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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023	L\$166.7246/US\$1.00	L\$168.7576US\$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.

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VP Taylor posed with the NPP Youth Wing leader

VP Taylor gets more lashes



Why the Government lost the US\$100 Million case (Pt1)

Justice Minister Frank M. Dean at the burning of drugs

The four defendants adjudged not guilty

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Continental News

S Africa could become failed state - ANC official

South Africa could become a "failed state" but has yet to reach that point, a senior official of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has said. The admission by ANC secretary general Fikile Mbalula comes as South Africa experiences power cuts, known as load-

journeying towards that direction," Mr Mbalula said in an exclusive interview with BBC HARDtalk's Stephen Sackur.

"South Africa is undergoing challenges like many other countries but I think to put it into the category of a failed state is an exaggeration," he added.

While external forces such as

country was "recovering well" and defended the ANC's economic record.

The party took power in 1994, following the end of the racist system of apartheid.

"We have been able to cushion our people from the worst," he said, after a legacy of "300 years of deprivation and a mismanaged country and economy". But he admitted the power crisis was the ANC government's "Achilles heel".

According to South Africa's central bank, it is costing the country at least 2% of gross domestic product (GDP).

"We can't afford that," Mr Mbalula said. With elections due next year, the continued blackouts could have seismic political consequences for the ruling party.

"It will affect the fortunes of the ANC to receive just an outright majority... if it is not dealt with decisively," he said.

South Africa's state-owned power utility Eskom has \$26bn (£21bn) of debt, old infrastructure, and power stations that do not work properly.

It has led to South Africa's worst-ever power crisis, and Eskom has warned that the situation could worsen in the winter months of July and August. Watch the full interview on Tuesday 23 May 2023 on BBC News and on BBC iPlayer for UK audiences. It will be available to listen to on BBC World Service Radio on Wednesday 24 May 2023. BBC



shedding, of up to 10 hours a day. "This load-shedding has just made a mess of our country," he told the BBC's HARDtalk programme. The power cuts have worsened South Africa's economic crisis. The country is also battling high levels of corruption, all of which has damaged confidence in the ANC government.

"If certain things are not resolved, we will become a failed state, but we are not

global economics, the impact of Covid and the war in Ukraine had all played a role in battering South Africa's economy, blame also lay partly with "some of our own weaknesses in terms of managing the economy well", Mr Mbalula acknowledged. South Africa has an official unemployment rate of about 33%, one of the highest in the world.

One in two young South Africans is unemployed and 60% are living under the poverty line.

Yet Mr Mbalula maintained the

Khartoum largely quiet since truce - residents

The latest ceasefire aimed at ending the devastating conflict in Sudan appears to be largely holding in the capital and two adjacent cities. For the first time in more than five weeks there appears to be relative peace, residents say. But there have been some breaches of the truce in Khartoum, and across the River Nile in Bahri and Omdurman.

The military carried out air strikes minutes after the ceasefire came into force on Monday evening. The air strikes, targeting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), have since stopped. However, sporadic artillery fire could still be heard in Khartoum, residents told AFP news agency. The RSF controls much of Khartoum and the two other cities that make up Sudan's greater capital. The

situation is also relatively calm in El Geneina and Nyala, two cities in the Darfur region which have also been badly affected by the conflict, AFP quotes witnesses as saying. The violence began on 15 April, triggered by a power struggle between the leaders of the regular army and the RSF. The US and Saudi Arabia have been brokering talks aimed at ending the conflict, which has forced

more than one million people from their homes and has led to a breakdown in health services. Previous ceasefires collapsed, but the US said the latest one was different as it included a monitoring mechanism.

US secretary of state Antony Blinken said the monitoring would be "remote", but did not give details. BBC



UK immigration curbs on families of foreign students

Foreign postgraduate students on non-research courses will no longer be able to bring family members to the UK, under new immigration curbs. The announcement has been made two days before official statistics are expected to show legal migration has hit a record 700,000 this year. Last year, 135,788 visas were granted to dependants of foreign students, nearly nine times the 2019 figure. PM Rishi Sunak told ministers the move would help bring migration down.

He told the cabinet that the change, to begin in January 2024, will make a "significant difference to the numbers," according to No 10. However, the impact it will have on official migration levels is unclear, since students and family members who come to the UK for less than a year are not counted.

Last week, he said ministers were "considering a range of options" to bring

changed in 2019 to allow foreign students to stay in the UK for two years after graduating to look for jobs.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said the rise in dependants being granted visas was "unprecedented," and it was "time for us to tighten up this route to ensure we can cut migration numbers".

In a statement to Parliament, she added that the move "strikes the right balance" between bringing down migration and "protecting the economic benefits that students can bring to the UK". There was a division within government about going further - and possibly banning the dependants of all postgraduate students, including those on research courses.

But some ministers, including Education Secretary Gillian Keegan, argued they were based in the UK longer and provided greater economic benefits. Universities UK (UUK), umbrella group for British universities, said it recognised the "substantial" rise in dependant visas had sometimes led to "local challenges" over family



migration down, but refused to say what an acceptable level was. The Conservatives have previously promised to bring net migration below 100,000 a year, but ditched the target ahead of the 2019 election after repeatedly failing to meet it. Under the announcement, partners and children of postgraduate students other than those studying on courses designated as research programmes will no longer be allowed to apply to live in the UK during the course. There were 135,788 visas granted to dependants last year, a rise from 54,486 in 2021, and more than seven times the 19,139 granted in 2020. These figures have increased since study visa requirements for European Economic Area (EEA) students were introduced after Brexit. Applications have also risen since rules were

accommodation and schooling. "Given this, some targeted measures to mitigate this rise may be reasonable," said Jamie Arrowsmith, the director of UUK's international arm.

He called on the government to work with universities to monitor the effect of the changes, adding they were "likely to have a disproportionate impact on women and students from certain countries".

The University and College Union (UCU), which represents university staff, called it a "vindictive move" that had raised "deep concern" within the sector. Those accompanying overseas students to the UK "bring huge value to our society and deserve the right to live alongside their loved ones whilst they study," its general secretary Jo Grady said. According to HESA, an education data group, there were 679,970 international students in the UK in 2021/2022. 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 Maiam 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.”



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
National Investment Commission (NIC)
M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive
Monrovia, Liberia





Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
(Consultancy Services)

Special Agro Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project

CONSULTANCY SERVICE “VALUE CHAIN TRAINING AND MAPPING OF FARMERS’ GROUPS IN KEY VALUE CHAIN AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE (LIBERIA) SPECIAL AGRO -INDUSTRIAL ZONE (SAPZ), BUCHANAN CITY – GRAND BASSA COUNTY- LIBERIA ”

Sector: Agriculture/Industry
Financing Agreement Reference: 2100150042703
Project ID: PLR-AA0-009

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Liberia has received funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) towards the establishment of a Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) over a period of five (5) years, (January 2022 to December 2026), and intends to apply part of the agreed amount towards funding activity one (1) (**Value Chain Training and Mapping of Farmers’ Groups in Key Value Chain and Value Chain Development**) under component two of the project: (**Enable skills and climate-smart agriculture value chain development and strengthen farmer coordination**)

The Consultancy Services is for training and capacity building of smallholder farmers, farming groups, MSMEs and young entrepreneurs to adopt and use improved agricultural practices and to diversify and add value to their agricultural produce with the view of enhancing agricultural productivity and entrepreneurship across selected value chain. The service also include the mapping of various farming communities, cooperatives and farmers’ groups, regional actors/ suppliers across priority value chains, identify value chain gaps, binding constrains, availability of resources, capacity and use of best practices. It also seeks to enhance the capacity of targeted beneficiaries to apply entrepreneurial skills and principles to agriculture including marketing agricultural produce and products. Accordingly, this will support the strengthening and competitive market participation of farmers, farming groups, small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises (AGRO-SMEs) along the selected value chains. Overall, this assignment will support the implementation and the realization of the objective of Component Two of the project, which aims to support “**capacity building of climate smart agricultural value chain and skills development and farmer coordination with the view of enhancing agricultural productivity and competitiveness.**”

The project development goal is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Liberia, and in the process reduce staple food imports, create jobs and reduce poverty.

