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

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Court subpoenas Koijee, Varlee Telleh



S.G. Jefferson-T. Koijee

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Continental News

Gambian sentenced in Germany over editor's murder

A court in Germany has sentenced a Gambian man to life in prison for his role in a paramilitary

He ruled The Gambia with an iron fist from 1996 until he went into exile in 2017 after losing elections.



Bai Lowe was arrested in Germany in 2021

unit that killed opponents of former ruler Yahya Jammeh. Bai Lowe, 47, was a driver for the unit known as "the Junglers", and was convicted of crimes against humanity, murder and attempted murder. Among the crimes he was linked to was the killing of newspaper editor Deyda Hydara in his car in 2004. The unit was widely seen as a death squad targeting opponents of Mr Jammeh.

A truth and reconciliation commission set up after he left power heard from hundreds of witnesses about executions squads and other alleged rights violations committed under his 22-year rule. In a joint statement, human rights groups said the case in Germany was "a major step in the search for justice for years of abuses committed under Jammeh's rule".

Mr Jammeh has denied any wrongdoing. Lowe was tried in

Germany under the legal principle of universal jurisdiction, following his arrest in Hanover in 2021. He was accused of helping to stop Hydara's car and driving one of the assassins away.

Hydara, the editor of The Point newspaper who also worked for the AFP news agency, was a fierce critic of draconian media laws in The Gambia. The well-respected journalist was gunned down on the outskirts of the capital, Banjul, in December 2004. No-one was charged with his murder. His killing caused global outrage and his newspaper incorporated his photo into its masthead with the question: "Who killed Deyda Hydara?" Lowe was also accused of being the driver during the attempted murder of lawyer Ousman Sillah in December 2003. His trial was "the first to tackle human rights violations committed in The Gambia during the Jammeh era on the basis of universal jurisdiction", campaign group Human Rights Watch said.

The prosecutor said Lowe had been a member of the Junglers, the notorious unit that reported directly to Mr Jammeh, between December 2003 and December 2006. He denied the charges. BBC

Ugandan woman, 70, gives birth to twins - hospital

A 70-year-old woman has given birth to twins following IVF treatment, a hospital in Uganda has said. Safina Namukwaya delivered a boy and a girl via caesarean at a fertility centre in the capital, Kampala. Ms Namukwaya, who is one of the oldest women to give birth, told local media it was a "miracle".

The hospital congratulated her, saying it is more than a "medical success; it's about the strength and resilience of the human spirit". In 2019, a 73-year-old Indian woman gave birth to twins following IVF treatment. "We've achieved the extraordinary - delivering twins to Africa's oldest mother aged 70!" the Women's Hospital International and Fertility Centre (WHI&FC) posted on its Facebook page. It said she had delivered the babies on Wednesday just after midday, adding: "Mother and babies are all well." Ms Namukwaya told Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper that her pregnancy had been difficult as her partner abandoned her when he realised she was going to have twins.

"Men don't like to be told that you are carrying more than one child. Ever since I was admitted here, my man has never showed up," she said. This is Ms Namukwaya's second delivery in three years. She gave birth to a baby girl in 2020.

She said she had wanted to have children after she was mocked for being childless. "I looked after people's children and saw them grow up and leave me alone. I wondered who would take care of me when I grow old," she is quoted as saying. It is not clear whether she used a donor egg or one of her own

that was frozen and stored when she was younger.

Typically women go through menopause between the ages of 45 and 55. Fertility drops around this time but advances in medicine have made it possible for them to give birth. In-vitro fertilisation (IVF) is one of several techniques. During the process an egg is removed from a woman's ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg, called an embryo, is then put in a woman's womb to grow and develop. BBC



The Ugandan fertility clinic said Safina Namukwaya had become Africa's oldest mother at the age of 70

Nigeria Boosts Military Spending, but Analysts Doubt It Will Improve Security

Nigerian authorities say national defense, internal security and economic stability are the top priorities in the 2024 budget that President Bola Tinubu delivered to lawmakers on Wednesday.

Improving security is a major challenge for Tinubu's government as it desperately seeks to attract foreign investments to grow the country's struggling economy.

Under the new \$35 billion budget, authorities allocated about \$4 billion or 12% of the total budget to defense and security – the largest single allocation to any sector. In his first budget speech since taking office, Tinubu told lawmakers that security is important to safeguard lives, property and investments across the country.

Tinubu said he will overhaul Nigeria's internal security architecture to boost performance operations and achieve better results. But

clashes between pastoralists and farmers, and proliferation of kidnap-for-ransom gangs in the Northwest and central regions. Tinubu, who embarked on bold economic reforms including the scrapping of fuel subsidies and removal of foreign exchange restrictions, promised to fix security problems if elected.

But this week, local residents in northwest Zamfara state, said they're still reeling after armed gangs last Friday attacked their villages and kidnapped more than 100 residents.

The gangs are demanding about \$236,000 for the captives' freedom.

Security analyst Senator Iroegbu says corruption is the reason the increased military spending is not yielding results.

"Do they have the capacity to actually maximize this budget?" he asked. "Then the issue of corruption, how's this money expended? Is it rightly used for what's it's supposed to be used for? Then there's the issue of political will and interest of conflict



Members of Nigeria's military march at the inauguration of Nigerian President Bola Tinubu

experts say Nigerian authorities have consistently increased military spending in recent years without making Nigerians safer or more secure.

Kabiru Adamu, an analyst for consulting firm Beacon Security in Abuja, cites the previous budget as an example. "In the 2023 budget, security enjoyed the largest allocation and in this current budget that is submitted to the National Assembly there's almost about 30% to 40% increase in the provision but unfortunately we haven't seen remarkable improvements to equate this attention the government is giving," he said. "So, what's the challenge? I think it has to do with accountability and monitoring the performance of the security sector." Africa's largest economy faces many security problems, including a 14-year Islamist insurgency in the northeast, separatist violence in the south, often deadly

merchants. "In October, Tinubu signed a what he called a performance bond with cabinet members. The agreement allows authorities to review the performance of serving officials and hold those underperforming accountable.

