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MPC leader Mr. Simeon Freeman

Cllr. Frank Musa Dean

"Irresponsible face shielding"

-Simeon Freeman descends on Justice Minister Dean

Mr. David Kortie

VP. Taylor

"Don't put Liberia in trouble"

-Kortie warns VP Taylor

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Continental News

Waiting at the airport with nowhere to go

It is the airport wait from hell.Paloich Airport, which usually buzzes with the sound of well-heeled workers serving South Sudan's oil fields, has turned into a camp for thousands of people fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Sudan - now more than a month old.

Eritreans who have been uprooted for a second time after previously arriving in Sudan to escape the situation at home. And these people are stuck in limbo.

According to the UN, there were over 136,000 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan before this war.

let alone humans," he said looking at the tents around him.As a single man he recognised that he was luckier than some."Maybe I can stand it. Sleeping outside, eating once a day, maybe I can stand it. But the biggest problem, there are people with children. There are people with four or five children," Mr Tesfit told me.

He fled the deteriorating economy in Eritrea at the end of last year and headed to Sudan, hoping to find work and maybe travel on to another country.But in South Sudan, Eritreans find themselves trapped.Over 700 have arrived in the country.

Other nationals who fled the conflict in Sudan such as Kenyans, Ugandans and Somalis have been repatriated by their governments. But many Eritreans in Paloich said they were terrified to go back home, or see no future there.

Mr Tesfit said that Eritreans at the airport were banned from getting onto flights to South Sudan's capital, Juba. At the same time they have refused to go to the designated refugee camps in the country.A three-hour drive further north, and closer to the border with Sudan, is another temporary camp bursting at the seams.The former grounds of the Upper Nile University in Renk, once abandoned, are now repopulated by more than 6,000 people. BBC

Most Eritreans do not want to give their names to journalists because they are scared of retribution from the Eritrean authorities.

Eritrea is a highly restrictive state that controls almost all aspects of people's lives, and many want to avoid the prospect of compulsory national service.But Tesfit Girmay agreed to speak to me. He had arrived in Paloich five days earlier.

"The kind of life around here, you wouldn't wish it for animals



These children are among thousands of people stuck at Paloich Airport in South Sudan

There are no toilet facilities, no running water, no kitchens - just crowds of people living around their bags, resting on luggage trolleys, or sleeping under makeshift tents while waiting to catch a flight.They have ended up here, four hours from the border with Sudan, in the hope of finding a way out.But there are few flights and little information about when people may be able to leave.

Among these refugees are

Probe as Malawi fire guts sensitive state offices

The Malawi government says it is investigating a mysterious fire in the capital Lilongwe that destroyed offices of key government departments holding sensitive information.

The fire gutted the last top two floors of a seven-storey government building destroying the government contracting unit, a department in the president and cabinet's office.

It also destroyed two departments in the lands ministry - the lands registry and deeds registry. An official described the offices as "holding very sensitive information".

The community services department in the country's judiciary was also gutted in the fire reported to have started at 23:00 local time on Saturday.

Information and Digitalisation Minister Moses Kunkuyu said a probe led by the police, supported by other security agencies, was under way to establish the cause of the fire.

Soon after news of the fire broke, social media was awash with insinuations the fire may have been the work of saboteurs and that critical information may

have been lost.But the information minister said the information had been backed up digitally, assuring people not to "worry about any alleged loss of information for nefarious reasons".

He said the investigations would be conducted quickly and the outcome made available to the public.BBC



Malawi Information Minister Moses Kunkuyu said critical documents had been backed up digitally

UK rejects calls to return Ethiopian prince's body

Buckingham Palace has declined a request to return the remains of an Ethiopian prince who came to be buried at Windsor Castle in the 19th Century.

Prince Alemayehu was taken to the UK aged just seven and arrived an orphan after his mother died on the journey.

Queen Victoria then took an interest in him and arranged for his education - and ultimately his burial when he died aged just 18.But his family wants his remains to be sent back to Ethiopia.

"We want his remains back as a family and as Ethiopians because that is not the country he was born in," one of his descendants Fasil Minas told the BBC."It was not right" for him to be buried in the UK, he added.

But in a statement sent to the BBC, a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said removing his remains could affect others buried in the

prince's father Emperor Tewodros II sought an alliance with the UK, but his letters making his case did not get a response from Queen Victoria.

Angered by the silence and taking matters into his own hands, the emperor held some Europeans, among them the British consul, hostage. This precipitated a huge military expedition, involving some 13,000 British and Indian troops, to rescue them.

The force also included an official from the British Museum.

In April 1868 they laid siege to Tewodros' mountain fortress at Maqdala in northern Ethiopia, and in a matter of hours overwhelmed the defences.The emperor decided he would rather take his own life than be a prisoner of the British, an action that turned him into a heroic figure among his people.After the battle, the British plundered thousands of cultural and religious artefacts. These included gold crowns, manuscripts, necklaces and dresses.

Historians say dozens of elephants and hundreds of mules were needed to cart away the



catacombs of St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

"It is very unlikely that it would be possible to exhume the remains without disturbing the resting place of a substantial number of others in the vicinity," the palace said.

The statement added that the authorities at the chapel were sensitive to the need to honour Prince Alemayehu's memory, but that they also had "the responsibility to preserve the dignity of the departed".

It also said that in the past the Royal Household had "accommodated requests from Ethiopian delegations to visit" the chapel.How Prince Alemayehu ended up in the UK at such a young age was the result of imperial action and the failure of diplomacy.

In 1862, in an effort to strengthen his empire, the

treasures, which are today scattered across European museums and libraries, as well as in private collections.The British also took away Prince Alemayehu and his mother, Empress Tiruwork Wube.The British may have thought this was to keep them safe and prevent them being captured and possibly killed by Tewodros' enemies, who were near Maqdala, according to Andrew Heavens, whose book The Prince and the Plunder recounts Alemayehu's life.Following his arrival in Britain in June 1868, the prince's predicament and his status as an orphan elicited the sympathy of Queen Victoria. The two met at the queen's holiday home on the Isle of Wight, just off England's south coast.

She agreed to support him financially and put him in the guardianship of Captain Tristram Charles Sawyer Speedy, the man who had accompanied the prince from Ethiopia. BBC

EDITORIAL

Playing games in the US\$100m cocaine case

The NEW DAWN senses a clear gameplay in the US\$100 million cocaine case at Criminal Court “C”, Temple of Justice involving four defendants that have been released by the court because of lack of evidence and reportedly absconded the country.

Barely days after jury panel in the US\$100 million cocaine burst case at Criminal Court “C”, Temple Justice in Monrovia last week Thursday brought down a not guilty verdict against the four defendants, calling for their immediate acquittal for lack of evidence by prosecutors, the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice is calling for their re-arrest, squashing the verdict.

It has been the slightest imagination of the Liberian public that despite overwhelming evidence that defendants Maïam Conte, Adulai Djibri Djalo, Makki Admeh Issam and Oliver A. Zayzay have link to the container that brought the drugs at the Freeport of Monrovia and taken to TRH Trading Corporation’s warehouse in Topoe Village along Japan Freeway outside Monrovia where the consignment was offloaded, would have been acquitted and released from detention.

But this is what happened on Thursday, May 19, to the disappointment of most Liberians, particularly ordinary citizens, who are victims of dangerous drugs being brought into the country by unscrupulous people posing as legitimate business persons.

Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean says the verdict undermines the collective efforts of Liberia and its international partners in clamping down on illegal transit of illicit drugs via West Africa as a conduit to trade narcotics from Latin America and other parts of the world

What is even disgusting more is that just after the defendants’ release, they are reportedly nowhere to be found with speculations that they may have been escorted out of the country with the help of interested parties.