The Project will enhance the competitiveness of smallholder farmers, MSMEs, young entrepreneurs and create inclusive and equitable opportunities to integrate them into the up- and downstream aspects of agriculture value chains linked to the agro-industrial park. It will strengthen the linkage between agriculture actors and industry activities, by building the capacity of local rural smallholder farmers, young entrepreneurs and small-scale enterprises to produce and operate as competitive business entities. This will link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors, and retailers to maximize value addition, minimize wastage, increase farmers’ income and create employment opportunities particularly in the rural sector.

The project is structured around three related components including: (a) Support the development of Climate-resilient Infrastructure to attract investments into Agricultural Value addition/industrialization, (b) Support Business Competitiveness, Enable skills and climate-smart agricultural value chain development and strengthen farmer coordination and, (c) Strengthen Institutional Capacity, Project Coordination & Management.

The Services will include but not limited to the following:

The scope of services for this assignment involves value chain training and analyzing the value chain of commodities identified as well as mapping out the various farmers’ group and cooperatives for the Liberia SAPZ. This will include:

i.

To train smallholder farmers, farming groups and cooperatives in **Good Agriculture Practice** for selected crops including (**oil palm, cassava, cocoa, coffee, rice, aquaculture, fruits and vegetables, and rubber**) to enhance agricultural productivity;

ii.

To train smallholder farmers, farming groups and cooperatives in improved farming techniques including climate smart farming techniques, use of improved seedlings and farm machinery, pest control and application of herbicides, etc.;

iii.

To train smallholder farmers, farming groups and cooperatives in Agribusiness and Business Management/ Development;

iv.

To provide **Leadership Training**o farming groups and cooperatives and link them to markets to sell their produce and to acquire inputs;

v.

Map out local and regional actors/ suppliers across priority value chains, identify value chain gaps, binding constrains, availability of resources, capacity and use of best practices;

vi.

Mapping of existing and new farming groups and or cooperatives;

vii.

Provide training on farm aggregation for farmers to enable economies of scale;

The National Investment Commission invites eligible consulting firm (s) to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consulting firm (s) must provide information indicating that that they are qualified to perform the services, (i) information detailing the company’s existence and areas of expertise (ii) list of similar assignments and experience in similar conditions, (iii) list of overall permanent and temporary staff in fields related to the assignment (Qualification will be considered from one of two perspectives: a. firm’s qualification and b. staff and consultants qualification), (iv) evidence of past performance if any, and (v) any other relevant information that might be useful. Consulting Firm may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s “**Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations” (BPM)**,dated October 2015”, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:30AM – 5:00PM Monrovia Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in hardcopy or by email to the address below and clearly marked “ **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for VALUE CHAIN TRAINING & MAPPING OF FARMERS’ GROUPS IN KEY VALUE CHAIN AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT** ” on or before 2:00pm Local time Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

Special Agro Industrial Processing Zone Project
Attn: Andrew Anderson Project Coordinator
National Investment Commission
Project Implementation Unit
M&E Professional Building
2nd Floor, Room- 15
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Monrovia, Liberia

Why the Government lost the US\$100 Million case (Pt1)

Intro: The acquittal verdict returned by the trial jury in the US\$100m cocaine case in favor of the defendants and confirmed by His Honor A. Blamo Dixon, Resident Circuit Judge of Criminal Assizes “C” at the Temple of Justice has sparked an acrimonious debate both locally and internationally, with the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, and Dean of the Supreme Court Bar, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean Jr., describing the acquittal verdict as “worrisome and shameful”, claiming that “these kinds of verdicts only lend credence to the widely held international and local perception that the judiciary- namely the courts are inherently compromised, and the ruling has also brought Liberia to international ridicule.” But in his postmortem analysis of the trial, the former Solicitor-General and Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Liberia, Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus has out rightly dismissed Cllr. Dean’s attack on the Liberian judiciary as nothing but a grandstand only intended to save face after a rather poor and disgraceful performance at the trial that was more of a “wild goose” chase due to lack of evidence. He said Minister Dean is using the Liberian judiciary as a scapegoat for his blatant failure to arrest and investigate TRH and its owners who are the actual importers of the containers in which the US\$100m worth of cocaine was found which ultimately led to the Government of Liberia losing the case in court. He said because the Justice Minister is conflicted, with short and long interests strewn across the political and economic landscape, President George Manneh Weah should expeditiously appoint a Special Independent Counsel to investigate the cold bloody murder of Charloe Musu and the US\$100m cocaine case. See article inside.

Postmortem Analysis of the US\$100m Cocaine Case: Why the Gov’t. Must Arrest and Prosecute the Actual Culprits Part 1
By Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus,

The legendary William V.S. Tubman, former Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court and 18th President of the Republic of Liberia. of sainted memory, speaking for the court in the case: “Fazzah v National Economic Committee et al, 8 LLR 85 (1943) said: “Ever and anon, there arises some litigation in the course of judicial proceedings like a mighty billow raising itself to a magnificent height as out of the sea, arousing public excitement, curiosity, anxiety, and interest. The civilians, as seashore visitors and dwellers, look on, some with fear, others with satisfaction, and yet others with amazement and trembling; but these legal billows seem, as it were, to dash themselves upon the shore as do the ocean billows and recede into the sea again, for each is a part of the same ocean and of the same great national superstructure...”.

George R. Fazzah, according to Justice Tubman, was accused of hoarding in one hundred and seventy-one bales of assorted cotton goods valued at twelve thousand pounds sterling. At that time, the whole nation was stunned by such discovery and wanted nothing but justice to be served but an over zealot National Economic Committee took a reversible action that ultimately let Fazzah off the hook and therefore, the Supreme Court of Liberia had no choice but to order issued the peremptory writ of prohibition, thereby and affirming and confirming the ruling of the justice in chambers.

And now eighty(80) years on, the US\$100m cocaine case is reminiscent of the of the George R. Fazzah case, and taking a cue from the wisdom of Justice Tubman, it is “like a monstrous billow, that has lifted itself, rolling on towards shore, and the noise of its tremendous roaring has been heard throughout the length and breadth of the Republic and possibly elsewhere...” , but in the end, the excitement

demonstrated to arrest and prosecute the actual culprits has disgracefully waned in the silage of an “ACQUITTAL VERDICT” triggered by an apparent blatant lack of vision or malfeasance and misfeasance or a dereliction of duty on the part of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. The painful loss of such a case of great magnitude and public interest is a sheer demonstration of the flagrant lack of character and commitment to rise to the occasion, and seize the opportunity of prosecuting and successfully convicting through the judicial process those who want to make Liberia a transit center for their drugs trade.