But Adamu says he's worried about one thing. "What we're hoping is that that [the] performance bond would be implemented in a manner that we will see an improvement in security," he said. "Security personnel do not willingly submit themselves to civilian administration. I worry a little bit." Meanwhile, Nigerian authorities predict the economy will grow by 3.76% next year – well above the global average.

In recent weeks, the president has been meeting with foreign officials and business leaders with the aim of attracting more investments to Nigeria. In one notable deal, Saudi Arabia agreed to rehabilitate Nigeria's non-functioning oil refineries. VOA

EDITORIAL

Working in concert for the common good

In a working session Friday, 24 November President George Manneh Weah challenged officials of the Joint Presidential Transition Team (JPTT) to demonstrate honesty and love for country in their deliberations to ensure smooth transfer of power from his administration to incoming President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his team.

“Today, we are on the verge of passing this symbolic staff to another democratically elected leader, marking yet another important chapter in our democratic journey; let us ensure an effective, efficient, and seamless transfer of power to President-Elect Boakia and his team”, President Weah urged.

The call truly demonstrates Mr. Weah’s unwavering commitment to delivering a smooth transition, which has won him huge admirations across the globe and placed Liberia on the spotlight for all good reasons.

The football icon-turned-politician is going down in history, as the first African president in recent history to concede defeat and congratulate his main rival even before the announcement of final poll results by the National Election Commission. Members and supporters of his outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) are yet to digest and accept the quality of democratic pedestal their standard bearer has established for Liberia, and there can be no reversal.

The leader has spoken and must sink down the spines of CDCians that power does not belong to a particular political party or government, but the people. Hence, whenever the people decide in an election who should govern their affairs to enable them enjoy peace, prosperity, and happiness, nothing else but to obey.

It is in this light that President Weah is urging members of JPTT to prioritize and focus on the national interest above selfish interests by placing the general good of the Liberian people first and foremost in their deliberations on the road to handing over power in January 2024. In other words, these are moments of stock-taking and proper reporting other than what some may think is a last-minute opportunity to scrip what is left of the national coffers to line their pockets and leave.

But Mr. Weah informed JPTT members that his administration’s democratic achievements have set a new and enviable standard, not just for Liberia, but for Africa and the global community, saying that “By graciously conceding and congratulating President-Elect Boakai ahead of the final tally, we have also earned global recognition and admiration.”

This is so true and it is the main reason why nothing should be done or no one should be allowed to make the road thru the transition rocky. A smooth landing of the incoming administration will pay off in dividends that we must strive to achieve, for as President Weah notes, this monumental achievement is a victory not just for one political entity but all Liberians and the entire country.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

When Investors Subvert States

NEW DELHI - Imagine a scenario where a private company effectively creates and controls its own jurisdiction within a sovereign country. This company introduces its own currency, enacts laws, and establishes courts, prisons, police forces, and even intelligence services. It formulates its own tax, labor, and environmental regulations (or lack thereof), regardless of their compatibility with national laws.

Now imagine that this company adopts bitcoin as its official currency and announces plans to privatize public services. It replaces the existing judicial system with an “arbitration center” and even introduces a fee-based citizenship model that requires signing a “social contract” designed to encourage good behavior. Eventually, the country’s democratically elected government steps in to stop this nonsense and affirm that national laws apply equally to this jurisdiction. But instead of complying, the company sues the government for billions of dollars, citing its projected financial losses.

This scenario, seemingly lifted straight out of a dystopian novel, is precisely what is happening today in Honduras. The Honduran government is currently contending with seven international investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) claims filed by various private corporations. One US company based in Delaware, Honduras Próspera, is suing the country for a staggering \$10.7 billion, which represents two-thirds of the government’s projected budget for 2023.

The story begins with the 2009 military coup that ousted the democratically elected Honduran President, Manuel Zelaya. Following the coup, the new government quickly enacted a law to establish Special Development Regions with the characteristics described above. In 2012, Honduras’s Supreme Court struck down the law, owing to its blatant infringement on Honduran sovereignty. In response, the National Congress impeached several of the justices and replaced them with more amenable appointees. This judicial overhaul set the stage for the introduction of the similar Zones for Employment and Economic Development (ZEDE) law in 2013.

There are currently three ZEDes in Honduras: Próspera, Orquídea, and Ciudad Morazán. These entities operate as independent city-states, inspired by the libertarian fantasies of billionaire investors like Peter Thiel and Marc Andreessen, who have long dreamed of crypto-based tax havens that flout basic democratic norms. Laws permitting unlimited expansion have facilitated the expropriation of land belonging to local residents. In the Próspera ZEDE, 44% of the governing authority’s members are directly appointed by the corporate owner, and an additional 22% are elected by landowners whose votes are proportional to the size of their property.

These developments triggered widespread public outrage both within Honduras and around the world. After the leftist Libre party, led by President Xiomara Castro, won the 2021 election, the new administration quickly fulfilled its campaign promise to repeal the ZEDE law, a move that was widely supported by the Honduran public.

But Próspera pushed back, claiming that its agreement with the previous government guaranteed a 50-year period of legal stability, acknowledged the supremacy of investor rights and privileges, and included “safeguards” under international investment law through the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) and the United States-Honduras bilateral investment treaty. While Próspera continues to operate St. John’s Bay, its “flagship city,” the company is seeking compensation from the Honduran government for daring to enforce its own national laws.