It beats the imagination of keen observers of Liberian governance structure that defendants duly charged based on overwhelming evidence and put on trial would be adjudged not guilty, released by the court and allegedly escaped with no trace.

This is difficult to believe and is not the first time. We vividly recall the case with former passport director Andrew Wonplue, who was denied entry to the U.S. by State Department for his involvement in passport scandal.

In 2020, the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice indicted and tried Mr. Wonplue for passport fraud, but the court acquitted him for lack of evidence.

However, after former Secretary of State Mike Pompoe barred him and his immediate family from entering the United States, the government re-indicted Wonplue and re-ordered his arrest but the former passport boss reportedly absconded and has since not been brought to justice for bringing Liberian Diplomatic Passport to disrepute.

We clearly sense a similar scenario in the US\$100 million Cocaine case where indictees put on trial were acquitted of all charges and set free only for the state to be calling for their re-arrest with reports that they have absconded. We fervently hope that this is not the case and the four defendants will be brought back to face the full weight of the law.

COMMENTARY

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

The Climate Elephants in the Room

NEW HAVEN - Now that the falsehoods and obfuscation of climate denialism have finally been silenced, addressing climate change has become the world’s top priority. But time is running out, and the International Monetary Fund warns that any further delays on implementing policies to mitigate global warming will only add to the economic cost of the transition to a low-emissions economy. Worse, we still lack a concrete, pragmatic strategy for tackling the problem. Although economists have made a robust case for why carbon taxes are the best solution, this option has proven politically infeasible, at least in those countries that account for some of the highest emissions (namely, the United States).

Commentators have also stressed that climate change is a shared problem involving important cross-border externalities that must be addressed through a multilateral approach to global coordination. But, as with carbon taxes, this argument has fallen on deaf ears. And, given the current geopolitical climate and the increasing fragmentation of the global economy, there is little hope that the message will get through anytime soon.

Having committed to assisting developing economies as they confront climate change, the World Bank finds itself limited by the country-based model underlying its financing operations. It is earnestly weighing its options and considering how it could coordinate climate-related financing across borders. But while such efforts are well meaning and consistent with the spirit of multilateralism, they inevitably will delay concrete action. World Bank financing would have to be completely restructured, and coordinating action across multiple countries that have limited financial resources and often conflicting interests seems an impossible task. For example, while some developing economies are rich in fossil fuels, others are starved for energy sources.

Given these limitations, pragmatism dictates focusing on the biggest polluters. Global carbon dioxide emissions are concentrated among only a handful of countries and regions. China, the US, the European Union, Japan, and Russia collectively account for 63% of the total, and none of these top polluters is a low-income country anymore. China, the poorest of the group, represents around 30% of all emissions, making it by far the world’s largest current polluter in absolute terms. But its government is taking steps to accelerate the transition to green energy - a winning strategy, given the country’s abundance of rare earth metals.

India, the third-largest emitter, currently accounts for approximately 7% of global CO2 emissions, and its size and growth trajectory imply that it could easily surpass China as the leading polluter, barring stronger climate policies. In fact, when it comes to helping developing countries decarbonize, considerable progress could be made simply by targeting India alone. The big advantage of this strategy is that it would avoid the paralysis associated with attempts to adopt a multilateral approach in an increasingly fragmented world.

This does not mean that we should eschew projects aimed at climate mitigation or adaptation in other countries. But we would not need to wait until everyone is on board before doing anything. Those insisting on a multilateral approach should learn from the experience of the ultimate multilateral institution: the World Trade Organization. Its requirement that every single provision in every multilateral agreement gain unanimous support has left it increasingly paralyzed, prompting demands for institutional reform.

Of course, India is not low-hanging fruit. It is rich in coal and has little incentive (beyond the health of its citizens) to hasten the transition to green energy. In focusing on India, we would need to employ the carrot, not the stick.

Since the stick generally takes the form of pressure to implement carbon taxation, it is a non-starter. A tax would be ineffective, because it would incite massive domestic opposition (as has been the case in the US). It would also be morally objectionable, because it is unfair to ask a lower-middle-income country to bear the burden of reducing CO2 emissions when rich countries (like the US) have failed to do the same. Moreover, even if China and India are now two of the world’s biggest polluters, they bear little responsibility for the past, cumulative emissions that led to the current climate crisis.

That leaves the carrot, which would come in the form of tax incentives or subsidies to support green energy. When paired with other policies, these can ease firms into adapting to higher environmental standards (such as those associated with a cap-and-trade program). But such policies are expensive, which means that tackling climate change will require richer countries to help finance them. Whether or not India becomes the new China, it is still in our power to ensure that it does not become the new outside polluter.

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

OP-ED

By William Ruto

Walking Our Talk on Climate Action

NAIROBI - Last year in Berlin, the great Kenyan long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge broke the world marathon record, clocking 02:01:09 and beating his previous time by 30 seconds. His success has made him a legend not only in Kenya but globally. It offers a useful lesson for everyone involved in the fight against climate change. Kipchoge’s winning strategy is rooted in the science of running (as well as 120 miles of hard work every week), and our own approach to the climate crisis must involve the same level of commitment and focus.

As temperatures keep rising and emissions soar, the planet, too, continues to break (dangerous) new records. But with determination and follow-through, we - together with institutional partners and other governments - can start to run faster to get ahead of the climate crisis. Success will depend on following the latest science and mobilizing a joint, broad-based effort of governments and citizens.

In March, the world’s top climate experts and governments signed off on the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change synthesis report. Once again, the IPCC’s message was stark: Humans have permanently changed the planet, and global warming is already killing people, destroying nature, and making the world poorer. Though African countries have contributed the least to the problem, they are bearing the brunt of the damage. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), Africa accounts for less than 3% of the world’s energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, and 600 million Africans - an outrageous figure - still do not have access to electricity.

Climate change is a shared problem that the global community must solve by working together, especially given the disproportionate burden being placed on those who are least responsible. During his recent visit to Kenya, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and I held talks on ways to address the climate crisis. Through the Germany-Kenya Climate and Development Partnership, our two countries have committed to deepen our collaboration on climate-resilient development and renewable energy, including by supporting green-hydrogen production and sustainable agriculture.

We are currently a long way from limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius or even 2° C, as envisaged by the Paris climate agreement. The climate crisis will not solve itself. On the contrary, we must ensure that global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions peak before 2025 at the latest, and then fall by at least 43% by 2030.

This is the year to drive that transformation. The United Nations Climate Change Conference this November-December (COP28) offers an opportunity to accelerate the energy transition, supercharge the growth of renewables, and commit to phase out all fossil fuels - starting with coal.

Kenya is on track to meet these goals. We already generate 92% of our power from clean sources and we have committed to achieving a 100% clean electricity network by 2030. Similarly, renewables generated 46% of Germany’s electricity in 2022 and the government has committed to increase that to 80% by 2030. Critically, these commitments will not only ensure clean power and a safer environment; they will also create jobs, attract investment, and make our economies more secure and resilient in the face of volatile oil and gas prices.

But it is important that we run this race as a team. According to the IEA, the global ratio of clean-energy investments to dirty-energy investments must increase sixfold by 2030 (from 1.5:1 to 9:1).

With a strong partnership between Africa, Europe, and the rest of the international community, Kenya, with its abundant resources, can make significant contributions to decarbonization and the global transition to a net-zero economy. We must unlock climate finance and investment, so that we can harness our potential for green economic growth. But to do that, we will need to fix the current international financial system, which has proven inadequate for dealing fairly with multifaceted global crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency to debt distress across the Global South.