Like George R. Fazzah, the actual culprits are off the hook because those who should have made them to account, to face criminal prosecution have either over-sighted or perhaps ignored their activities. This, in my opinion clearly constitutes a serious prosecutorial booboos, and the leadership at the Ministry of Justice is solely responsible for the disgrace the Liberian Government has suffered. Here are the reasons why.

- Background:
1. The consignor of the purported goods that turned out to be the US\$100m worth of cocaine is Allegra food company of Brazil;
 2. The consignee of the ‘goods’ is TRH, that does fresh frozen food business in Liberia; it a major supplier of pig feet and chicken feet on the Liberian market and its offices are Monrovia;
 3. TRH is a body corporate, legally registered and



operating under the laws of Liberia, with business offices within the Republic of Liberia;

4. TRH is owned by George Abi Jaoudi of Abi Jaoudi & Azar Trading Company, 50% and Bilal Tohmea 50%.
5. . Bilal Tohmea, and his wife own 98% shares of TRH and Cllr Johnny Momo owns 2%.
6. Malam Conte went to TRH to buy seven containers of frozen food. These were the same containers in which the US\$100m cocaine was found. This means the US\$100m worth of cocaine was already shipped by the Consignor (Allegra food company of Brazil) to the consignee (TRH) to Monrovia before Malam Conte went there to buy the seven containers.
7. Makki Issam Abdullah claimed that he came to Liberia to do gold business and was told by one Gustavus to go to TRH to purchase Seven containers of frozen food. The prosecution arrested, investigated, and subsequently indicted Oliver Payday, Makki Issam Abdullah et. al., for illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs, money laundering, and criminal conspiracy.

II. Procedural Missteps

The Ministry of Justice committed a total of 120 procedural and elementary trial errors both at discovery and during the trial, and primary among these errors are issues that should formed the basis of the prosecution’s investigation and subsequent indictment. Much to the disbelief of many legal experts, the State (prosecution) woefully failed to:

- a. Cite and investigate for alleged complicity Allegra food company of Brazil as the consignor of the

containers in which US\$100m worth of cocaine was found;

- b. Utilize the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) aid to work with its Brazilian counterparts and investigate the business activities of Allegra food company of Brazil both in Brazil and other countries as it relates to its supply chain to establish whether or not it has been involved in similar activities or has been linked to similar cocaine crimes;
- c. Declare TRH as a crime scene and thereby ensure that it is fully investigated, charged and subsequently indicted as an alleged source or custodian of the US\$100m worth of cocaine;
- d. Indict Bilal Abraham, and his wife who are owners of 98% shares of TRH where these containers were found;
- e. Take any action against Allegra food company and deliberately failed to issue an international arrest warrant through INTERPOL, using MLA to arrest Mr. Bilal Abraham, wherever found;
- f. Close down the business of Bilal Abraham but merely declared him persona non grata and then allowed his business to remain operational, while his wife roams about freely in and out of Liberia;

- g. Stop Bilal Abraham and TRH from making a complete mockery of the Liberian criminal justice system and because of this they again imported into the country another US\$40m worth of cocaine while the defendants were in jail;
- h. Go after the seller and supplier of the cocaine

and that both the consignor and consignee but decided to go after the buyer(s) should have served as witnesses for the prosecution.
i. Establish whether any of the defendants ever traveled to Brazil;

- j. Prove whether the bill of laden for the transport of the US\$100m cocaine was in the name of any of defendants;

- k. Countercheck the allegations made by Malam Conte that he came to Liberia to do gold business and was told by one Gustavus to go to TRH to purchase Seven containers of frozen food;
- l. Establish how and when Gustavus left the country; and

- m. investigate who was Gustavus and his link, if any, with TRH to prove or disprove what

Malam Conte had said.

III. Issue

Based on the aforesaid facts and circumstances, there is only a single issue of law that is determinative of this matter, and that is: “Whether or not the prosecution has established a prima facie case to warrant a conviction of the defendants?”

IV. Discussion

To answer this issue, let us take a recourse to the facts of the case and the law controlling. First, there seems a superficial attempt on the part of the Ministry of Justice to obfuscate the prosecution of US\$100m cocaine case with trivialities. Perhaps, this object of this ploy was meant to create a state of public disinterest as have been a number of cases in which there have been no arrests or no criminal prosecutions over the last five years. Second, the emphasis in this case should not have been placed on the jury or the court as it is being done by the Honorable Minister of Justice, but on the quantum of the material evidence gathered and adduced at trial. In all fairness to the Government, and our international partners, let it be known that the entire trial was a complete charade! And of course, as always, the Honorable Minister was fully in charge of ‘everything’ pulling the strings from afar. The only difference this time around is that there is no Solicitor-General to his disliking that could have become the “scapegoat” for his ineptitude. That said, let it be stated that only those

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Pro-Tempore Chie, others linked to voters trucking

By Lincoln G. Peters

Phase two of the Biometric Voter Registration process (BVR) observation findings released by the Election Coordinating Committee (ECC) on Tuesday, May 23, has linked

with trucking people in the counties outlined. Officially releasing the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) phase two observation findings Tuesday, at ECC head office in Rose Garden Plaza, Crown Hill in Monrovia, Board

orchestrated by Representative Thomas Fallah. The group was intercepted by citizens who attempted to stop them from registering, which interfered with the registration process", Cllr. Bloh narrates. According to him, in Lofa County, Foya district#1 the ECC county coordinator reported an incident involving the denial of a male applicant, who was accused of being underage by his father.

Cllr. Bloh continues "The ECC coordinator claims that this prompted a police investigation and engagement of the NEC Magistrates responsible for this region. The investigation revealed that the male applicant was off legal voting age, and his father was imprisoned for making a false claim."

He says in Grand Kru County, ECC received reports of electoral district#1 aspirant Alfred Boe, and Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Chea being allegedly involved with voter trucking in Grand Kru County from Maryland and other areas of the county.

He details that in Grand Kru County, the ECC reported that the Lutheran Church, with Center Code 18018, as well as other areas in the county, were impacted by incidents of underage registration, saying that "The NEC Magistrates issued additional instructions

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Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, Montserrado County (D-5) Representative Thomas Fallah, Bong County (D-3) Representative Melvin Cole, and representative hopeful Musa Bility of massive voters trucking. The ECC names Nimba, Bong, Lofa and Grand Kru as counties involved with mass trucking of voters during phase two of the BVR process. It specifically accuses Senator Chie Representatives Fallah and Cole, representative hopeful Musa Bility and James Somah as individuals who were involved

Chairperson, Cllr. Oscar Bloh said, like in Phase One, Phase II of the exercise was characterized by voters trucking. Cllr. Bloh alarms that the alleged trucking by the statesmen contravenes Section 10.1 of the New Election of Liberia. "Below are documented instances of trucking reported by ECC observers allegedly done by those individuals. In Lofa Electoral District One at Sengar palava hut with Center Code 21083, an ECC observer reported the trucking of voters to the registration center,

River Gee County: Man 36 arrested with 45 plates of cocaine

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County.