Governments, especially in low- and middle-income countries, are understandably wary of ISDS mechanisms that allow foreign investors to seek compensation for policy changes that affect their business. Originally, ISDS was meant to prevent the expropriation of private assets through nationalization. But the definition of expropriation has been expanded to such an extent that it can now include any government action that investors believe could negatively affect their profits, such as new regulations and taxes.

When disputes arise, they are resolved through international arbitration tribunals. There are now several such tribunals, including public ones, such as the World Bank’s International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and private bodies like the London Court of International Arbitration and the Singapore International Arbitration Center. But these tribunals overwhelmingly favor investors. Arbitrators can force governments to pay huge damages, with no legal recourse to appeal decisions. Moreover, the system is designed to allow corporations to bring claims against states while preventing governments from suing private companies. This apparent bias has prompted some developing countries to withdraw from the ICSID.

The US has played a pivotal (and regrettable) role in establishing this system. In 2020, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden strongly criticized ISDS, writing, “I don’t believe that corporations should get special tribunals that are not available to other organizations.” Biden went on to say that he opposed “the ability of private corporations to attack labor, health, and environmental policies” through the ISDS process, as well as the “inclusion of such provisions in future trade agreements.” Since then, Biden has honored his promise to exclude ISDS clauses from future trade agreements. But they still apply to existing treaties like the one currently affecting Honduras.

In May, more than 33 members of Congress, led by Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Lloyd Doggett, sent a letter to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, urging them to support Honduras in the ISDS case. But the Biden administration has allowed this obscene process to unfold in US courts, even though it contradicts the president’s stated position regarding the unjust and undemocratic nature of the ISDS process.

The Honduras ISDS case represents a crucial test for the Biden administration. Allowing such extreme double standards to prevail, particularly in a matter as clear-cut as this, would irreparably damage any remaining US claim to global leadership.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome’s Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

OP-ED

By Ilias Alami, Jack Copley, Alexis Moraitis

Hard Truths About Green Industrial Policy

CAMBRIDGE/DURHAM/LANCASTER - From the European Union’s Green Deal Industrial Plan and the United States’ Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to Japan’s Green Growth Strategy and the Korean New Deal, industrial policies aimed at accelerating the energy transition are proliferating in wealthy, technologically advanced economies.

Many developing economies are also designing and deploying state-led projects to foster green industrialization, as competition intensifies for electric vehicles (EVs), so-called transition minerals, and clean energy.

For example, several African countries, including South Africa, Kenya, Mauritania, Egypt, Djibouti, Tunisia, Morocco, and Namibia, have enacted state-led initiatives to support the development of green hydrogen. Others, including Indonesia, Bolivia, and Chile, are implementing national strategies to stimulate industrialization based on the extraction and processing of nickel, cobalt, copper, lithium, and other transition minerals and metals.

These policies use a broad range of instruments - including subsidies, regulations, incentives, and diverse state-business arrangements - and differ widely in terms of the public and private resources at their disposal. But they all seek to tackle three crises simultaneously: economic stagnation, polarized and precarious employment, and intensifying climate change.

The revival of industrial policy is based on the logic that addressing all three crises will create a virtuous cycle: targeted investment in green manufacturing and energy will boost economic activity, create well-paying jobs, and usher in a low-carbon economy.

The Biden administration’s “modern American industrial strategy,” comprising the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the IRA, exemplifies this approach. What has been called the “Biden three-fer” is designed to boost US competitiveness in key industries vis-à-vis China, provide better economic opportunities for American workers, and accelerate decarbonization.

But the win-win narrative undergirding these new industrial strategies tends to obfuscate the risk that solving one problem may exacerbate another. In fact, the tensions between these policy objectives are already visible. For example, the decarbonization of the economy may not create as many decent jobs as initially expected.

In the US, both car companies and the United Auto Workers union have warned that the shift to manufacturing EVs, which require fewer parts, could lead to job losses. Some of these jobs will be redistributed to battery production, but this may be cold comfort for American and European auto workers, given China’s dominance over the global battery supply chain.

At the same time, the growth of green industries can result in other environmental harms. Despite aiming to generate employment and value through the production of transition minerals, the industrialization strategies of several Global South countries tend to entrench extractive practices.

For example, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile - South America’s “lithium triangle” - are seeking to capture various stages of the lithium supply chain, from mineral extraction to processing to battery assembly.

But the growth of this industry threatens to deplete water supplies, degrade soil, and disrupt habitats, often in zones inhabited by indigenous Andean peoples. Similarly, the production of semiconductors, which are at the heart of clean tech, is energy-, water-, and land-intensive and releases perfluorocarbons and other potent greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Finally, economic stagnation can have a destabilizing impact on domestic politics, impelling governments to aim for a higher growth rate regardless of the environmental costs.

For example, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently announced a series of U-turns on the government’s net-zero pledges. Shedding burdensome climate commitments may seem like a politically attractive strategy to boost immediate growth prospects. But - and herein lies the contradiction - longer-term growth will at least partly depend on governments ensuring that their economies are competitive in the green industries of the future.

As these examples show, industrial policy is not a silver bullet for the intersecting crises of our times. The policy objectives of environmental sustainability, industrial dynamism, and full employment are difficult to reconcile and require hard political choices about resource allocation, strategic priorities, and, crucially, the distribution of economic and social costs.

Moreover, the trade-offs will grow more complex and challenging as global warming worsens and growth continues to sputter. What we call the “wicked trinity” of contemporary governance - climate catastrophe, economic stagnation, and surplus humanity - will not go away anytime soon. In fact, it will likely shape the trajectories of public policymaking long into the future.

This is not to say that policymakers should give up on designing ambitious strategies to address these crises. On the contrary, swift and effective action is an absolute necessity.

Yet packaging these plans in win-win narratives that paper over the difficult trade-offs they involve significantly raises the risk that governments will lose popular support. The complex and conflicting nature of these policy objectives means that even the best-designed strategies will fall short, at least in some respects. This is unavoidable and an important component of learning-by-doing.