Next month’s Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, in Paris, provides an opportunity for Europe to galvanize support for reforming the international financial system. The international community must recognize our potential to help solve global problems and take steps to ensure win-win outcomes. That means providing access to affordable, adequate, and sustainable financing that is delivered in a timely manner.

As we reduce emissions, we also need to prepare our people and our housing, agriculture, and food systems for rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Meeting the 2021 COP26 commitment to double global climate-adaptation financing by 2025 remains crucial for protecting people and nature. The latest IPCC report is clear: climate change and insufficient adaptation and mitigation efforts are reversing development gains and undermining economic stability.

But we also must remember that adaptation has limits, and that climate change is already threatening millions of peoples’ lives today. As the IPCC shows, reducing GHG emissions by 43% this decade and stabilizing global warming at or below 1.5° C is still our best chance to keep the problem at a manageable scale. Kenya’s climate summit in September will provide a key opportunity to showcase the continent’s commitment, potential, and opportunities to deal with the climate crisis. We need all governments to step up and agree to phase out unabated fossil-fuel use. We need reforms to make our financial institutions and systems fit for purpose. And we need to take climate action seriously. In the words of Eliud Kipchoge, the key to success is to “walk your talk.”

OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

Building a Better SDR

NEW DELHI - With much of the developing world teetering on the edge of a debt crisis, the calls for a new issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs, the International Monetary Fund’s reserve asset), have grown louder and more urgent. But to have the desired effect, the IMF must modify its allocation criteria and clarify how SDRs can be used to support low- and middle-income countries through the current economic turmoil.

One proposal currently being considered is to expand SDR allocation beyond individual countries to include multilateral development banks and dedicated funds. The idea of channeling SDRs to multilateral institutions like the World Bank and regional development banks, which are uniquely equipped to assist emerging and developing countries, has become increasingly popular in recent years. The Bridgetown Initiative, led by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley, has called for a new issuance of SDR500 billion (\$650 billion) “or other low-interest, long-term instruments” to support the creation of a multilateral agency that would accelerate “private investment in the low-carbon transition, wherever it is most effective.”

Similarly, the recent report by the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (of which I was a member) recommends the “immediate, and thereafter regular” annual issuance of additional SDRs to aid countries facing foreign-exchange shortages. The report also suggests that IMF shareholders amend the organization’s Articles of Agreement to permit “selective SDR allocation.” This proposed change aims to facilitate a more targeted and effective distribution that prioritizes the most vulnerable countries over the world’s largest economies, which receive the lion’s share of SDR allocations under the current rules.

Another proposed amendment stipulates that “specific conditions” would automatically trigger SDR allocations to ensure a “swifter global response.” Notably, the report emphasizes that eligibility for SDR allocation should not be conditional on the recipient country adopting an IMF-supported fiscal consolidation program.

Unfortunately, these proposals were not even discussed during the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in April. But we must continue to pursue these reforms, because increased international liquidity, delivered in a timely and efficient manner, is needed more than ever.

By modernizing the outdated system of SDR allocation, the international community could also narrow the climate-finance gap. But, first, the many developing countries currently at risk of a severe debt crisis must receive immediate budgetary support. Unless we create a global financial safety net, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals stand little chance of being met.

The ongoing financial turmoil highlights the current system’s inherent inequities. Over the past few weeks, governments that control global reserve currencies, such as the United States and Switzerland, have pumped massive amounts of liquidity into the banking sector to rescue private banks. In contrast, debtor countries that have applied for debt relief under the G20’s Common Framework for Debt Treatments have been waiting for years for a fraction of those sums.

The sovereign-debt crisis currently engulfing the world’s poorest countries, which also happen to be the countries most affected by climate change, requires immediate action. At a minimum, low- and middle-income countries grappling with balance-of-payments challenges should be given the opportunity to bolster their foreign-exchange reserves through a new SDR allocation.

But even if a fresh allocation is eventually agreed upon, countries must understand how to make the most of it. Unfortunately, the IMF’s vagueness on this issue has caused much confusion, with some asserting that SDRs belong to central banks, not governments, and others insisting that they are loans rather than assets distributed by the IMF.

Consequently, many recipient countries’ newly allocated SDRs simply augment foreign-exchange reserves. While this can have a positive impact by increasing a country’s perceived creditworthiness, it can also hinder more effective uses of SDRs, particularly in times of acute shortages and fiscal constraints.

The Ecuadorian economist Andrés Arauz has highlighted these concerns, arguing that there is no legal basis for central banks to appropriate SDR allocations. The IMF’s own guidance says that members “enjoy a large degree of freedom in how to manage the SDRs allocated to them,” including the extent to which “central banks are involved in their management and whether the budget can directly use them for budget support.” According to the Fund, SDRs are “allocated and held by the member and instructions for its use come through the fiscal agency of the member” (emphasis added). In other words, governments can use SDRs as they see fit.

The confusion over the nature and status of SDRs stems, in part, from the IMF’s own misclassification of these assets. As Arauz points out, prior to the release of the IMF’s latest balance-of-payments manual (BPM6) in 2009, SDR allocations were treated as equity rather than as liabilities that recipient countries must repay. The BPM6, however, reclassified them as liabilities, essentially treating them as debt. This change, which was made without clear reasoning or transparent discussion, must be contested, because it can deter the use, transfer, and recycling of SDRs, preventing allocations from fulfilling their potential.

Some countries, particularly in Latin America, have demonstrated creativity in their use of SDRs. Ecuador, for example, used them to finance its 2021 investment plan. The same year, Paraguay channeled its allocation to investments in health, education, housing, and other public expenditures, and Argentina used its \$4.6 billion allocation to pay off maturing debt, fulfilling its obligations to the IMF.

In other countries, central banks’ perceived role as the custodian of SDRs did not completely restrict alternative uses. Colombia, for example, used SDRs to facilitate a domestic debt swap between the government and the central bank and generate short-term liquidity. Although Mexico’s central bank asserted its ownership of the country’s SDRs, the Mexican government acquired international reserves from it through a currency exchange in late 2021.

The current crisis is an opportunity to construct a fairer, more sustainable international monetary system. A sensible reform agenda must include increased SDR issuance and the creation of more efficient and equitable distribution mechanisms. To achieve this, the G7 countries, as the IMF’s largest shareholders, must demonstrate a modicum of wisdom and leadership.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a former member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Bong: Aspirants violate NEC's mandate?

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

It seems that some aspirants in Bong and Lofa Counties are violating the mandate from the National Elections Commission; refusing to

However, the NEC in its release “said failure to comply with its mandate would lead to consequences.”

“While en-route to work this morning, I

despite the NEC's mandate.

“NEC supposed to take action against them, you can't be fighting to serve higher position in the County then you be violating the laws of the land” Jerry Binda, a resident of Gbarnga told the local media on Friday.

Mr. Daniel Newland, the upper Bong County NEC Magistrate said besides at the National level, they have warned all would-be aspirants at the level of the county to bring down their billboards and that they are taking keen on anyone who would violate. When asked whether they have already tracked down names of violators, he said “as far as I am concerned, the NEC is working, and our works will not close eyes on anyone who will violate the guidelines of the National Elections Commission. At the Bong-Lofa border (Waterside), there are series of billboards that are still planted according to our Correspondent. Also in Panta District, Representative Robert Womba and Mr. Emmanuel Urey still have posters there.

Our Correspondent said in Gbarnga, former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai, Representative Edward Karfiah and Mr. Johnny K. Kpehe have not brought down some of their posters and billboards. Even though Jorquellah District Representative Josiah Marvin Cole earlier claimed that he has brought down all of his billboards, our Correspondent says he has actually not done so.

