs à la recherche d’aide pour répondre aux appels de couverture. Les banques centrales ont dûment inondé le système de réserves. On ne peut imaginer l’ampleur de l’intervention qui aurait été nécessaire si le choc avait été aussi mauvais que celui de 2008. Une crise encore plus profonde aurait poussé certains déposants à se départir de leurs espèces, ce qui aurait poussé certaines banques à thésauriser leurs liquidités afin de répondre à des demandes inattendues sur les dépôts qu’elles avaient amassés durant les périodes de forte expansion.

Autrement dit, plus l’échelle est grande et plus la durée de l’assouplissement quantitatif sont longs, plus la somme de liquidités à laquelle les marchés financiers s’habituent est grande et plus il faudra de temps pour que les banques centrales normalisent leurs bilans. Mais comme les chocs financiers, réels et budgétaires ne respectent pas les calendriers des banques centrales, ils forceront souvent de nouvelles interventions de la banque centrale, comme nous l’avons vu au Royaume-Uni.

Les décideurs monétaires se trouvent donc dans une position très difficile. Une banque centrale pourrait avoir besoin d’augmenter ses taux pour réduire l’inflation. Mais si elle doit également fournir simultanément des liquidités pour stabiliser les marchés obligataires, elle risque d’envoyer un message mitigé sur sa position politique - sans parler des inquiétudes suscitées par le fait qu’elle est devenue un financier direct du gouvernement. Non seulement cela complique la communication politique, mais cela pourrait également prolonger la lutte contre l’inflation.

Alors que les banques centrales ont toujours eu le devoir de fournir des liquidités d’urgence, le faire sur une base durable et à grande échelle est une autre paire de manches. Nos résultats suggèrent que l’assouplissement quantitatif sera très difficile à inverser, notamment parce que le resserrement quantitatif lui-même augmente la vulnérabilité du système aux chocs. Bien que la BdE mérite des éloges pour s’être empressée de sauver le système, les banques centrales ont plus généralement besoin de réfléchir sur leur propre rôle qui fragilise tant le système dans son ensemble.

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ARTICLEARTICLE

Tiawan Saye Gongloe: The President Liberia Needs

By S.Karweaye

The Presidential candidate of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe declared himself the most qualified person to rule Liberia, saying he has what it takes to move the country in the right direction and transform it. He made the declaration in Grand Bassa County where he went to celebrate the holiday festivities with rural communities while expressing optimism about being elected president of Liberia in the 2023 election.

Liberia deserves a patriotic and selfless leader at this critical juncture of her chequered history. The nation needs a man whose public actions, utterances, and opinions of the running government are deeply rooted in rule of law, honesty accountability, and transparency. Liberia needs a transformative leader, who will drive an all-inclusive pluralist democratic process in transforming the country for the betterment of all its citizens. A man full of wisdom and understanding of the diversity of the nation and its associated political, cultural, regional, and religious dynamics. One with the desired temperament; who has held the reins of power in public service and emerged incorruptible.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a former minister of labor, and solicitor general of the Republic of Liberia fits into this narrative. He is a prominent human rights lawyer par excellence, and was the president of the Liberia National Bar Association, before venturing into the foray of presidential politics in Liberia. Those who are familiar with the terrain of Liberian politics could testify to the fact that it takes the ingenuity of a man like Gongloe to want to be president in order to bring sanity to politics in Liberia. Political hawks had invaded the political spaces and held almost everyone hostage. Liberia is in the news for the wrong reasons and is notorious for electoral brigandage and is under a siege created by some political stalwarts and shylocks, who see Liberia as their personal or family estate.