To avoid being seen as breaking promises, policymakers must embrace, rather than dismiss, the tensions and trade-offs at the heart of green industrial policies and subject them to public deliberation. This is essential to securing broad support for state-led decarbonization projects. Such an approach would help build robust, transparent governance structures rooted in the principles of democratic deliberation and public oversight and control.

As matters stand now, many industrial strategies are the product of top-down, technocratic policymaking processes, despite all the talk of “leaving no community behind” and a “just green transition.”

Subjecting the economy to democratic decision-making in this way would, admittedly, constitute a radical challenge to the current system of private ownership and market coordination. But it is essential to secure and maintain popular legitimacy for green industrial policies, as well as to facilitate collective and efficient decision-making and minimize mismanagement. Otherwise, we risk a public backlash that impedes the collective action needed to safeguard our future on this planet.

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OPINION

By Vijay Bains

Mapping the Future of ESG at COP28

DUBAI - It has become increasingly clear from the vast array of information on climate change that advancing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals is an essential part of any long-term solution to the crisis. Although the loosely defined concept remains a work in progress, the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai provides an opportunity for business leaders and policymakers to agree on how ESG can best contribute to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Sound ESG strategies that focus on robust standards, clear metrics, and strict compliance procedures can improve the investment decision-making process for firms in all sectors. This, in turn, makes it easier for companies to unlock debt and equity financing, while also yielding reputational returns.

Beyond offering substantial benefits, ESG has become a business imperative. As the global race to achieve net-zero emissions intensifies, firms looking to form new alliances and partnerships must be able to outline their ESG strategy and, crucially, explain how they plan to execute it. This makes it even more important to develop a cohesive, equitable, and transparent approach to ESG at COP28 and secure buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders.

ESG has gained significant momentum in the Middle East in the run-up to COP28: nearly two-thirds of regional organizations surveyed by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) earlier this year reported adopting a formal ESG strategy in the last 12 months. This would have been unimaginable only a few years ago, when very few in the region were taking the concept seriously. And the trend looks set to continue, as 66% of survey respondents want their CEO and board to allocate more time to ESG-related issues.

Moreover, the fact that 40% of respondents hope that COP28 will lead to governments improving ESG infrastructure and providing incentives for green growth underscores the significance of the climate summit. Fortunately, the United Arab Emirates is already spearheading the reform effort, building awareness of how an ESG framework can pave the way to a net-zero economy. On the environmental side, the UAE has announced plans to invest \$54 billion in renewables over the next seven years and has pledged \$4.5 billion to finance climate projects in Africa. Mobilizing these huge sums ahead of COP28, as well as undertaking major initiatives to support social and governance investments, demonstrates the UAE’s commitment to championing ESG at the summit and beyond.

Banks must also do their part, which means raising awareness of the central role that ESG plays in sustainable finance and ensuring that there are enough green financial products - including Sharia-compliant instruments - to meet soaring demand from customers. They should also improve ESG reporting metrics to streamline internal and sector-wide data collection. While such changes take time, a more immediate fix could be improving in-house training to help staff better incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions and overall bank strategy.

A meaningful shift in resource management is already underway. Today, 27% of Middle Eastern companies responding to the PwC survey have a chief sustainability officer, and almost half of those individuals are primarily responsible for ESG. Relatedly, only 20% of respondents this year said that the CEO had overall control of ESG, down from around 55% last year. Corporate leaders across the region are clearly attaching more importance to these principles.

While large corporations will find it easier to navigate the increasingly complex framework of green financing, small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) will require more support and should not be an afterthought - especially in the UAE economy. According to government data published in mid-2022, the country is home to 557,000 SMEs, which account for 63.5% of non-oil GDP, and that number could grow to one million by 2030. If ESG is to be successful, it must become a key component of business for companies of all sizes.

Global warming represents an existential threat, but the magnitude of the challenge has given rise to unprecedented dynamism: governments and business leaders are embracing new frameworks and radical measures to ensure rapid and significant progress on climate action. COP28 in Dubai will only accelerate this process, especially when it comes to building a consensus on ESG implementation. Speed is of the essence, because the sooner companies begin incorporating ESG into their investment decisions, the better they will do - both economically and environmentally - on the path to net-zero emissions.

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In Memory of a Distant Mentor: Tribute to Henry A. Kissinger

By Samuel D. Tweah, Jr

Henry A Kissinger is arguably the greatest geo-strategist of the 20th century. Kissinger may kowtow only to George Kennan, a man Kissinger himself highly regarded and whose insights may have spurred the diplomatic and professorial waters Kissinger forded decades later.

In high school, I discovered Kissinger through his compellingly pellucid and trenchant cold-war articles in Newsweek in the 1980s. No human alive has argued more for the collapse of the Soviet Union and the safeguarding of Western democracy than Henry Kissinger! As a high school graduate, I could not understand the complex prose of this most gifted of English language prose stylists. I hunkered down to decipher Kissinger with the aid of an old Oxford English Learner’s dictionary from my sister’s (Dr. Patricia Wesley’s) library in Congo Town. Then I became a



Ronald Reagan Cold War aficionado!

In addition to his triumphs as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State to President Richard Nixon, Kissinger has left the world a copious body of knowledge on Cold War diplomacy that led to the eventual fall of the Soviet Union; on détente and deterrence as a strategy for averting global nuclear war; on China, as the economic counterpart of the Soviet Union in the new Cold War of economic domination; on the current challenges to the Westphalian international world order that is now teetering at the seams; and more recently on the impact artificial intelligence holds for the economics of the current world order.

Here was a man of articulate letters in the truest sense of academics, unrivaled in his purveyance of complex insights distilled into logical certainties, pathways and simplicities. Love him or revile him, he has immensely contributed to a better world both in diplomatic praxis and in academic dissemination.