Others are Mr. Sayblee Weyea, the chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change and Mr. Paul T. Wheeler, a staff in the offices of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

There are people in the county who still doubt whether actions will be taken against would-be aspirants who are violating the NEC guidelines.

“My brother we all know that this country only good at making law, but the implementation aspect is always faced with problems. All these things that are happening, I know full well that NEC will not do anything about it because since I knew myself and been following politics in the Country, not a day NEC has denied anyone or punish anyone for doing pre-campaign” Alexander Forkpah told our Correspondent.

electoral laws are adhered to. We are looking forward to the consequences they will face during the candidate nomination exercise” He added.

According to our Bong County Correspondent, some

parts of Gbarnga and its environs are still flooded with flyers and billboards and those responsible seem to be paying deaf ears in bringing them down

Forkpah believes that if NEC starts to take action, it will deter other people who may want to violate the laws of the commission.



Photos of some Billboards opposite the Gbarnga Police Station

bring down their flyers and billboards that have inscriptions of voter registration awareness in the counties.

Prior to the end of the second phase of the Biometric Voter Registration, the National



A Billboard of Bong County District #3 Representative J Marvin

Elections Commission released a statement mandating all would-be aspirants to take down BVR awareness flyers immediately after the end of the exercise.

“The National Elections Commission mandates that on or before midnight 15 May 2023, all would-be aspirants must take down or remove their billboards, posters, banners, jingles, dramas, utterance and other forms of promotional paraphernalia from where they are situated” the release said.

The NEC said failure to comply with its mandate would lead to consequences for the candidate nomination process, which commences on June 14, and ends on 14 July 2023. It is little over a week since the end of the second phase of the Biometric Voter Registration in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and six other Counties in Liberia.

But billboards and flyers are still placed in the streets and on public facilities in Bong and most parts of Lofa County. This has made a lot of people to question the NEC whether it is serious about its own mandate.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rep. Zarzar receives honorary Doctorate degree

By Bridgett Milton

Sinoe County electoral District #3 Representative Matthew G. Zarzar has received an honorary Doctorate degree from St. Michael's Christian University.

and universal access to education, among others.

Dr. Victor Akoh of St. Michael's Christian University conferred the honor on the Liberian lawmaker in the conference room of the Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in

University for the honor, noting "Dr. Zarzar's five decades of public service with clean integrity has paid off."

Sen. Chea noted that the University has not only honored Rep. Zarzar, but also the people of Sinoe County. Speaker Bhofal Chambers in remarks said Dr. Zarzar is a man of impeccable character and the conferment was not a mistake. Prior to becoming a lawmaker, Dr. Zarzar served as Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Education; General Manager, at the National Bank of Liberia; Deputy Managing Director, LPRC, Deputy Minister for Revenue, Ministry of Finance; and Assistant Minister for Expenditure & Debt Management, respectively, Ministry of Finance.

He also served as Administrator, at Nisako Services, Minnesota, USA; Manager, Lutheran Social Service, Minnesota, USA, Instructor, at North Hennepin College, Hennepin College, MN, USA, Accounts Receivable Coordinator, Courage Center, Minnesota, U.S.A, and specialist, Bank Merger Team, USBankCorp, Minnesota, USA, Vice President, Agricultural and Cooperative Development Bank, and Accounts Payable Contractor-IBM, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, among others.

Monrovia.

"It is an honor and pride to be conferred with this honor. It is prophetic and therefore, I humbly accept this honorary degree, grateful that my hard work, dedication, passion and commitment as a public servant are acknowledged," Rep. Zarzar responded.

Speaking at the ceremony, Senator Cllr. Augustine Chea, chairman of Sinoe County Legislative Caucus, thanked the administration of St. Michael's



St. Michael's Christian University based in the United States of America Friday, May 19, conferred the honorary Doctorate on Rep. Zarzar in Community and Human Capacity Development.

The honorary degree was given to him in grateful recognition of his five decades of exemplary commitment as a public servant, lawmaker, and an advocate of social concerns such as promotion of social justice, human rights, peace,

RETRAP begins weeklong training at CARI

By: Alex N. Mofageh

The Ministry of Agriculture under its RETRAP Project has begun a weeklong training on improving productivity and market access for smallholder farmers at the Central Agriculture Research Institute in Bong County.

Liberian-owned agri-enterprises for selected value chains in the project participating counties are also benefiting from the training.

Giving an overview of the training on Monday, the Technical Advisor and Animal Health Specialist under the Ministry of Agriculture's RETRAP Project, Dr. Etagegnehu Belayneh said the exercise will also nurture farmers in pottery management, piggery, vegetable and also Rubber and palm production amongst several others.

She said Liberia as a country has over the past been challenged when it comes to a clear understanding of what needs to be done in these areas and as such, farmers find it difficult to grow their crops or

safeguard livestock.

"We want to encourage all of you to be focused during the course of the training if you must obtain the technical knowledge required to boost your productivity in agribusinesses in your respective communities" she adds.

The exercise according to our Correspondent has brought together over twenty-five participants from seven of Liberia's fifteen counties including Bong, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Bomi, and Nimba

Counties amongst others.

The Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) supports the GoL Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and the MoA three-year strategy plan for the Agriculture sector which provides an approach to building an agribusiness ecosystem aimed at dealing with the twin issues of Liberia's inability to meet domestic food requirements, to export at quality levels required for market success.



LNBA calls for more sanctions to protect Liberia's peace and stability

- Condemns disturbance at PYJ church

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian National Bar Association is appealing to the International Community, particularly the United States government for the imposition of more sanctions and other measures to jealously protect the peace and stability of the country.

The LNBA through its National Secretary General Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah in a press statement released on Monday, May 22, also appealed to the Economic Community of West African States, and African Union urging them to not sit by and let Liberia degenerate into conflict.

"The Bar calls for monitoring

marred the political landscape and gravely threatens the civil liberty, freedom of expression and association as guaranteed under the 1986 constitution" the LNBA noted.

According to the LNBA, the attacks are intended to harass and intimidate prominent citizens and members of the public in the months leading to the upcoming elections and could have a chilling effect throughout the country.

The LNBA urged the Liberian government to take all necessary steps to prevent acts of motivated violence and refrain from all inflammatory actions that could incite similar attacks or deter people from enjoying their civil liberties ahead of the elections.



the actions of anti-democratic elements and the immediate imposition of sanctions and other measures to jealously protect the peace of the country" the LNBA statement under the signature of Cllr. Varmah noted.

Commenting on the Sunday attack at Christ Chapel of Faith Church of Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson, LNBA says the attack and disruption of normal worship service was outrageous. He further described it as a pure act of provocation to undermine the peace and stability of the country.

"The LNBA condemns the attack on the normal worship service at the Christ Chapel of Faith Church of Senator Prince Y. Johnson on Sunday, May 21, 2023, by men believed to be partisans of both the NPP and the CDC youth wings. The LNBA says this is outrageous and a pure act of provocation to undermine the peace of the country. We are utterly dismayed over such cruel act of violence which has repeatedly

LNBA noted that the government is under obligation by law to protect life and property and must ensure that the needful is done consistent with Article 20(a) which provides that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, privilege or any other right except as the outcome of hearing judgment consistent with provision laid down in the constitution in accordance with due process" they noted.

The LNBA further called on the government to immediately and unconditionally launch a thorough independent and impartial investigation to ensure that perpetrators are brought to Justice in fair trial before a court of competent jurisdiction.