However, Tiawan Saye Gongloe, who is flying the flag of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) is determined to navigate through the murky waters of Liberia politics with a unique brand of people-oriented politics to emerge victorious in 2023. Gongloe, who puts the needs of people before himself, is currently visiting and greeting residents of 'Gbheznzon door to door while the other contenders for the Presidency are celebrating the holiday season with their families. In 2021, he spent Christmas in Grand Gedeh. Nobody believed or saw it coming of Cllr. Gongloe entering presidential politics, but his entrance into presidential politics is a breath of fresh air. He does not fit into the definition of who some people expect to win because he is a poor man lawyer. When one talks of political moneybags in Liberia, he comes a distant last. However, People are starting to believe in his philosophy of "A better Liberia is possible."

From 2006-2010, Tiawan Gongloe changed the face of governance as solicitor general and as minister of labor. The central theme of those positions he occupied was anchored on honesty, accountability, and transparency. While in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe promised to tackle waste in government by championing frugality in the management of Liberia's finances. We are all aware that the running cost of servicing the comfort and conveniences of those big shots in government eats far deep into the budget than appropriation for infrastructure and capital projects. This has affected visible development in security, health, human capital development, education, water, roads, electricity, and others. Gongloe told rural communities in Owensgrove, Little Bassa, Compound #1, Ben Logan Town, Moryou (new hometown of Cllr. Gongloe), Samuel Brown Town, King Farm, Edina, Sand Town, Kru Town, Waka Town, and Compound #2 in Grand Bassa County overhauling the huge and unsustainable costs of governance in Liberia.

What stands Tiawan Gongloe over and above his political contemporaries, one may ask? Firstly, in the public offices he held, he discouraged corruption and personal enrichment in official high places. The idea of looking at government as a place for quick accumulation of primitive wealth and deployment of government resources to service mundane avarice of families, friends, and associates will be dismantled when Gongloe is elected president of Liberia.

Second, wastages in government spending will be deliberately plugged and money for infrastructural development for the people of Liberia will be saved. Typical examples were the numerous positions Gongloe held in government. When he traveled abroad to represent the government he often brought back his remaining per diem after his mission abroad was accomplished early. He did the same as the President of the Liberia National Bar Association.

Third, Gongloe contends that Liberians as a whole have failed to demand decent government, work for it, and make the necessary difficult decisions and sacrifices, which is the primary cause of Liberia's underdevelopment. The country's economic and social progress is being hampered because corruption has become so ingrained in Liberia that the country now faces a threat to its security. Through the misappropriation of public funds, irregular payments, unlawful spending, employee fraud, and



bribery, Liberia's citizens are denied access to essential services including inexpensive healthcare, employment, and education for the young people of the nation, among others.

Speaking to rural communities in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe proposed quarterly Lifestyle Audits for public employees when he is elected president. Lifestyle Audits involve an intensive probe into their lifestyles in order to detect sudden and suspicious affluence that may suggest fraud. He wants salaries, and benefits of the President and all officials in the three branches of government to be published, and that any official that interferes with the functions of the police or any law enforcement officer shall, upon summary fact-finding, be immediately dismissed. Gongloe argued that the chronic deficit of leadership characterized by greed, a thirst for illicit wealth, and self-interest, as opposed to the welfare of the nation, is a significant factor in the current state of Liberia.

Fourth, Gongloe is an economist and taught economics for over eight years at the University of Liberia, so he understands that moving the country from a plantation economy model to a more industrial or manufacturing economy model is the best approach for genuine growth and development in Liberia. He told the gathering in Grand Bassa county that his economic plans include creating an enabling environment where local and

international companies established their presence in Liberia. He has promised to ensure that the nation's resources are used to bring out the best in the citizens and prepare a great future for them.