Kissinger, in his panegyric of Richard Nixon, and paraphrasing Shakespeare, said “Richard Nixon stood on pinnacles that dissolved into precipices.” But Kissinger may have partly been referring to himself. Henry Kissinger too has stood on pinnacles that have largely been misunderstood or controverted. In the end all these have enlarged his standing and cemented his monument in history.

Henry Kissinger inhaled his last breath on November 29, 2023. “Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.”

ARTICLE

Africa is steadily marching toward gender parity

Africa is making significant strides towards closing gender gaps across key areas: economic participation, education, health, and political empowerment, according to the World Economic Forum.

Bonface Orucho, bird story agency Namibia is among a select group of nine nations globally that have successfully closed over 80% of their gender gap, marking a significant stride towards equality.

According to a 2023 report from the World Economic Forum, Namibia has achieved an impressive 80.2% closure, securing the rank of 8th worldwide in bridging this gap.

Leaders include Iceland (91.2%), Norway (87.9%), Finland (86.3%), New Zealand (85.2%), Sweden (81.5%), Germany (81.5%), and Nicaragua (81.1%), with Namibia next, at 80.2%. “Sub-Saharan Africa’s parity score is the sixth highest among the eight regions at 68.2%, ranking above Southern Asia, the Middle East and North Africa,” the report finds.

Alongside Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, and 13 other nations in the region have effectively closed more than 70% of their gender gaps. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Chad lag behind with scores below 62%.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 evaluates economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health, survival, and political empowerment indicators. Notably, excluding North Africa, Africa has made strides in closing its gender gap by over 5% since the inaugural report in 2006.

While progress is described as “uneven” across the continent, specific metrics indicate significant advancements in certain countries.

Liberia, Eswatini and Burundi top the ranking table in the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex.

The report highlights encouraging rises in women’s representation in key positions across countries like the DRC, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

Josephine Dawuni, a consultant at the Institute for African Women in Law, explained how bridging the gender gap is playing out on the continent, citing developments in the leadership of constitutional courts and the judicial system.

“Several countries across the continent have almost equal numbers of women and men at the bar,” she said in a June article published in The Conversation.

“Some countries, such as Cape Verde, Zambia, South Africa, Namibia and Sierra Leone, have had women as presidents of the bar association or law society,” she adds.

Despite remarkable progress, the report emphasizes the need for further work, particularly in narrowing educational gaps. Excluding North Africa, the continent ranks lowest in closing the educational attainment gap. However, in Botswana, Lesotho, and Namibia, the educational gender gap is fully closed, with all three achieving a 100% ranking.

The report highlights disparities in enrollment in primary, secondary, and tertiary education.

“Apart from Mali, Guinea and Chad, all countries have more than 90% parity in enrollment in primary education, and 16 have reached full parity. Ten countries have less than 90% parity in secondary education and 21 countries have less than 90% parity in tertiary education,” the report highlights.

Despite low scores in the African Mediterranean region, there is notable progress based on key signals in some countries, suggesting educational attainment is gaining ground. Egypt, for instance, has registered an increase in both the share of women in senior officer positions and women in technical positions. Earlier in the year, Nemat Shafik, an Egyptian-born woman economist, was unveiled as the first female to head Columbia University in New York.

The New Arab, an Egypt-based news platform, reported in January that the university’s board of trustees described Shafik as a “brilliant and able global leader, a community builder and a preeminent economist who understands the academy and the world beyond it.” The Health and Survival subindex ranks Africa third highest at 97.2%, trailing behind Latin America and the Caribbean. However, countries to the north display a substantial gap with an average score of 62.5%. The political empowerment subindex displays the largest gender gap of all the metrics. Mozambique and Rwanda are the top performers in bridging the gender gap in politics, with scores of just 54.2% and 54.1%, respectively.

Based on the number of seats in parliament, Rwanda is the most gender-equal country on the continent. Alongside Mexico, Nicaragua, the United Arab Emirates and New Zealand, Rwanda has attained full parity by this benchmark, meaning that half or more positions in its parliament are held by women.

On the other side of the continent, another small country, Benin, demonstrates rapid growth in this sub-index, improving by 23.2 percentage points. The Beninese general elections held earlier this year saw a record number of women elected into the national assembly with 28 out of 109 parliamentary seats now held by women.

Nevertheless, Dawuni stresses that beyond numerical representation, the primary challenge lies in shifting the focus towards broader gender representation in leadership roles.

“There is no shortage of qualified women... What is needed is a shift in systems, institutional practices, norms and perceptions to accommodate more women in leadership positions,” she added.

bird story agency

Useful links: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2023.pdf

<https://theconversation.com/african-women-lawyers-numbers-are-up-but-report-sheds-light-on-obstacles-to-leadership-in-the-profession-208131>

<https://www.newarab.com/news/columbia-names-egyptian-first-woman-head-university>

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ARTICLE

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131 Liberians awarded Chinese Ambassador Scholarship

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Liberia through its scholarship program has awarded 131 scholarships to young

establishment, more than 1,000 outstanding Liberian students have been awarded this Honor.

Remarking at the program, Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Yin Chengwu disclosed that

ancient times, the Chinese people have attached great importance to education," said Amb. Yin.

"More than 2,000 years ago, the ancient Chinese sages said that if a country wants to cultivate good customs, it must start with education," the Chinese Envoy noted. Since the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and Liberia in 2003, he said more than 800 Liberian students have been sponsored by the Chinese side to pursue degree programs through various scholarships and other programs in China, while 2,000 plus have participated in short-term training programs.

Ambassador Yin recalled that in 2008, China's Changsha University of Science & Technology, in cooperation with the University of Liberia, established the Confucius Institute at UL, which has become another signature program of China-Liberia educational cooperation. The Confucius Institute at UL has not only attracted many students to learn Chinese and Chinese culture, but also recommended hundreds of students to local Chinese enterprises.