Fishtown, River County: Officers of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) in River Gee County have arrested a 36-year-old man identified as Chris Barley for being in possession of 45 plates of cocaine in Gbeapo Kanweken, River Gee County.

Barley, a Liberian was arrested at his residence in Gbeapo Kanweken, River Gee County on Tuesday, May 22, 2023, following a tipoff by community dwellers. Our correspondent suspect Barley is currently undergoing preliminary investigation in Fish Town, River Gee County. He has, however, informed investigators that the drugs are owned by a businessman but failed to disclose the name and contact of the said businessman. The arrest of Barley days after the Government lost a

US\$100 million worth of drugs case has left Liberians calling on the National Legislatures to pass a stronger law that will halt the importation of harmful narcotic substances in the country.Mr. Abu Diallo, CSO head of River Gee County stressed that such drugs are damaging the future of Liberian children.



GOL rejects return of US\$200,000.

-files Writ of Prohibition against Judge Blamo Dixon

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Government of Liberia has rejected Judge Blamo Dixon's decision to return US\$200,000 to four defendants who were acquitted and released in the US\$100m cocaine case. Government raised the contention thru a Writ of Prohibition here, Tuesday, May 23, asking the Supreme Court to place a stay order on the release of the money to the defendants, who have reportedly absconded after they were adjudged not guilty last Thursday, May 18, by trial jurors and set free by Judge Blamo of Criminal Court "C".

Authorities here explain that (US\$113,000) was allegedly confiscated from one Gustavo Henrique, who was tired by the government in absentia. However, during his instruction to the jury, who found the defendants not guilty, the prosecution quoted Judge Dixon as saying that if the jurors

realized that the money was 113,000, contrary to what the indictment had. The petition maintains that as a consequence of his charge, the Trial Jury returned with a 'NOT GUILTY' verdict for the four defendants' crimes, namely: Money Laundering, Unlicensed Possession of Controlled Drugs, Unlicensed Importation of Controlled Drugs and Criminal Conspiracy, thereby acquitting defendants Malam Conte, Adulai Djibril Djalo, Makki Ahmad Issam and Oliver A. Zayzay. Petitioner explains that Judge A. Blamo Dixon, in announcing the verdict of the Jury and the acquittal of the defendants of the charges on Thursday, May 18, erroneously ordered the State to return to the defendants, US\$210,000.00 (Two Hundred Ten Thousand United States Dollars) to which order Petitioner excepted and gave notice to take advantage of the statute. "The minutes of Court of April 13, to form a cogent part of this petition. Gustavo Henrique



returned with a 'Not Guilty' verdict, the US\$200,000.00 seized from the defendants will be immediately returned. In its petition, government argued that Judge Dixon's order is erroneous because it is not in his purview to issue such order. Moreover, the amount in question does not belong to any of the defendants that were acquitted as it was provided by Gustavo Henrique, to purchase a container, according to Malam Conte, one of the acquitted defendants. According to the State, they reduced the amount from US\$200,000.00 to US\$113.000, which was the actual amount that Petitioner received and deposited at the Central Bank of Liberia with a copy of the confirmation of the deposit of the amount (US\$113,000.00) in its possession. However, the actual money on the indictment was 200k United States dollars but according to the government, after thorough investigation it

absconded from Liberia upon learning of the arrest of Malam Conte on October 1, 2022, and was never brought under the jurisdiction of the court. Petitioner says that assuming but without admitting that the State is to return any money, it has to be based upon a process initiated by Gustavo Henrique," Petitioner notes. Petitioner says Judge Dixon erred in that the court had already been put on notice, the amount received by the Ministry of Justice, which was deposited at the Central Bank is US\$113,000.00, not US\$210.000.00. Petitioner also says a Writ of Prohibition is a special proceeding to obtain a writ ordering the respondent to refrain from further pursuing judicial action or proceeding specified here. (See Chapter 16 Section 16.22 of Civil Procedure Law). Petitioner notes that prohibition will also lie to stay the procedural mishap and the unlawful conduct of Judge Dixon and the order emanating therefrom on. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Senate to probe \$100m cocaine case

By Ethel A. Tweh
Montserrado County Senator Abraham Dillon has termed Criminal Court "C" recent



verdict in the US\$100 million drugs case as a factor that undermines collective efforts to combat drugs and its damaging effects on the country. Last Thursday, jurors at the Criminal Court "C" unanimously acquitted four defendants accused of importing into Liberia, 520 kilograms of cocaine valued at US\$100 million offloaded at TRH warehouse in Topoe Village, importer of frozen poultry products. The discovery and confiscation of the illegal drugs brought into the country through the Freeport of

Starts from page 6

to registrars, instructing them to ask parents who bust the facility to certify the age of their children to sign a bond before proceeding with the registration in order to regulate the situation." He explains that in Bong electoral district #3, specifically Meleki Town Hall with Center Code 06085, motorbikes and tricycles were seen transporting applicants to the registration center. Cllr. Bloh points out that ECC observers received reports that the act was being financed by Representative Melvin Cole's Office in Monrovia. Also, the ECC chairperson reveals that in Nimba County District #5, Aspirant James Somah was reported to have trucked applicants in a pickup from District #1 in Ganta to Yao Lehpula, District #5, which resulted in a tragic motor accident leading to the death of at least three persons and several other persons wounded. "In the same Nimba County in district #7, it was

Monrovia occurred in mid-2022 by national security actors. "A week after said discovery, another consignment of dangerous drug at the

monetary value of "Forty Million United States Dollars" was reportedly discovered and confiscated from the very business center," Senator Dillon narrated. The four defendants adjudged not guilty under the jurisdiction of Judge A. Blamo Dixon of Criminal Court "C" include a Liberian, Oliver Zayzay and three foreigners named, Makki Ahmed Issam, Adulai Djalo and Malam Conte. They were tried on charges of money laundering, criminal conspiracy, unlicensed possession of controlled drugs and unlicensed importation of

Pro-Tempore Chie, others

reported that Aspirant Musa Bility was involved with voter trucking of applicants to Saclepea, who were non-inhabitants. Our observers who were deployed at the various centers didn't have to physically see or take photos of those named, but even if they facilitated the movement of voters, they are engaged in the crime because our observers asked the people and their names were called, including other incidents listed", Cllr. Bloh adds. He urges the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice to immediately take seize of the matter and investigate those individuals linked to the act in order to restore integrity and transparency in the upcoming elections. "This is the responsibility of the state, particularly the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice to investigate and make sure that those who are found culpable are brought to book", he underscores. He points out that it is an open secret that all politicians

controlled drugs. But in his communication to the Senate plenary on Tuesday, May 23, Senator Dillon said the verdict also renders the country's fight against drug trafficking meaningless and exposes Liberia to international ridicule. He stresses that the country's international partners and the world are watching with dismay, adding that like many of his legislative colleagues, he is deeply concerned about the entire conduct of the trial and as such, the Liberian Senate needs to find out what transpired. Dillon reminds that under Article 34 (b) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, the Legislature is granted the power and authority to "Provide for the security of the Republic", be it economic, health, public safety, national security, etc. According to him, due to the grave nature of this case, the huge public interest and concerns, and the threats such dangerous drugs pose to the country and its people, his office purposely followed and observed the trial at Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice. "More alarming is the increasing numbers of our citizens, particularly the youthful population falling prey to drug addiction and

are involved in trucking voters, but it's the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice to arrest said suspects and hold them to account. Cllr. Bloh adds that if suspects are allowed to go with impunity, and when systems are run like that, it runs a risk of undermining the outcome of the results. He reiterates that voter trucking is prohibited according to Section 10.1 of the New Election Law because it is tied around vote buying. "We see that this whole voter registration process had been influenced by uncontrollable financial resources which is undermining the credibility and integrity of the election. If this process is not discontinued or curtailed, we can say that this entire election will be commercialized when the campaign starts and people will be disenfranchised because of the infusion of huge and uncontrollable financial resources", he warns. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

substance abuse." "Simply put, these acts are threats to our national security with potential threats to our existence as a country and people. It is time, more than before, for "elders" of the land to act under the authority of Article 34 (b) of the Constitution of Liberia. We have the duty!" The Montserrado County Senator notes in his communication. At the same time, he is seeking Plenary's endorsement to summon the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Frank Musa Dean; the Director of the Liberia Drug Enforcement