Fourth, quality education is a top priority of Gongloe's transformation agenda. Gongloe is currently the assistant professor of law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University, where he lectures human right law and criminal and criminal procedure law and volunteer his time at the Supreme Court's James A.A Pierre Judicial Institute and the Liberia Police Academy lectures on lectures on constitution laws, evidence, criminal procedure, and human right laws. Gongloe argues "education is a right not a privilege for every child." Education is also a right that every citizen is entitled to under the universal declaration of human rights. According to Gongloe, Article 6 of the constitution provides, "The Republic shall, because of the vital role assigned to the individual citizen under this Constitution for the social, economic, and political well-being of Liberia, provide equal access to educational opportunities and facilities for all citizens to the extent of available resources. Emphasis shall be placed on the mass education of the Liberian people and the elimination of illiteracy." With this, he believes the government must provide school buildings to accommodate all the children of Liberia to have access to education because their parent's lack of money should not stop any Liberian child from going to school. Gongloe's plan includes scrapping tuition for public schools (from kindergarten to 12 grade), paying teachers livable wages as well as building new schools and rehabilitating existing ones for a conducive learning environment.

Liberia is not in short supply of political leaders. What we lack are patriotic leaders and inclusive institutions to drive leadership processes and developmental agendas. The nation, unfortunately, is wrongly blessed with leaders deliberately promoting extractive institutions to suit their whims and caprices. The missing link is choosing those aspiring to political offices from the prism of objectivity and track records. Have we not paid enough price for our primordial and ethnic tendencies towards electing leaders? The total absence of political leadership exhibited by President Weah from 2018 till date and the general consequences of the lax on citizens should be avoided. Given the opportunity as president of Liberia, Tiawan Gongloe will replicate his performances in the public and private sectors and do much more. Every election year, those who have nothing tangible to offer our elected leaders. Consequently, people are subjected to all forms of hardship as a result of a lack of a good leadership compass. In the end, citizens are left to pay dearly for the choices they made.

Gongloe's clear understanding of the ugly state of the nation, what leadership is, the shape and structure government should take at this crisis stage and appropriate recommendations for a whole range of national issues are inspiring. His public support for fighting the government and the general overhaul of the current governance structures is timely. It suits the kind of politics that will bring succor to citizens and Liberia out of the woods.

Come 2023, aspirants have to give citizens ideas of what their intentions are. It is not good enough to only say vote for me for the future of your children. Or help me to achieve my lifelong ambition. Show us in concrete terms what drives your aspiration to lead. The bitter menu served to Liberia by Tiawan Saye Gongloe is enough reason to vote for that man, who sees fighting corruption and promoting the rules of law as priorities and a way of service to the country and humanity. Some of the old guards and crops of recycled leaders have fooled us for too long and do not have a place again in our political history. Affliction shall not arise the second time. Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe is the president Liberia needs.

Public experience not the problem

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has rejected claims that to solve Liberia's century old problems, one must have prior work experience in government.



Cummings said if might even become a government experience is hindrance, if people become what's required, then, Liberia too used to the culture of after 175 years, should have corruption and been one of the most mismanagement that developed countries by now. He said all Liberia needs is someone who knows how to lead, how to manage and inspire people to deliver results. Cummings said Liberia needs public servants who are honest, disciplined, and are prepared to work, as he has exemplified in his 40 years of enviable record at the multi-billion Coca-Cola Company.

He made reference to Mr. George Weah, who served three years in the Senate before becoming president, and many of his current officials who also served in previous administrations.

"The fact that this administration has performed so poorly shows that prior experience working in the government is not a necessary condition for national leadership," the CPP Standard Bearer said.

"In fact, in some cases it

said. Cummings said in the coming months, he intends to travel to every county and district, every corner of Liberia to make his case to the Liberian people. "We will sit with you, listen to you, learn from you, and share our own ideas with you on how we all can work together to create the better Liberia we all want," he said in statement released on January 2, 2023.

He said a CPP Government will tackle the most important issues to build a solid foundation for the future, by working with all Liberians from all backgrounds, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender, noting that anyone who has what it takes, and is willing to work, we will work with you in the interest of Liberia.

Cummings said the Weah's administration has done enough harm to Liberia, failing his constitutional responsibilities to the Liberian people. He said this 2023 electioneering year is critical because, our future and children depend on it, and that we should be asking ourselves, are our children, really in a position to become the best person they can be?