And China-Liberia educational cooperation has enabled many Liberians to get more knowledge and skills and opened a window of opportunity of changing their lives. As China continues to

the scholarship has encouraged the students to work hard and helped them realize their dreams.

He added that it has increased their interests in learning Chinese, understanding China, and has sown the seeds of friendship between China and Liberia.

Ambassador Yin stated that education is the best way for any country to cultivate good culture and customs among its citizenry, adding that it is the fundamentals of the country's culture and society.

"Education relates to the fundamentals of a country, a culture, and a society. Since

▶ CONT'D page 11

Red Cross launches RRBA ECOWAS Project

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Liberian Red Cross has launched the Recovery and Resilience Building Assistance (RRBA) for families affected by floods in vulnerable communities in Liberia. The project was launched under the theme: Building Back Stronger: Empowering Flood Affected Communities. Speaking on Thursday, 30 November 2023 at the official launching ceremony in the Shoe Factory Community along the Japan Freeway, National Disaster Management Agency official Abraham Paasewe said the project started in July 2022 when Liberia experienced one of the major floods in recent times.

He said the flood took a tour in other West African states as well, adding that Liberia recorded over 60,000

persons that were affected. Mr. Abraham Paasewe added that out of the 60,000 persons that were affected, Liberia was able to report the case in Lomé, Togo in April 2023. He explained that when ECOWAS invited member states to go to Lomé and present their cases, Liberia was represented and

made its case there. At that meeting, he recalled, it was announced by the Director of Humanitarian Affairs Madam Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe of ECOWAS that the regional bloc was keeping a package for member states that were affected by flooding.

He disclosed that Madam Ugbe said the envelope was disclosed to everyone in the

▶ CONT'D page 11



Why I'm not yet celebrating bigly

Jonathan Paye-Layleh writes:

I feel relieved. But I haven't really been celebrating much since the Nov. 14 election victory, even though I was a well-known campaigner for the Boakai-Koung ticket.

For me the real celebration will come when the Boakai government takes over and sees the economy in a very good or reasonably good shape, where monies spent on projects over the last six years are properly accounted for, where there are no traces of overtime and last minute questionable financial transactions by the outgoing regime and there is a clearly-defined turnover note



Boakai

explaining all the transactions.

The real celebration will come when the soon-to-be set up transitional team reports that the outgoing government is leaving a better payroll structure and a better expenditure portfolio than those of the Ellen Sirleaf government.

I will celebrate if the outgoing government settled most of our domestic debts and that the salaries of employees were not left in arrears. Indeed, I will celebrate if the outgoing government left more money in our Central Bank reserve than what it saw there on assuming power.

I will celebrate when newly appointed officials go to take office and the records and reports they see of their predecessors are correct and acceptable.

More importantly, I will celebrate when the new government starts to introduce meaningful reforms to change things around in a bid to make the long sought-after difference.

MY INITIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR A BETTER LIBERIA

Already, I've given the incoming government my first batch of suggestions highlighting some of the areas in which, in my opinion, they need to make some early interventions in order to start bringing relief to the virtually strangled population.

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Starts from page 6

131 Liberians awarded Chinese

pursue high-level opening-up, China-Liberia cooperation in the education area will be more promising. advocates respecting the diversity of civilizations, upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning,



The Chinese diplomat furthered that in March of 2023, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilization Initiative, which dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, promoting mutual understanding and friendship among the people of all

countries. And jointly advancing the progress of human civilizations, which provides strategic guidance for cultural exchanges and mutual learning among countries including China-Liberia educational exchanges and cooperation. Ambassador Yin maintained that China and Liberia have unique and diverse cultures, and the prospects for cultural exchanges and mutual learning between China and Liberia are broad."I believe that the deepening of China-Liberia cultural exchanges will promote friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation, and further our bilateral relations." "I sincerely hope that more and more young people from China and Liberia will get to know each other, learn and understand each other's languages and cultures, and become a new generation of envoys of friendship between the two countries." The Chinese diplomat noted that in modern times, the Chinese government has also made great efforts to develop education.

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ECOWAS Commission reviews training policy for its Standby Force

The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is reviewing the training Policy for its standby Force to strengthen peace support operations. To this end, a review workshop on the draft training policy of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) begins on the 30th of November 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria. The two-day Workshop which builds on the earlier one held by experts which reviewed the ESF operational framework, will among others, improve the draft ESF-training policy by aligning it with that of the African Standby Force while taking into cognizance the peculiarities of the ECOWAS Region. The Workshop will also allow for the assessment of the relevance of the various sections of the draft ESF Training Policy to current and emerging needs in contemporary Peace Support Operations. Participants at the Workshop

who are to ensure the readiness of the draft policy for onward validation by the ECOWAS Member States, include experts from the AU, the United Nations, Training Centres of Excellence (TCE)s, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as relevant staff of the Commission lead by the Ag Head of the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) Dr. Sani Adamu. Since attaining Full Operational Capacity in 2015, the ECOWAS Standby Force has been engaged in several capability development activities to



Liberia celebrates World Toilet Day

Liberia joined rest of the world Thursday, November 30, to commemorate World Toilet Day. According to a press release, World Toilet Day is an annual United Nations Observance promoted through a worldwide public campaign that encourages action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The release states that the United Nations Waters reports revealed that today, there are 3.5 billion people still living without safe toilets and 419 million people still practicing 'open defecation' (UN-Water, 2023). World Toilet Day, is celebrated on 19 November of every year, to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and reach the 3.5 billion