Agency and the Commissioner-General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, respectively. He wants these officials to appear along with other relevant state security authorities in connection with the matter referenced above for appropriate legislative measures and or action/s, where applicable and necessary. Meanwhile, Dillon's communication was received and forwarded to the Senate Committees on Security and Judiciary, to report to plenary in a week. The decision was triggered by a motion from Lofa County Senator, Cllr. Joseph Jallah. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Starts on page 11 VP Taylor gets more lashes

The opposition politician also explained that VP Howard-Taylor does not have the moral rectitude to question the integrity of Senator Johnson when it comes to participation in the Civil War. Dr. Whapoe believes that if there should be Justice for war criminals, VP Howard-Taylor should be prosecuted by the war crimes court next to her husband Charles Taylor who currently serving a fifty-year jail sentence. Dr. Whapoe also pointed out that Madam Howard-Taylor is not only a beneficiary of the Liberian People's blood but a principal accomplice to all war crimes that were committed in Liberia. The VOLT political leader also frowned on VP Howard-Taylor for her attack on the people of Nimba about Liberia not being prepared to make Nimbaian president. He asserted that he will not

sit and allow any form of death threat on Sen. Johnson's life because whatever happens to one Liberian, happens to all. Meanwhile, Dr. Whapoe said VOLT is not only concerned about the security of the coming October election but also about the stability of the state. He pointed out that the behavior of the CDC government and its alleged collaboration with hooligans to violate the religious rights and tolerance as protected by the Constitution is unwelcoming and should outrage every peace-loving Liberian despite Political differences. He said his party is calling on the international community to intervene and safeguard the upcoming electoral process because Liberians will not accept any fraudulent election result and are willing to take any step to realize the desired result of their votes. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Quoi's and Clark's families regret to announce the death of their mother, sister, aunty, grandmother and great grandmother, Mrs. Gladys Jestina Clark Quoi, alias G.J.Q.

This sad event occurred on Monday, May 8, 2023.

This announcement should claim the attention of family members in and out of Liberia.

Français

Simeon Freeman traite le ministre de la Justice d'hypocrite

M. Simeon Freeman a vivement critiqué le ministre de la Justice et procureur général du Libéria Me Frank Musa Dean pour avoir tenu des propos désobligeants à l'égard du pouvoir judiciaire dans



MPC leader Mr. Simeon Freeman Cllr. Frank Musa Dean

l'affaire de drogue d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains. La semaine dernière, les quatre accusés ont été jugés non coupables par le jury du tribunal pénal "C" présidé par le juge A. Blamo Dixon, au Temple de la justice de Monrovia. Mais le ministre Dean, au cours du week-end, a qualifié ce verdict d'épouvantable. Pour le procureur

général, le verdict sape clairement les efforts collectifs du Libéria et de sa coalition internationale pour réprimer le transit illégal de drogues illicites utilisant l'Afrique de l'Ouest comme voie de transit pour le commerce international de stupéfiants en provenance

d'Amérique latine et d'ailleurs. Il trouve inquiétant et honteux que des tribunaux libèrent des criminels purs et durs en dépit des preuves accablantes face à la collaboration internationale. S'exprimant dans une interview avec des journalistes à sa résidence à Banjor Community à Brewerville près de Monrovia le lundi 22 mai, M. Freeman, leader politique du Mouvement pour le changement progressif (MPC), a décrit les propos du ministre Dean

contre le pouvoir judiciaire comme étant imprudents et irresponsables. Il estime qu'il est totalement inopportun que le ministre de la Justice blâme le tribunal pour ses faux pas et présente le pouvoir judiciaire comme une institution corrompue alors qu'en fait, le procureur général sait exactement ce qu'il fait. " A mon avis, les propos du ministre Frank Musa Dean sont complètement irresponsables et imprudents. C'est du faux. Pour moi, le ministre de la Justice essaye de faire croire à la communauté internationale qu'il est innocent. Mais je pense qu'il est maintenant temps que la juge en chef Yuoh accuse le ministre de la Justice d'outrage pour avoir qualifié le pouvoir judiciaire de corrompu », a dit M. Freeman. Il a fait valoir que la gestion du dossier relatif à la drogue par le gouvernement du Libéria risque d'avoir un impact négatif sur les libériens qui pourraient se voir refuser des visas pour voyager dans d'autres pays car ils seront perçus comme des trafiquants de drogues. « Il faudrait maintenant demander au ministre de la Justice pourquoi il n'a pas fait appel à la lecture du verdict. Tenir ce genre de propos, c'est assommer le tribunal, ce qui est pour le moins totalement

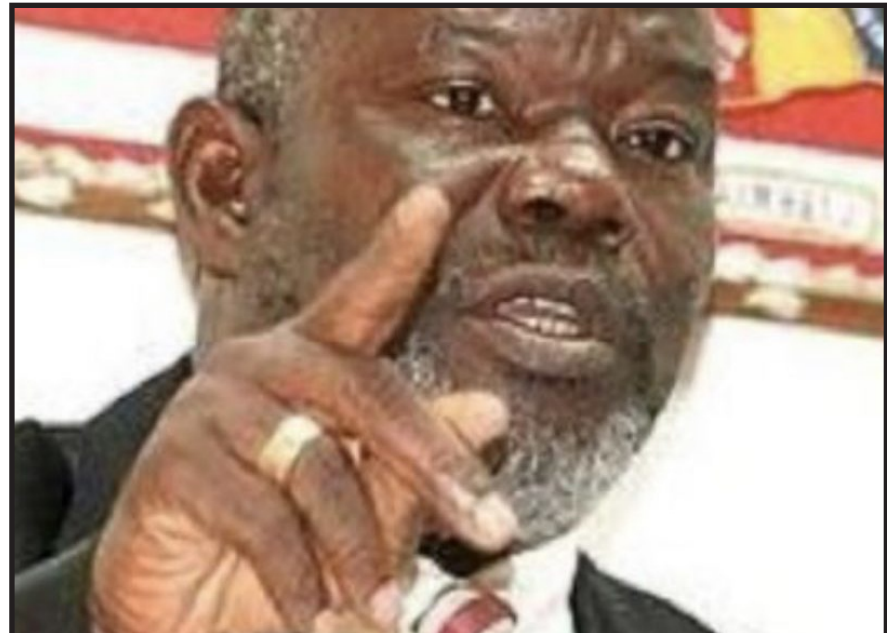
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Prince Johnson menace d'aller en représailles contre les militants du NPP