"Have we seen the kinds of investments in the education system to really prepare our children for the opportunities of this 21st century? Do parents have access to the kinds of jobs that will allow them to provide a decent livelihood for their children?" Cummings lamented. The CPP Standard Bearer said, while we do not expect all of Liberia's problems to be fixed within five years, Liberians expect to see forward

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Ukraine Zelensky bestows

Starts from back

September 22, 1996.

Meanwhile, minutes after the news of the award, tons of congratulatory messages began and continue to pour in at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Foreign Minister Kemayah.

Political pundits assert that the award is another clear indication that the work of Foreign Minister Kemayah transcends the borders of Liberia, noting that his performance has been recognized and appreciated on the global stage, evidenced by this award from President Zelensky. President Zelensky also presented Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia with the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise (3rd Degree), including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Anniken Huitfeldt, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France Catherine Colonna, with the Order of

Princess Olga (3rd Degree) each for their significant personal contributions to strengthening interstate cooperation, support for Ukraine's state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Recently, Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu and Secretary General Jefferson Tamba Kojee of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) rained praises on the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his outstanding work and exemplifying leadership at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chairman Morlu described the Minister of Foreign Affairs as one of the pillars of success in the CDC Government. He also stressed that the CDC is proud of its decision to support His Excellency Amb. Kemayah in his role as Foreign Minister.

Chairman Morlu mentioned that the Foreign Minister is determined to strengthen and promote Liberia's foreign policy. He averred that Minister

Kemayah has been working to improve and promote Liberia's foreign policy for the past five years.

Chairman Morlu assured that Amb. Kemayah would continue to serve as Foreign Minister until the Day of Judgment if he (Chairman Morlu) had the appointing authority.

The Chairman called on assistant and deputy ministers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lend their fullest support to the reforms minister Kemayah has initiated at the Ministry to implement President Weah's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Imminent split in Presbyterian Church

By Winston W. Parley

Split is imminent in Liberia's historical Presbyterian Church where supporters of a suspended pastor threaten a breakaway and establishment of "The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Liberia."

In an interview Tuesday, 3 January 2023, the suspended clergyman, Rev. C. Wellington Morgan told this paper that he is seeking his lawyer's advice in demanding his benefits from the Presbyterian Church.

He said the other option could be to sue the Church for allegedly illegally kicking him out.

"As I speak to you right now, I am with one of my lawyers ... I was illegally kicked out of the Church for no reason," said Rev. Morgan.

"Yes, if it means going to court I will; but I need legal advice because I need the Church to pay all my benefits for the time I served and for illegally kicking me out," said Rev. Morgan. Some

But Rev. Morgan and his supporters have denied this. Morgan claimed that the leadership of the Church ransacked and cleared his office in his absence. He contended that he was never acting, and he has documents to prove that he was employed by the Church.

He said he served the Church for nine years, first as associate pastor, and later, as senior pastor.

He claimed that he and the Church signed a contract, and he was fully employed as the senior pastor of the Church.

A supporter of Rev. Morgan, Stanley Solo, claimed that the Church's decision was not in line with its constitution.

"Before a pastor is suspended for some reason, the issue must be grave, and you don't just jump up from the first offense to suspend a pastor," said Solo. "Some said that that suspension was not necessary, it was not right. He should have been warned, he



leaders of the Presbyterian Church in Monrovia who were interviewed have explained that the Board of Elders decided not to renew Rev. Morgan's probation because he did not convince the Board that he run the Church properly.


The Board of Elders' decision came after Rev. Morgan allegedly abandoned a three-day session of the Presbyterian Church in Yekepa last year to attend to some issues in Monrovia.

should have been written a letter..., "said Solo.

He argued that the pastor must go through counselling, and made to write a letter of apology. He said for a second offense, the pastor can then be suspended. For his part, Mr. Maurice Gayflor said they met in Yekepa last year for a three-day annual session.