Cllr. Varmah warned that such reckless acts by anti-peace elements must not be treated as business as usual, stressing that only adherence to the principle of the rule of law can guarantee the peaceful co-existence of all Liberians.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ex-Finance Minister descends on Liberian politician

- says self-interest above citizens well-being

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Finance Minister M. Nathaniel Barnes says the current political space is flooded and dominated by politicians and political institutions that are more focused on their personal agenda instead of the well-being of the people.

In a statement issued Monday, May 22, 2023, titled: "An Appeal to the So-Called Leaders/Politicians of Liberia and a Dire Warning to the People of Liberia, Amb. Barnes urged Liberians to be mindful as to who they elect during the October 10 presidential and legislative elections.

becomes quite obvious that they are clearly dominated by the institutional and personal agendas of the various political parties and personalities as opposed to the crucial wellbeing of the people of Liberia. How does animosity between Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and Senator Prince Johnson address the issues of injustice, marginalization and poverty experienced by the people of Liberia" Mr. Barnes wonders.

"How do personal differences between former Vice President Joseph Boakai and Presidential Candidate Alexander Cummings address

point where the well-being and interests of the people are nowhere on the radar screen of those seeking to be elected. It is high time that the leaders of political institutions regroup and review or overhaul their strategy for electability and effective leadership" Mr. Barnes urged.

He asserted that the current approach of personalizing the issues can only escalate to violence that no Liberian wishes to re-witness.

He further observed that every leader of political institutions and a vast majority of their members and constituents have been impacted by Liberia's violent history, be it as a perpetrator or supporter of the violence or as a victim.

"Any Liberian who loves Mama Liberia would instinctively step away from this particular path. We desperately appeal to all political institutions and their leaders to consider an agenda that is dominated by the wellbeing of the people of Liberia rather than their selfish personal and institutional desires" Mr. Barnes urged.

Speaking to the consciousness of Liberia, the Ex-Finance Minister appealed to Liberians to consider the many recent events described on social media and personally experienced by some of them as "Red Flags."

"They are indicators that we are, once again, headed in a seriously wrong direction comprising a breakdown of civility, respect for law and human dignity and potential violence. Be aware, People of Liberia, of these Red Flags! Do not underestimate the POWER that you have to change the direction in which we are being swept; and strive to take your DESTINY in your hands. You alone can prevent another catastrophe that will thwart our reaching our God-given potential" he concluded.



Former Finance Min. M. Nathaniel Barnes

Accordingly, he also appealed to political parties and their leaders to consider an agenda that is dominated by the well-being of the people of Liberia rather than their selfish personal and institutional desires.

He observed that the current political space is influenced by politicians whose political agendas are controlled by greed and selfishness, urging Liberians to test the spirit.

"When one looks at the conversation and political dynamics of today's Liberia, it

the dire consequences of unemployment, poor health care delivery systems, and an appalling educational system? He questioned.

The former Finance Minister pondered, how President George M. Weah's refusal to address the issues of massive corruption, injustice and the absence of effective law enforcement while focusing on his own political agenda bring relief to the masses of the country.

It is obvious that the political dynamics have denigrated to a

Starts from back page

Stand-off at Arcelor Mittal

to comply after several meetings with local authorities.

Our reporter who was on the scene said, the citizens were angered by the news that instead of constructing the Washing Plant in their county as initially agreed upon, the company was allegedly seen moving materials to neighboring Nimba County for the construction of the plant.

The leader of the protesters Abraham King Jones, who sustained injury during the protest, when police tried to

calm the situation told journalists that Mittal Steel Liberia has failed to live up to its MDA.

According to Jones, citizens' anticipation is that when the Washing Plant is constructed in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County it would create job opportunities for them, but taking same to Yekepa, Nimba County is depriving them of much-needed jobs.

He said several attempts to meet with management to reconsider their decision have

failed, as company officials have refused to meet with the people.

Jones alleged that an unidentified officer of the Emergency Response Unit used the back of his gun to hit his head. The citizens have vowed to continue their protest till Arcelor Mittal can comply with the MDA.

Attempts to get a response from the Company's Communication Department did not materialize as of press time.

National Muslim Council inducts new leadership



By Naneka Hoffman

National Muslim Council of Liberia (NMCL) has inducted into office, new corps of officials to steer the affairs of the Association.

Those inducted include Alhajji Abraham F. Sheriff, National Executive Chairman, Sherikh Mohammed M. Konneh National Vice Chairman For Administration, Sheirkh Abdulrahman I. Sow, Vice Chairman for Operations; Dr. Abbas S. Kanneh, National Vice Chairman For Religious Affairs, Sister Amna V. Sherif Vice Chairperson For Women's Affairs, A.F. Kuku Reeves National Secretary General, and Vannie S. Momolu National Deputy Secretary General, respectively.

Speaking at the induction ceremony over the weekend at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, the newly elected Chairman Alhaji Abraham F. Sheriff says Muslims in Liberia, in the midst of lack of meaningful progress over several years, characterized by disunity, excessive greed and continuous quest for personal wealth and glory; corruption, envy and hate, became semblance of a failed

Ummah.

The National Muslim Council of Liberia Executive Chairman Sheriff explained that widows and orphans amongst Muslims were largely abandoned, Islamic education system collapsed, homes became multi-faith, while brothers and sisters in public services no longer saw corruption and injustice as crimes.

Chairman Sheriff continues that school-going children no longer saw immortality, indecency and cheating as offenses that corrupt society and are subject to severe punishment by Allah. In short, he says Muslims had started to totally forget that, accountability on the Day of Judgment is a divine promise with severe punishment awaiting the guilty ones.

He further noted that Allah said in the Holy Quran Surat "Verily, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they (first) change their ways and their minds."

He said over the years, Muslims have changed from good to bad, the consequence of which they have suffered, but now they have started a new journey to change from bad to good.

"Today's ceremony marks an important turn in that direction of change for the better.

Starts on page 11

"Don't put Liberia in trouble"

hospital and others interred as a result of violence.

He says if Liberian politicians don't stop the way they are proceeding, the problem that will emerge will be bigger than Ebola. "I'm saying this; I'm a senior citizen who served this country for 37 years, beginning from school principal to representative."

He warns those in government and in opposition to not revert the country to another 14 years of war.

Kotee says it would be foolhardy for any Liberian to think that the international community will spend its taxpayers' money on politicians' foolishness, adding that it's not going to happen.

"VP Taylor and Senator Johnson - none of them is on their private plantation. They work for us and if we don't speak now, people will

tote bundles on their heads again", he warns.

He notes there are some Liberians who think they can cause chaos and escape to another country to live because they have amassed stolen wealth.

Kotee further laments that is totally shameful and disgraceful after 170 years of existence, Liberians are still backward in everything despite the abundance of natural resources the country is endowed with, principally because of corruption and bad governance.

The political atmosphere in the country of 5 million people, according to preliminary census results, is charged with politicians throwing jives at one another, including words of war, as Liberians go to elections in October. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Le Libéria et la BAD signent un accord de don de 3,9 millions de dollars pour améliorer le système de paiement du pays

Le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) ont signé jeudi un accord pour une subvention de 3,872 millions de dollars américains pour financer la mise à niveau de l'infrastructure et du

de règlement brut en temps réel.

Le support renforce également le centre de données principal et les sites de récupération de la CBL.

L'effort vise à renforcer l'écosystème de paiement au Libéria pour une efficacité accrue, à favoriser la croissance et l'innovation et à préparer le pays à

Lors de la cérémonie de signature le jeudi 18 mai 2023 au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale Aloysius Tarlue a remercié le directeur pays de la BAD M. Benedict Kanu pour son soutien



système de paiement de la Banque centrale du Libéria.