Every year, UN-Water - the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation sets the theme for World Toilet Day. The theme for 2023 is "Accelerating Change." It is against this background that the National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Commission of Liberia, and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) in collaboration with its partners join the rest of the world in commemorating this global event under the local theme: "ACCELERATING CHANGE". An official program commemorating the day will be held in Bentol City, Montserrado County, beginning with a parade through the principal streets of Bentol and will end at the Bentol City Administrative Building for



people still living without safely managed sanitation. The United Nations declared the Day an official Observance in 2013, twelve years after the World Toilet Organization established World Toilet Day in 2001, the release disclosed.

an indoor ceremony. World Toilet Day 2023 is about accelerating change by doing whatever you can. "Take action today, learn about the issues, and share the campaign with your partners and collaborators", the release reads. Press Release

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Français

Le président de la Chambre des Représentants assistera à la conférence de l'Union parlementaire africaine

Le président de la Chambre du Libéria, Bhofal Chamber, a reçu une invitation pour participer à

Comité exécutif de l'UPA, la conférence devrait aborder des questions cruciales auxquelles est confronté le continent africain. Deux thèmes centraux

du rôle des femmes africaines dans la stimulation du commerce intra-africain", mettant l'accent sur le rôle crucial des femmes dans le développement économique et l'intégration régionale.

L'invitation, signée par la présidente Mabel Memory Chinomona, exprime le désir de la présence active et de la participation du président de la Chambre, Bhofal Chamber. Cette reconnaissance souligne l'importance du rôle du Libéria dans l'orientation de l'avenir du continent africain, en particulier pour relever les défis clés et faire avancer le programme d'intégration régionale.

Le président de la Chambre, Bhofal Chamber, est honoré de recevoir l'invitation et se réjouit de contribuer activement aux discussions et aux initiatives qui émergeront lors de la conférence. Cet événement constitue une plateforme cruciale pour favoriser la collaboration, partager des idées et travailler collectivement à la réalisation d'une Afrique plus sécurisée, stable et économiquement intégrée.

L'Union parlementaire africaine (UPA) est une organisation interparlementaire continentale créée à Abidjan le 13 février 1976, ayant pour

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Chef de la police assigné à comparaître dans le procès de la Juge Scott

Dans un retournement spectaculaire des événements au Tribunal criminel 'A' du Temple de la Justice, le procès pour meurtre de feu Charloe Musu prend une tournure captivante alors que le chef de la police, le colonel Patrick Sudue, se retrouve confronté à une assignation à comparaître devant le tribunal. Le procès, centré sur la mort mystérieuse de la juge Gloria Musu Scott, a désormais impliqué le plus haut responsable de la police du pays.

Le lundi 27 novembre 2023, le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie a émis une assignation à comparaître Ad Testificandum Decu Tecum, obligeant le chef de la police Sudue à produire le rapport du 25 avril 2022 sur l'incident de la plaque d'immatriculation manquante de la juge Scott. De plus, le tribunal exige le grand livre attesté le 27

novembre 2023 par le représentant du colonel Sudue, le détective Curtis B. Koffa.

La directive stipule que le chef de la police Sudue doit comparaître le jeudi 30 novembre 2023 à 10h00 pour présenter les documents demandés ou risquer d'être déclaré coupable de mépris de cour.

Ce dernier développement fait suite à une assignation à

comparaître précédente du chef de la police Sudue concernant la plaque d'immatriculation mystérieusement disparue de Cllr. Scott alors qu'elle défendait la faction dirigée par Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence du Parti de la liberté et la sénatrice du comté de Gbarpolu, Botoe

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Travailler de concert pour le bien commun

Lors d'une session de travail le vendredi 24 novembre, le président George Manneh Weah a exhorté les responsables de l'Équipe conjointe de transition présidentielle (JPTT) à faire preuve d'honnêteté et d'amour pour le pays dans leurs délibérations afin d'assurer un transfert de pouvoir en douceur de son administration au président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et son équipe.

"Aujourd'hui, nous sommes sur le point de passer ce bâton symbolique à un autre dirigeant démocratiquement élu, marquant un autre chapitre important de notre parcours démocratique ; assurons-nous d'un transfert de pouvoir efficace, efficient et sans heurts au président élu Boakai et à son équipe", a exhorté le président Weah.

Cet appel démontre véritablement l'engagement indéfectible de M. Weah à assurer une transition en douceur, ce qui lui a valu de nombreuses admirations à travers le monde et a mis le Libéria sous les feux de la rampe pour toutes les bonnes raisons.

L'icône du football devenue homme politique entrera dans l'histoire en tant que le premier président africain de l'histoire récente à reconnaître sa défaite et à féliciter son principal rival même avant l'annonce des résultats définitifs par la Commission électorale nationale.

Les membres et partisans de sa sortie de la Coalition pour le Changement démocratique (CDC) peinent encore à digérer et à accepter la qualité du piédestal démocratique que leur porte-étendard a établi pour le Libéria, et il ne peut y avoir de retour en arrière.

Le leader a parlé et doit pénétrer l'esprit des CDCiens que le pouvoir n'appartient pas à un parti politique particulier ou au gouvernement, mais au peuple. Ainsi, chaque fois que le peuple décide lors d'une élection de qui devrait gouverner ses affaires pour lui permettre de jouir de la paix, de la prospérité et du bonheur, il ne reste rien d'autre que d'obéir.

C'est dans cette optique que le président Weah exhorte les membres de la JPTT à donner la priorité et à se concentrer sur l'intérêt national plutôt que sur des intérêts égoïstes, en plaçant le bien général du peuple libérien au premier plan dans leurs délibérations sur la voie du transfert de pouvoir en janvier 2024. En d'autres termes, il s'agit de moments de bilan et de rapports appropriés plutôt que de ce que certains pourraient considérer comme une opportunité de dernière minute pour piller ce qui reste des coffres nationaux pour s'enrichir et partir.