Le culte de dimanche à l'église Christ Chapel of Faith du sénateur Prince Y. Johnson a été interrompu par des hommes soupçonnés d'être des partisans du Parti national patriotique (NPP) et du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

De jeunes partisans de la Coalition au pouvoir ont pris d'assaut les locaux de l'église, scandant des slogans anti-Prince Johnson. L'ancien chef de guerre devenu politicien et prédicateur est le pasteur en chef de l'Eglise. Les relations entre lui et le pouvoir se sont détériorées. Le groupe a assiégé les locaux de l'église à la suite d'informations selon lesquelles le sénateur Johnson avait prévu de répondre dans son sermon à la vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor selon

laquelle il (Johnson) avait l'intention de prendre en charge la présidence libérienne par l'intermédiaire de son proche, le sénateur Jeremiah Koung, qui est colistier de l'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai à la prochaine présidentielle. Les hommes vêtus des t-shirts du parti NPP et du CDC scandaient des slogans et tenaient des



banderoles et des pancartes sur lesquels l'on pouvait lire : "Nous voulons un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre", "Les seigneurs de guerre doivent être jugés", « La ligue des jeunes du National Patriotic parti supporte le tribunal des crimes de guerre ».

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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

Simeon Freeman traite le ministre

irresponsable. Si nous entendons l'homme ordinaire dire que le tribunal n'est pas correct, il suit l'exemple du gouvernement qui dit que le tribunal n'est pas correct. C'est irresponsable et je pense que la juge en chef doit demander des comptes au ministre de la Justice pour ce genre de déclaration irresponsable », a réitéré M. Freeman.

Pour lui, toute la situation entourant le procès, en particulier l'action de Dean est un jeu d'hypocrisie et de blâme complet. Il est convaincu que le ministre Dean se moque éperdument de cette affaire de drogue qui est l'une des plus importantes au monde. C'est pourquoi il croit ses propos n'ont pour but que de tromper la communauté internationale.

« R é c e m m e n t , le gouvernement italien a saisi

Prince Johnson menace d'aller en

Mais le sénateur Johnson, qui a accusé à plusieurs reprises le parti au pouvoir de mauvaise gouvernance et de maltraitance des Libériens a juré de riposter.

Il a accusé la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor, le commissaire maritime du Libéria Lenn Eugene Nagbe et le maire de la ville de Monrovia Jefferson Koijee d'être les principaux c e r v e a u x d u p l a n gouvernemental visant à l'assassiner.

“Permettez-moi de dire ceci au président Weah lorsque je vous ai soutenu, j'étais un Saint. Maintenant que je vous ai retiré mon soutien, je suis un criminel de guerre et vous voulez me tuer, c'est votre plan. Mais vous ne pouvez pas me tuer, et je ne peux pas m'enfuir. Le fait que j'ai 70 ans vous dit que je suis bien protégé. Donc, si vous continuez à pousser une attaque contre moi, il n'y aura plus d'autre choix que de me défendre et j'ai des forces pour le faire », prévient-il.

Johnson a en outre réitéré qu'il n'a pas peur de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre ici et qu'il aimerait que le tribunal des crimes de guerre vienne au Libéria.

Il a dit qu'il aimerait également savoir ce qui est arrivé aux innocents tués lors du massacre de l'église luthérienne Saint-Pierre de juillet 1990, et aimerait savoir comment les citoyens de Nimba

une énorme quantité de drogue d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars. La même chose a également été faite en Colombie. Les autres pays prennent des mesures pour empêcher cela, mais ici les accusés sont libérés et le ministre de la Justice vient faire une déclaration pour condamner le verdict pour se protéger le visage. C'est irresponsable », a-t-il dit.

M. Freeman se demande pourquoi le ministre de la Justice n'a pas pris tout le temps qu'il a pris pour écrire sa belle déclaration pour rassembler tous les meilleurs avocats et réunir tous les éléments de preuve avant d'aller au tribunal.

« C'est de l'hypocrisie et de la prétention. Nous continuons à voir ces choses au sein du gouvernement ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Les sujets tabous de la politique climatique

N E W H A V E N - 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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Why the Government lost the US\$100 Million case (Pt1)

who know Frank Musa Dean very well and his pranks, knew that this purported trial was nothing but a subterfuge---there was absolutely no evidence to convict the defendants, yet, the Minister created a grandstand of a color trial that truly never was! The Supreme Court of Liberia has made it clear that only compelling and incontrovertible evidence can support a conviction or liability in a criminal or civil trial.

In the case: "The Management of the Forestry Development Authority (F.D.A)" v. Moses B. Walters and the Board of General appeals, Ministry of Labor, 34LLR 777, 783 (1988), the Supreme Court of Liberia said: "In this jurisdiction it is evidence alone which enables the court, tribunal or administrative forum to pronounce with certainty the matter in dispute and no matter how logical a complaint might be stated, it cannot be taken as proof without evidence. It is required that every party alleging the existence of a fact is bound to prove it by preponderance of the evidence...". The truth is, the Minister of Justice knew or ought to have known that the containers in which the US\$100m worth of cocaine was found were already in Monrovia and stockpiled at TRH warehouse. The Minister of Justice ignored this critical part of the discovery and only concentrated on the buyers. Any serious criminal investigation would focus specifically on the source of the cocaine and its chain of custody---how it came to Liberia; when, from where, and by whom? It has been incontestably established that there was a consignor and a consignee, called Bilal Tohmea and TRH. The consignee, TRH is wholly owned by Bilal Tohmea and George Abi Jaoudi - they should have been at the center of any serious criminal investigation. In fact, we are told that TRH enjoys 'special privilege' at the Freeport of Monrovia so much no inspectors can search its goods. Moreover, the containers with the US\$100m worth of cocaine were stockpiled at TRH warehouse. Strangely, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General who should be someone cognizant of the danger that drugs pose to our society and who should have been firmed in dealing with such a grave matter, apparently became causal, as usual, and only decided to go after the persons who wanted to buy the seven containers full of cocaine from TRH, while the seller(TRH) and the supplier(Allegra Foods Company of Brazil) or the consignor and consignee were left out. Assuming arguendo, that the alleged buyers were part of the syndicate which rarely seems not the case, is it possible for such alleged buyers to have successfully plied their trade if there was no supplier or seller of the cocaine?

The most interesting element of deception and misfeasance on the part of the Minister of Justice is found in count 11 of the police investigative findings and it states: "that the investigation also established that the proprietor of Tania Rinia Houssein TRH, Bilah Abraham was invited by the investigation team to make clarity as to his company's involvement into importation of containers# MNBU 4070592 and SUDU6082664 which had on board cocaine and frozen food but failed to cooperate." Now if the would-be defendants, TRH, Bilal Ibrahim and others are given a leeway to baffle and frustrate the police investigation, what else could the courts do? Convict people, who, from the records did not import the cocaine to Liberia?