Le Conseil d'administration de la BAD a approuvé le financement le 17 mars 2023, en s'appuyant sur le projet de développement des paiements de 2016 que la BAD avait précédemment soutenu pour mettre à niveau le traitement automatisé des chèques et la chambre de compensation et le système

une intégration régionale accrue. Il devrait également maximiser le potentiel de renforcement du secteur financier, de construction de la stabilité financière et de réduction du fossé de l'inclusion financière.

Comme la CBL a déjà mobilisé 9 millions de dollars auprès de la Banque mondiale pour construire le système national de paiement électronique, NEPS, le soutien de la BAD fournira le soutien infrastructurel pour le NEPS.

à la réalisation du projet.

« L'objectif principal du projet est de renforcer l'écosystème de paiement au Libéria pour une efficacité accrue et de favoriser la croissance et l'innovation. Il cible les processus automatisés, la chambre de compensation automatisée, le système de règlement brut en temps réel qui constituent

► CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Mauvaises routes : Les citoyens s'en prennent au Président Chambers pour être passé par Côte d'Ivoire

Plusieurs citoyens de Pleebo, dans le comté du Maryland, ont critiqué le président de la Chambre des représentants Bhofal Chambers pour avoir emprunté une route passant par la Côte d'Ivoire voisine pour se rendre dans le comté, dans le sud-est du Libéria.

Les citoyens sont en colère contre M. Chambers parce qu'il trouve du réconfort en passant par la Côte d'Ivoire pour éviter la route déplorable du sud-est, après que le gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) a échoué de construire la route.

Le gouvernement a du mal à allouer les ressources nationales de manière à ce que les citoyens ordinaires ressentent positivement son impact, en particulier en ce qui concerne le secteur des infrastructures routières, la santé et l'éducation.

Pourtant, tant d'argent est

alloué chaque année aux hauts cadres élus comme le Président de la Chambre des représentants, son adjoint, le président du sénat, le Président de la République et son Vice-président, entre autres.

Le budget de M. Chambers, est d'environ 3 millions de dollars. Il est de loin supérieur à ce qui est alloué au plus grand hôpital public John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

Les millions de Libériens qui

n'ont pas le privilège comme M. Chambers d'emprunter la route ivoirienne ne peuvent que risquer leur vie sur les mauvaises routes qu'évite le président de la Chambre.

Lors de sa récente visite dans son comté natal du Maryland, M. Chambers est passé par la Côte d'Ivoire pour

► CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

La montée en flèche du taux de change est insupportable

Les Libériens assistent, impuissants, à une augmentation soudaine du taux de change entre le dollar américain et le dollar libérien. 1 USD est passé de 150 LRD à 168 voire 170 dollars libériens en seulement un mois.

La hausse soudaine du taux de change crée des augmentations correspondantes des prix des produits de base, en particulier la nourriture, le carburant et les frais de transport, imposant de sérieuses contraintes aux citoyens ordinaires.

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe, candidat à la prochaine présidentielle, a récemment dit que la hausse rapide du taux de change est attribuable à l'injection incontrôlée de dollars libériens sur le marché par les dignitaires du régime de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) pour séduire les électeurs pour la réélection du président George Manneh Weah.

« Ils mettent une grande masse de dollars libériens en circulation et gardent les dollars américains. Ils économisent les dollars américains parce qu'ils ne sont pas trop sûrs de gagner les élections », a-t-il expliqué.

Les membres du parti au pouvoir, aussi bien ceux qui ont un poste que ceux qui n'en ont pas actuellement, distribuent d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens aux citoyens de tout le pays pour renforcer leurs chances d'être élus et réélus. Cela a bien sûr de graves conséquences négatives pour le pays dont l'économie est fortement dépendante des importations.

Economiste et professeur de droit, Me Gongloe a averti que les Libériens ordinaires vont être poussés à l'extrême pauvreté et aux difficultés en raison de ce qui se passe dans le pays, où d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens est en quête des quelques dollars américains disponibles.

« Sur le plan économique, ce qui se passe actuellement est terrible pour le Libéria. D'ici les élections, la vie sera beaucoup plus difficile que les Libériens n'ont jamais imaginé », a-t-il prévenu.

Avant même le début officiel de la campagne, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir mène une série de projets politiques dans plusieurs comtés, dont Lofa et Nimba, pour adoucir le terrain et rallier le soutien des citoyens.

Comme cela a été le cas lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017 et de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale de 2020, lorsque les candidats du parti au pouvoir ont distribué des millions de dollars libériens aux communautés et aux électeurs, et ont inondé le marché, une répétition similaire est attendue, alors que les Libériens se rendront aux urnes le 10 octobre.

Nous ne pouvons que rejoindre Me Gongloe pour prévenir nos compatriotes libériens de se serrer la ceinture et de se préparer aux conséquences économiques négatives pendant et après les élections auxquelles ils devraient faire face en conséquence directe des dépenses électorales, bien que la loi électorale du Libéria ait un plafond sur le financement des campagnes.

Français

Le Libéria et la BAD signent un accord

l'épine dorsale des processus de paiement dans le pays », a déclaré le gouverneur exécutif de la CBL lors de la signature de l'accord.

Le processus impliquera également la mise à niveau du centre de données principal de la CBL - un site de reprise après sinistre. Il devrait avoir un impact sur les institutions et les ministères et organismes gouvernementaux impliqués dans les paiements. Parmi les autres bénéficiaires figurent les banques commerciales et leurs clients, qui bénéficieront tous de services améliorés. Le projet contribuera également à accroître l'inclusion financière en favorisant l'intégration régionale grâce à une mise à niveau technologique vers le statut requis.

Soulignant également l'importance de la facilité de subvention, le responsable pays de la BAD a déclaré qu'elle améliorera la numérisation du

système de paiement du Libéria.

« La Banque centrale du Libéria mettra en œuvre ce projet, mais elle ne sera pas seule. Ils feront appel à des acteurs du secteur privé tels que les banques commerciales. Cela aidera d'autres institutions gouvernementales à numériser leurs activités et leurs paiements et, ce faisant, à promouvoir l'inclusion financière non seulement pour les jeunes mais aussi pour les femmes, ce qui facilitera le transfert d'argent d'une maison à l'autre dans l'espace visuel », a déclaré M. Kanou.

« Cela va également contribuer à renforcer le développement du secteur privé. Ce sera à nouveau l'occasion de promouvoir cet aspect tout en rendant un service très important à un thème que nous connaissons tous - l'intégration générale au sein de l'Union du fleuve Mano et au-delà.

Mauvaises routes : Les citoyens

entrer dans le district de Pleebo Sodoken.

Pour certains habitants de ce district, c'est honteux. Ils trouvent inadmissible qu'un législateur abandonne les routes qui mènent à son comté pour emprunter la route d'un autre pays parce que sa route est de mauvais état.

"Nous voulons dire ceci, nous sommes la cause des problèmes que nous traversons dans ce pays, en particulier le district de Pleebo Sodoken. Parce qu'un législateur qui est le troisième homme de cette administration Weah abandonne ses propres routes à cause de leur mauvais état et utilise la route ivoirienne. Alors, comment peut-il plaider en faveur des budgets pour les routes ? C'est honteux », a déclaré un critique.

Malgré les difficultés des gens concernant les mauvaises routes, M. Chambers a bénéficié d'un accueil chaleureux de la part de son peuple dans le district de Pleebo Sodoken, dans le comté de Maryland.

Il s'est rendu à Pleebo pour participer à l'opération d'inscription biométrique des électeurs (BVR) de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC).