But he said Rev. Morgan abandoned the Yekepa session and returned to Monrovia to attend to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Ministry of Commerce Building
Asylum and Gurley Intersection
Monrovia, Liberia

December 27, 2022



Filed Dec 27, 2022

Survey Notice

By directive of the Resident/Assigned Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi County, thru the Liberia Land Authority, authorized the undersigned Registered Licensed Land Surveyor to an Investigate Survey is the case reference: **Mardus Dewtonmas Tojay and Frank, Punoh, Daniel Gbor and John Bosco, all of the City of Monrovia, Plaintiff VS The Intestate Estate of the late Garkshzoko of Garikpeh Town by and thru its Administrators and Administratrix Okay Wuriso, William Yah and Comfort Andrews, Et All, all of Ben Town, Schieffelin, Marshall, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia, Defendants on Friday 6th January 2023 beginning at 10:00 AM.** The said parcel of land is lying and situated at **Margibi County, Monrovia, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia.**

Therefore, all adjoining property owners, disputants and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Mr. Amos Kerkuliah

2. Madam Cecelia James

3. Mr. Jimmy Jefferson

4. Madam Marine David

5. Mr. Tyler Taylor

6. Mr. Daniel Gbor

7. Madam Jannah Diggs

8. Mr. Boniface D. Salatee

9. Mr. Gonah Paye

CORNERSTONES INITIAL

1. IGM

2. MNAK

3. JRW

4. CSJ

5. BB

6. MSG

7. AEM

8. DKS

9. JCP

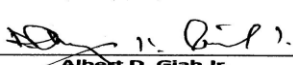
10. EW & GK

11. LC

12. JVI & CSJ

13. MK

14. JJ

Signed: 

Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Chairman Investigative Survey Broad
Cell No. 0886-740-519/775-080-153

CC. Sheriff, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi Co.

Surv. Kempton Murray (LIC. NO 014)
Plaintiff Surveyor

Ukraine Zelensky bestows highest honor on Kemayah

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky has conferred the 'Order of Merit (1st Degree)' on Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr for his significant personal contribution to strengthening interstate cooperation, support of state sovereignty

Charter of the United Nations, and international law.

In a communication from the Government of Ukraine dated Saturday, December 31, 2022 addressed to Foreign Minister Kemayah, informing him about the

Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah was awarded the Order of Merit (1st Degree) for a significant personal contribution to strengthening interstate cooperation, support of State sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

The communication from the government of Ukraine continues: "My sincere congratulations to



President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) and Foreign Min. Kemayah (R)

and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian President issued and published on his official website Decree No. 902/2022 of December 30, 2022, to appreciate and recognize the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia for his exemplary stewardship towards the promotion of the rule-based international order, global peace and security in the context of the fundamental principles of the

highest award from President Zelensky, H.E. Mr. Yuriy Pyvovarov, Ambassador of Ukraine accredited to Liberia wrote: "Dear Mr. Minister, I have the great pleasure to inform you of the great news (quoting word for word)": "By the Decree of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky No. 902/2022 of December 30, 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, Mr.

you, Dear Minister, from me personally and all Ukrainians! We look forward to your visit to Kyiv in early 2023. Happy New Year 2023: Sincerely Yours, Ambassador Yuriy Pyvovarov, Ambassador of Ukraine accredited to Liberia. "

In response to the honor from President Zelensky of Ukraine, Foreign Minister Kemayah, on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia; and in the name of his family and himself extended profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine and the Government and

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people of Ukraine for awarding him the Order of Merit (1st Degree).

Responding further, Minister Kemayah immediately dedicated his honor from President Zelensky to President George Manneh Weah and the Government and People of Liberia and his family for the confidence reposed in him, as well as the unwavering support and opportunity to serve.

The Ukrainian Chevaliers Order

of Merit (1st Degree) is the highest rank in this category of national honor awarded to distinguished individuals for their outstanding achievements in international affairs, government, economic, military, cultural and political spheres of society.

The former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma established the 'Chevaliers Order of Merit' on

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