Besides, while these defendants were in jail in February 2023, another US\$40m worth of cocaine was again discovered at TRH warehouse. Nobody was question and no arrest was made because the defendants who had been framed were already behind bars. And to make a complete mockery of the entire exercise, it is reported that Bilal Ibrahim was declared a persona non grata, yet, his TRH business with offices in Topoe Village and Bong Mines Bridge is smoothly running, while his(Bilal's) wife who is a shareholder in TRH is roaming in and out of Liberia. What else is the definition of collusion or connivance than this? What legal justification can the Minister of

Justice and Attorney-General provide for not investigating and indicting Bilal Ibrahim, TRH and Allegra food company of Brazil? The best evidence that the case admits of, are the alleged roles at material time diverse that TRH, Bilal Ibrahim and Allegra Food Company of Brazil allegedly played in this case.

The Supreme Court of Liberia has held in the case:"Marpleh v. RL, 19 LRR335(1969) syl.1 that: "No evidence should be admitted by the trial court which supposes the existence of better evidence as proof". Also see 1LCL Revised section 25.6- Best Evidence Rule. Even if the prosecution had succeeded in convincing the jury to return a GUILTY VERDICT against the defendants who are nothing but accessories after the fact, I am 100% certain that the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia would have reversed the decision and ordered their acquittal a matter of law. Based on this, I am deeply constrained to resoundingly answer the issue of whether or not the prosecution has established a prima facie case to warrant a conviction of the defendants in the NEGATIVE. The reason is that a careful review of the case, shows that those who were indicted for illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs, money laundering, and criminal conspiracy, were in fact not the actual culprits. The Minister of Justice knew this for a fact. The defendants who were indicted should have been treated as accessories after the facts or facilitators and charged with criminal facilitation, provided the prosecution had any evidence to prove such allegations. By failing to make TRH, Bilal Ibrahim and Allegra Food Company of Brazil, subjects of the US\$100m cocaine investigation, the Minister of Justice unwittingly



damaged and undermined entire process that should have unmasked the true culprits in the drugs trade. It was a complete ploy to indict the defendants who were at the receiving end of a cocaine trade. By so doing, it is obvious that the Ministry Justice intentionally shielded the drugs "kingpins" by making them "whistleblowers" for cocaine that was found their own warehouse. Again, and as always the Minister of Justice has deceived the Liberian government and its international partners with such cheap trial strategy of going after the innocent buys rather than the seller and supplier or producer. This, of course, has clearly undermined the level of collaboration, coordination and cooperation between the Government of Liberia and its international partners in the war on drugs.

The Ministry of Justice was somewhat blinkered and pathetically misconstrued an accessory after the fact with the theory of a principle defendant. An accessory after the fact according to the Supreme Court of Liberia "is one who after the consummation of a felony, knowing that a felony has been committed, receives, relieves comforts or assists the felon or in any manner aids him to escape arrest or punishment". See"Marpleh v. RL, 19 LRR335(1969) .

Moreover, it is a settled principle, practice and procedure in this jurisdiction that the State(prosecution) cannot carry an accessory before or after the fact to court in the absence of the principal defendant. The Minister of Justice ought to have known or he knew or had reason to know that those that were indicted for illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs, money laundering, and criminal conspiracy were not after all,

the main suspects; yet, he wasted precious time, energy, and state resources on a wild goose chase!

The law in this jurisdiction dictates that a mere allegation does not constitute proof; and the burden of proof rests a party who alleges a fact. See 1LCL Revised section 25.5. For the sake of the argument, let us agree that those who were arrested and indicted were the actual culprits, and if that is the case, and which of course is not the case, did the prosecution produce at trial any incontrovertible evidence to prove illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs and money laundering?

Is it not true that the containers in which these drugs were found were imported by TRH owned by George Abi Jaoudi, Bilal and his wife? Did the Minister of Justice who is now blaming the courts for setting "hardcore defendants free" ever investigate these people? Did the Ministry of Justice produce at trial any import documents, i.e. bill of laden, showing that the defendants actually imported these containers? The only import documents associated with the containers are owned by both Consignor and Consignee---TRH and Alegra Food Company of Brazil. Can the Minister of Justice tell the Liberian people why these people were investigated and indicted?

The Honorable Minister is playing a catch-up in his vain attempt to conceal his administrative inadequacies and viciousness for failing what should have been a "signature trial victory" for President Weah and the Government of Liberia in Court in the war on drugs and abuse. Now, he wants the public to join him and condemn the court; to believe that an indictment is synonymous to a conviction, and therefore, once a defendant is indicted, he/she is automatically guilty of the crime charged. The truth is, an indictment as we know it, is not a proof in itself or a judicial conviction of the crime charged; instead, is a set of allegations stating how the crime is committed, by what means, time and date, where, when, by whom, among others. And the fundamental basis for any criminal indictment is triggered by a "probable cause", which, by all account, is a presumption that the accused in a criminal investigation is in fact responsible for the commission of the crime. Although an indictment is certain and definitive from the perspective of the State(prosecution), in terms of charging a crime, it is however not conclusive until the elements constituting the crime charged are duly established and proved beyond all reasonable doubts during trial. The Minister of Justice took for granted the gravity of the case and in his lackluster approach to every critical issue, he sat back sipping whisky on 17th Street, thinking that the court and the jury would do for him what he did not do for his own case.

Further, under our adversarial system of jurisprudence, the jury sits as trier of facts under the direct supervision of a judge who also sits and serves as an impartial referee. Neither the jury nor the judge is a party to an action brought before the court, and therefore, none can take a blame for the loss of a case. If the evidence is compelling, material and incontrovertible, it is easily defended but when it presupposes the existence of a better as it is in the US\$100m cocaine case, the jury and court will throw it out.

The averments of the indictment were nothing but a product of a cacophony of half-truths, hasty generalizations and asinine insinuations. Apart from its prolixity, the indictment charging the crimes of illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs, money laundering, and criminal conspiracy, was somewhat asymmetrical and grossly incoherent in terms of logic and reasoning. The Honorable Minister of Justice was fully aware of this, and so he cleverly avoided the court -he never footed to the court, let alone holding a strategic trial meeting to access the veracity and materiality of the evidence.

At trial, the prosecution was like a raging wreck hacked off from a ship in stormy seas; it woefully failed to produce any evidence to establish the allegations of illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs,

Why the Government lost the US\$100 Million case (Pt1)

money laundering, among others. The defendants on the other hand openly denied ever being involved in illegal importation of drugs, illegal possession of drugs, money laundering. The failure to rebut an allegation in any



criminal prosecution by a preponderance of evidence is very much critical. See Failure to rebut in 1LCL Revised section 9.8(3).

When the defendants entered a plea of NOT GUILTY to all of the charges contained in the indictment, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, believed to be highly learned in the law ought to have known that such a plea to the indictment had put in issue every fact the prosecution was duty bound to prove during the trial but which it had miserably failed to do. See *Massaquoi v. Lowndes*, 4LLR26(1935); *Yancy v. Republic of Liberia*, 4LLR268(1935).

The Supreme Court of Liberia has held that in all criminal cases the prosecution must as a matter of law establish beyond all reasonable doubts the elements of the crime such as (1) the occurrence of an injury or loss; (2) criminal agency; and (3) the responsibility of the defendant therefore; or (1) that the act itself was done; and (2) it was done by the person charged. In other words, the State(prosecution) must prove corpus delicti and identify the person charged with the act(emphasis supplied). See *Marpleh v. RL*, 19 LRR335, 340 (1969).