Ses partisans de la circonscription lui ont promis qu'ils le rééliront massivement. Ils ont organisé un programme élaboré sur la place de Pleebo City avec des auxiliaires, des jeunes, des femmes, des chefs religieux et traditionnels, entre autres, renouvelant leur engagement à réélire non seulement M. Chambers, mais le président sortant George Manneh Weah en octobre.

Cependant d'autres citoyens se disant désabusés lui ont fait des critiques et fait part de leur mécontentement.

Ils trouvent inadmissible que pendant que plusieurs véhicules qui transportent des citoyens libériens à travers le comté de Grand Kru vers le Maryland sont embourbés, Chambers traverse la Côte d'Ivoire pour se rendre dans son village.

En tout cas, ils pensaient que M. Chambers songerait à l'entretien des routes pour soulager les citoyens ordinaires.

Les routes du sud-est du Libéria sont un défi majeur. Elles sont quasiment impraticables surtout pendant les saisons des pluies.

M. Chambers, selon ses détracteurs, est l'un des législateurs à cause desquels l'administration dirigée par Weah a une mauvaise réputation.

Pour eux, le simple fait qu'il est obligé de passer par la Côte d'Ivoire pour se rendre dans son comté de Maryland après 6 ans de pouvoir indique qu'il n'a rien fait de bon pour soulager son peuple.

Ce n'est pas pour la première fois que M. Chambers passe par la Côte d'Ivoire, il en a l'habitude. "Nous pensions que la façon dont il avait été critiqué pour avoir utilisé la route lors de sa visite dans le sud-est, il ne l'utiliserait plus. Mais il a ignoré nos appels, montrant qu'il ne regrette pas la façon dont son peuple est traité", a déclaré un autre critique.

Lors de sa récente visite dans le comté, le président Chambers s'est identifié à plusieurs citoyens et a fait des dons en espèces.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Les sujets tabous de la politique climatique

NEW HAVEN - À présent que les mensonges et l'obstruction du négationnisme climatique ont finalement été réduits au silence, la lutte contre le changement climatique est devenue la première priorité mondiale. Mais le temps presse et le Fonds monétaire international met en garde contre le fait que tout retard supplémentaire dans la mise en œuvre de politiques visant à atténuer le réchauffement climatique ne fera qu'augmenter le coût économique de la transition vers une économie à faibles émissions. Pire encore, il nous manque encore une stratégie concrète et pragmatique pour résoudre le problème. Bien que les économistes aient présenté des arguments solides en faveur des taxes carbone comme étant la meilleure solution, cette option s'est révélée politiquement infaisable, du moins dans les pays qui représentent certaines des émissions les plus élevées (à savoir les États-Unis).

Les commentateurs ont également souligné que le changement climatique est un problème commun impliquant des externalités transfrontalières importantes qui doivent être traitées par une approche multilatérale par une coordination mondiale. Mais comme pour les taxes sur le carbone, cet argument est tombé dans l'oreille d'un sourd. En outre, compte tenu du climat géopolitique actuel et de la fragmentation croissante de l'économie mondiale, il y a peu d'espoir que le message passe de sitôt.

Ayant pris l'engagement d'aider les économies en développement face au changement climatique, la Banque mondiale se trouve limitée par le modèle national qui sous-tend ses opérations de financement. Elle pèse sérieusement ses options et considère de quelle manière elle pourrait coordonner le financement lié au climat au-delà des frontières. Mais même si ces efforts sont bien intentionnés et conformes à l'esprit du multilatéralisme, elle va retarder inévitablement une action concrète. Le financement de la Banque mondiale risque d'être complètement restructuré et la coordination de l'action dans plusieurs pays ayant des ressources financières limitées et des intérêts souvent contradictoires semble une tâche impossible. Par exemple, alors que certaines économies en développement sont riches en combustibles fossiles, d'autres sont privées de sources d'énergie.

Compte tenu de ces limites, le pragmatisme impose de concentrer l'attention sur les plus grands pollueurs. Les émissions mondiales de dioxyde de carbone ne sont concentrées que dans une poignée de pays et de régions. La Chine, les États-Unis, l'Union européenne, le Japon et la Russie représentent collectivement 63 % du total et aucun de ces principaux pollueurs n'est plus un pays à faible revenu. La Chine, la plus pauvre du groupe, représente environ 30 % de toutes les émissions, ce qui en fait de loin le plus grand pollueur actuel du monde en termes absolus. Mais son gouvernement prend des mesures pour accélérer la transition vers l'énergie verte - une stratégie gagnante, compte tenu

de l'abondance des métaux de terres rares dans le pays.

L'Inde, le troisième plus grand émetteur, représente actuellement environ 7 % des émissions mondiales de CO2 et sa taille et sa trajectoire de croissance impliquent qu'elle pourrait facilement dépasser la Chine en tant que premier pollueur, à moins d'appliquer des politiques climatiques plus fortes. En fait, lorsqu'il s'agit d'aider les pays en développement à décarboner, des progrès considérables pourraient être réalisés simplement en ciblant l'Inde seule. Le grand avantage de cette stratégie est qu'elle éviterait la paralysie associée aux tentatives d'adopter une approche multilatérale dans un monde de plus en plus fragmenté.

Cela ne signifie pas que nous devrions éviter les projets d'atténuation ou d'adaptation climatique dans d'autres pays. Mais nous n'aurions pas besoin d'attendre que tout le monde soit d'accord avant de faire quoi que ce soit. Ceux qui insistent sur une approche multilatérale devraient tirer les leçons de l'expérience de l'institution multilatérale ultime : l'Organisation mondiale du commerce. L'exigence selon laquelle chaque disposition d'un accord multilatéral bénéficie d'un soutien unanime l'a de plus en plus paralysée, ce qui a poussé à des réformes institutionnelles.

Bien sûr, l'Inde n'est pas une cible facile. Elle est riche en charbon et n'a que peu d'incitations (au-delà de la santé de ses citoyens) à accélérer la transition vers l'énergie verte. En nous concentrant sur l'Inde, nous devrions employer la carotte, pas le bâton.

Puisque le bâton prend généralement la forme de pressions pour mettre en œuvre la taxation du carbone, une telle démarche est vouée à l'échec. Une taxe serait inefficace, car elle entraînerait une opposition intérieure massive (comme cela a été le cas aux États-Unis). Elle serait également moralement répréhensible, car il est injuste de demander à un pays à revenu intermédiaire inférieur d'assumer le fardeau de la réduction des émissions de CO2 lorsque les pays riches (comme les États-Unis) n'ont pas fait de même. En outre, même si la Chine et l'Inde sont aujourd'hui deux des plus grands pollueurs de la planète, ils n'ont que peu de responsabilité pour les émissions cumulées passées qui ont conduit à la crise climatique actuelle.

Reste la stratégie de la carotte, qui prendrait la forme d'incitations fiscales ou de subventions pour soutenir l'énergie verte. Lorsqu'elles sont associées à d'autres politiques, elles peuvent aider les entreprises à s'adapter à des normes environnementales plus exigeantes (comme celles associées à un programme de plafonnement et d'échange). Mais de telles politiques sont coûteuses, ce qui signifie que la lutte contre le changement climatique exigera que les pays riches les aident dans leur financement. Que l'Inde devienne ou non la nouvelle Chine, elle est encore en mesure de s'assurer qu'elle ne devienne pas le nouveau géant de la pollution.

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, ancienne économiste en chef du Groupe de la Banque mondiale et rédactrice en chef de American Economic Review, enseigne l'économie à l'Université de Yale.