Here again, our Minister of Justice and Attorney-General was found bunking (napping). And “like a monstrous billow, that has lifted itself, rolling on towards shore, and the noise of its tremendous roaring has been heard throughout the length and breadth of the Republic and possibly elsewhere...”, the US\$100m cocaine case suddenly crashed out on the court’s dockets, with the actual culprits remaining at large, thus leaving the entire nation and its international partners scraping their heads in total disbelief. This is a serious tragedy!

It is an open secret that the Honorable Minister of Justice, Frank Musa Dean is fully aware,

story at the Ministry of Justice now? What has happened for the last nine (9) months has shown all too well that there’s a complete lack of vision, complete dereliction of duty, poor judgment, connivance and collusion— heinous crimes are being committed and are being investigated by the Liberia National Police but the all-knowing Justice Minister who sees himself as “bigger” than the Liberian State and is withholding all of the reports. The murderer of Charloe Musu would have been arrested, prosecuted, and perhaps convicted and sentenced by now if Liberia had not had an all-knowing Justice Minister heading our criminal justice system.

It is quite interesting to note that these horrific events are taking place at a time when President George Manneh Weah’s name is expected to be on the ballot for the October 2023 elections. Although one cannot say for sure what actually is the motive or what is the meaning of shielding criminals in these critical an times; the fact however is that there’s a conspicuous silence that is incrementally suggesting a deliberate omission, to bolster the claims in some quarters that the government is doing nothing to fight crimes.

Be that as it may, and since it would appear that the ‘Honorable Minister’ of Justice has both short and long terms vested interests strewn out across the business landscape, and since he has demonstrated to be more of a “businessman” inundated with the problems of commerce and trade, rather than with the job of being a Minister of law and order, what not give him a matching order out of office? For the good of the nation, It would be prudent and expedient if the government of Liberia can appoint a “Special Independent Counsel” (SIC) to earnestly work with the Liberia National Police to investigate both the Charloe Musu bloody murder case and that of US\$100m cocaine.

It’s doubtless sickening to see that people to whom much is entrusted, sometimes become myopic and tend to compromise national interest for a parochial agenda. What else is a complete compromise of a national interest than the loss of a drug case in broad day light under the watchful eyes of Frank Musa Dean? The loss of the case is a stab in the back, and in the opinion of any reasonable person, it unwittingly symbolizes an element of complicity of a cabal within the system that seemed quite determined to undermine what has become a clear testament of a strategic partnership between the Government of Liberia its international partners in the war on drugs.

VP Taylor gets more lashes

By Lincoln G. Peters

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor continues to receive lashes from the opposition community days after members of the National Patriotic Party Youth wing disrupted normal worship service at Christ Chapel of Faith Church of Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson.

The NPP youth dressed in their party paraphernalia joined by CDC youths disrupted normal worship service at the church days after Vice President Howard-Taylor described Sen. Johnson as a “killer” who killed thousands of Liberians during the country’s brutal civil war while threatening to establish war and economic crimes court here.

She also described the Joseph Boakai and Jeremiah Kounk ticket as Sen. Johnson’s pathway to the Liberian Presidency. Sen. Johnson is the leader of the defunct rebels Independent



his party headquarters on Monday, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe said Vice President Taylor doesn’t have any moral integrity to hold and question the ability of any well-meaning Liberian for best living or character.

Dr. Whapoe continued that VP Howard-Taylor is beneficiary and supporter of the Liberia Civil unrest that led to the death of over two hundred and fifty thousand Liberians during the Civil unrest.

“ VP Howard-Taylor doesn’t have any moral integrity to hold on and questions the ability of any well-meaning Liberian for best living or character. This Vice President is a beneficiary and supporter of the war that killed many in this country. She aided and abided the war by giving her ex-husband, former President Charles Taylor advice to kill Liberians. Madam Howard-Taylor and former President Charles Taylor are responsible for the two hundred and fifty thousand Liberians that

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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'Neil Paasewe
National Chairman/MPC



Grand Bassa calling as CPP makes massive preparation

Massive preparations are underway by the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) as its Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander Cummings, officially

eligible and competent high profile Liberians have reportedly forwarded a female candidate for considerations by Mr. Cummings.

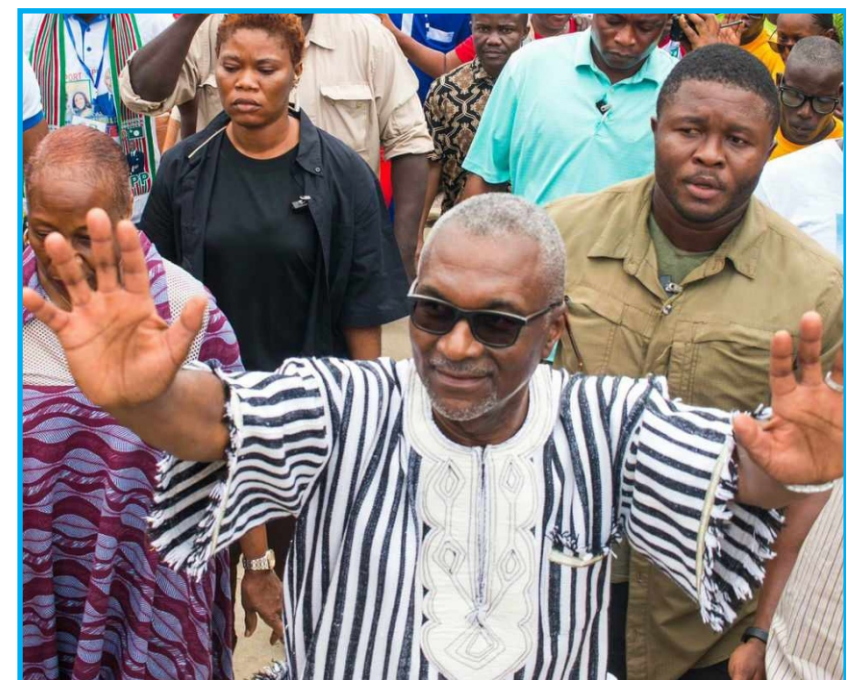
The CPP Standard Bearer has exhausted his own

wishers from the 15 counties of Liberia have already begun trooping into Buchanan for the naming ceremony, promising to be the largest political gathering in Liberian history.

The program will be preceded by a grand parade by thousands of citizens throughout the principal streets of Buchanan and followed by massive celebrations including cultural and traditional performances and musical extravaganza by popular Liberian artists.

Mr. Cummings will lead a high power delegation of CPP stalwarts along with hundreds of Montserrado County partisans, who will be joined by partisans from the other 14 counties to converge in Buchanan for the program.

The CPP, comprising the Alternative National Congress (ANC), the Liberty Party (LP), political auxiliaries, civil society and interest groups is seemingly the most formidable opposition determined to capture state power from the inept CDC government of President George Weah.



announces his running mate on May 27, in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, four months to the General and Presidential Elections slated for October 10, this year.

The special CPP Committee charged with responsibility to vet for the most suitable Vice Standard Bearer amongst several

evaluation of the recommendation and is set to make the pronouncement in the County of origin of his preferred choice for Vice Standard Bearer, which is seemingly in the port city of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. Thousands of CPP partisans, supporters, sympathizers, and well-

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