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Liberia's Biological Diversity is its Economic Power Horse

By Stephen Rodriques, UNDP Liberia Resident Representative

Liberia prides itself as a nation endowed with a substantial share of global biodiversity. The country is regarded as one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world, and one which contains the highest remaining portion (42%) of the Upper Guinea Forest, which is regarded as one of the three lungs of the world extending from Guinea into eastern Sierra Leone, and eastward through Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana into western Togo. The forest is characterized by high endemism, boasting over 2000 plant species, 600 bird species, 75 reptile species, and 150 mammal species.

This would not have been the case for the wonderful nature-loving people of Liberia, and without recognizing the tradeoffs that come with maintaining such a rich global asset on more than two-thirds of the country's land area that is equivalent to twice the size of Belgium. Half of the people of Liberia live within 2.5 kilometers of a forest, with each household spending more than three hours daily collecting forest products for subsistence and for sale. With half of the country earning 35% of its income (World Bank, 2020) from forests, this resource is under great threat with reports of rapid decline in the country's biodiversity. Liberia's natural resources are critical for economic growth and delivering the pro-poor agenda for development (PAPD) as well as the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The threats to Liberia's biodiversity include increasing population pressure, competition for biological resources for food, shelter, and energy, plantation crops in areas of high conservation value, the outdated slash and burn shifting cultivation, poaching and hunting, unregulated timber extraction, charcoal burning, artisanal and small-scale mining, invasive species, insufficient public education and awareness, limited national investment in biodiversity conservation and inadequate law enforcement.

The International Day for Biological Diversity, observed on 22 May, presents the government and people of Liberia as well as partners and other stakeholders the opportunity to take a step back and reflect on the enormous biodiversity in the country and what it means for Liberia's future. This year's theme 'From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity' calls for a whole-of-society approach to implementing Liberia's national biodiversity strategy goals. This is in line with the historic Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework that aims to safeguard the world's nature, halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and put nature on a path to recovery by 2050. Liberia is expected to develop its implementation plans for the Conference of the Parties (COP16) in 2024, and UNDP is ready to support this process.

Liberia ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity on 8 November 2000. The then

Head of State and Chairman of the then National Transitional Government, H.E. Charles Gyude Bryant noted in the foreword to Liberia's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2004): "The achievement of biodiversity conservation must be fully participatory. I call on everyone, including all citizens of Liberia, foreigners within our borders, United Nations and other development partners, and the private sector to work in concert to conserve Liberia's rich biodiversity ... by ensuring that our actions are environmentally friendly, and mitigating adverse effects on our dwindling biodiversity and fragile ecosystems. I have no doubt that Liberia will follow the path on which nations seen as good examples of friends of the environment walk and that we will not be found relenting on this course. However, I wish to stress that the situation is urgent, and the time to act is now, as tomorrow will be too late. Just as we sing the "LONE STAR FOREVER", let us shout, "DEPLETION OF BIODIVERSITY NEVER."



Kudos to the current government for creating the space for public discourse and embracing the rich exchange of views on natural resource management in Liberia. While it can be stated that the many fora have been somehow successful in documenting and elevating the concerns for biodiversity conservation at the top level of government, now is the time for national investments that would catalyze and unlock global resources to support the implementation of the national biodiversity action plans, including enforcement of relevant laws and policies.

In 1999 the Government, with support from UNDP, established the National Environmental Commission of Liberia (NECOLIB) to oversee all environmental activities in the country, serve as the coordinating institution for the environment and come up with relevant policies and laws. NECOLIB drafted the National Environmental Policy of Liberia, the Environment Protection and Management Law, and the Environment Protection Agency Act, leading to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) creation in December 2003. The EPA produces State of the Environment (SOE) reports.

In collaboration with civil society, government, and partners, the government of Liberia in 2006 developed

a new forestry legal framework with several progressive initiatives, including formal recognition of communities' rights to their customary forestlands, empowering local populations to participate in forest governance and benefit from forestry revenue, increase participation and access to forestry information and civil society right to independently monitor forestry operations, a complementary land reform reinforcing community rights over forestland through the adoption of a Land Rights Policy in 2013 and the government granting equal legal protection to customary land.

Liberia is preparing for national consultations on the next National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which UNDP stands ready to support. There is a need to engage all levels of government, forest-dependent people, stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, academia, women, youth, and local communities to ensure that the strategy reflects a broad national perspective and consensus. It is also important to take stock and deeply reflect on the last NBSAP on what has been achieved and what is yet to be realized. For example, while past and current efforts by the government and people of Liberia to conserve biodiversity are commendable, the expected results and deliverables have not been entirely forthcoming. Going forward, the following recommendations from Liberia's most recent State of the Environment Report (2007-2018) are worth considering:

- Ensure that environmental plans and policies, such as the NBSAP are integrated into the overall national development plan so that the whole of government is involved in managing and safeguarding the country's rich environmental resources which are also vital economic assets.
 - The formulation of the new NBSAP should be backed by a comprehensive enforceable regulatory framework that balances biodiversity conservation with the need to harness the country's immense natural resources for the implementation of the pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development. This means mechanisms for shared responsibility among Liberia's ministries, agencies, and commissions must be designed to ensure coordinated planning, control, and implementation of the country's biodiversity hotspots.
 - The adoption of an economic approach to the valuation of forests and woodlands to ensure that informed decisions on the country's natural resources are made when signing foreign investment agreements.
 - Tree planting trees outside natural forests to ease pressure on them.
- As a leader in regional biodiversity conservation, Liberia is well-positioned to drive global action, but it must ensure that its backyard is in order by halting the depletion of biodiversity and forests. This would further enable the country to rally development partners and the international community to invest in biodiversity conservation and protection in Liberia.

"Don't put Liberia in trouble"

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Recently, VP Taylor at an endorsement ceremony held at the Capitol said "We all know our former Vice President isn't well, so God forbid, if Boakai dies in

At the same time, Kotee rejects PYJ's threat to mobilize 500 men to defend himself in response to youth



"Recently, the Government of Italy also arrested US\$100



Senator Prince Johnson has switched support from President Weah to former VP Boakai of the opposition Unity Party with Mr. Boakai naming the leader of Sen Johnson's MDR party Sen. Jeremiah Koung as his running

"I don't support any 500 men going anywhere that might create more trouble", Kotee says, adding that if Senator Johnson would have responded yesterday, several citizens would have been taken to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 15, 2023

This is to inform all officials and members of the Movement for
Progressive Change (MPC) and the general public that the 4th
National Convention of the Party will be held on Tuesday, May 23,
2023. Please be at the Party Headquarters on Monday May 22, 2023
for more information.

Signed: _____



John D. Barlone

Chairman 4th National Convention Committee

Approved: _____



O'Niel Paasewe

National Chairman/MPC

Stand-off at Arcelor Mittal Liberia Buchanan

-As protesters demand steel giant live up to MDA

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

At least one person sustained a head injury on Monday, May 22, when dozens of

demanding payment of salary arrears.

The citizens blocked the main entrance of ArcelorMittal's Concession, the train track, and several major

the scene to calm the situation and restore law and order.

Monday's protest by citizens in Grand Bassa was intended to draw the



citizens staged a protest at Arcelor Mittal Liberia Buchanan's office demanding that the concession company live up to its Minerals Development Agreement (MDA).

The protest follows a weeklong go-slow by employees from the company's Nimba and Grand Bassa operation sites

points as they burned tires elsewhere near the company's facility.

The citizens were said to have besieged Arcelor Mittal premises early Monday morning to demand the company's attention to their concerns after several meetings have failed.

The protest turned violent when police were deployed to

company's attention to its Social Corporate Responsibility to the county as stated in its MDA.

According to the citizens as part of the MDA, Arcelor Mittal Liberia is expected to construct schools, clinic, and a washing plant in the county, but the steel giant has failed

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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