Mais M. Weah a informé les membres de la JPTT que les réalisations démocratiques de son administration ont établi une norme nouvelle et enviable, non seulement pour le Libéria, mais pour l'Afrique et la communauté mondiale, affirmant que "en reconnaissant gracieusement et en félicitant le président élu Boakai avant le décompte final, nous avons également gagné une reconnaissance et une admiration mondiales."

C'est tellement vrai et c'est la principale raison pour laquelle rien ne doit être fait et personne ne doit être autorisé à rendre la route de la transition cahoteuse. Un atterrissage en douceur de la nouvelle administration portera ses fruits, et nous devons nous efforcer de le réaliser, car comme le souligne le président Weah, cette réalisation monumentale est une victoire non seulement pour une entité politique mais pour tous les Libériens et l'ensemble du pays.

Français

Starts from page 8

Le président de la Chambre

objectifs de promouvoir l'unité d'action entre les institutions parlementaires de tous les États africains ; de consacrer l'UPA en tant que forum des Parlements nationaux du continent africain et instrument de dialogue et de coopération parlementaires au service de la paix, de la démocratie, de la bonne gouvernance et du développement durable ; de

lutter pour l'établissement systématique d'une véritable communauté africaine fondée sur les réalités politiques, économiques, sociales et culturelles du continent ; d'encourager les contacts entre les parlementaires africains, d'une part, et entre les parlementaires africains et les parlementaires d'autres continents, d'autre part, entre autres.

Starts from page 8

Le Chef de la police assigné

Kanneh, à la Commission électorale nationale. L'assignation à comparaître concerne également les incidents signalés d'intrusion à la résidence de la juge Scott en Virginie les 8 et 9 février 2023, où Charloe Musu a été tragiquement assassiné.

Pendant l'assignation à comparaître précédente, le chef de la police Sudue était représenté par l'officier de police Curtis B. Koffa, qui, remarquablement, n'a pu produire aucun rapport ou documentation lié aux incidents.

La première assignation à comparaître ordonnait la comparution de Sudue pour témoigner sur la communication de Justice Scott informant la police nationale libérienne (LNP) du retrait de sa plaque d'immatriculation de manière mystérieuse le 25 avril 2022. Le tribunal cherchait également le rapport d'enquête de la police du dépôt local (Zone 6, Brewerville) concernant les intrusions les 8 et 9 février 2023.

Le détective Curtis B. Koffa, qui a répondu à l'appel de détresse à la maison de la juge Scott après les incidents de février, n'a pas réussi à présenter de rapport d'enquête au tribunal. Il a plutôt indiqué verbalement

que la juge Scott aurait détruit des preuves en réparant la partie de sa maison que l'on pense être le point d'entrée des intrus.

Pendant ce temps, les inquiétudes grandissent quant à l'emplacement de M. Valee Telleh, accusé par l'ancien président de la Commission vérité et réconciliation (CVJR), Cllr. Jerome Verdier, d'avoir tué Charloe. Des spéculations sur la demande d'une assignation à comparaître pour M. Telleh ont émergé, aux côtés de rumeurs suggérant qu'il aurait peut-être fui le pays.

Des sources proches des avocats de la défense indiquent que l'équipe juridique pourrait bientôt demander au tribunal d'assigner à comparaître M. Telleh pour témoigner sur son implication présumée dans le meurtre de Charloe. De plus, une assignation à comparaître pourrait être adressée à la police nationale libérienne pour témoigner sur ce qu'ils ont découvert lors de leur interaction étonnamment brève avec M. Valee Telleh en mars de cette année.

Alors que le procès se déroule, la possibilité d'une assignation à comparaître pour M. Telleh ajoute une autre couche d'intrigue, notamment au milieu de rumeurs sur son départ du pays. La situation reste fluide, et les développements sont attendus avec impatience.

Le Libéria surmonte la suspension de la Banque mondiale, ouvrant la voie à l'administration Boakai



Pres. Weah

President-elect Boakai

La Banque mondiale a officiellement levé la suspension imposée au Libéria, permettant à la nation d'Afrique de l'Ouest de retrouver l'accès aux prêts précédemment retenus. La capacité du Libéria à retirer des prêts de décaissement et des subventions spécifiques du Fonds fiduciaire avait été temporairement interrompue jusqu'à ce que le pays rembourse sa dette envers la Banque mondiale.

La Banque mondiale, dans un avis daté du 15 novembre 2023, avait suspendu les retraits au titre des prêts suspendus, citant des paiements en retard et d'autres montants impayés dus par le Libéria. Cependant, dans une annonce récente, la Banque mondiale a confirmé que tous les paiements nécessaires avaient été reçus, déclarant le Libéria à jour de ses obligations financières. Par conséquent, la suspension des retraits au titre des prêts suspendus a été levée à compter du 24 novembre 2023.

Cette évolution fait suite à l'avis du 15 novembre, où

la Banque mondiale avait informé le ministre des Finances du Libéria, Samuel Tweah, de la suspension, refusant à l'administration de George Weah l'accès aux retraits de prêts en raison de retards dans le remboursement de sa dette. Le vice-président de la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et centrale à la Banque mondiale, Ousmane Diagana, a transmis la décision dans une lettre le même jour.

L'action rapide de l'administration Weah pour régler ses obligations financières a évité ce qui aurait pu être un obstacle pour l'administration entrante Boakai, assurant un accès sans entrave aux prêts précédemment retenus.

La suspension, qui a duré 60 jours, a souligné l'engagement de la Banque mondiale envers la responsabilité

financière. La réponse rapide de l'administration Weah a non seulement évité des dommages supplémentaires à l'image du Libéria, mais a également démontré une approche proactive face aux responsabilités financières.

Pour comprendre les implications de la suspension de la Banque mondiale, il est essentiel de reconnaître que la suspension du service de la dette extérieure implique une pause temporaire dans le remboursement de toutes les dettes publiques extérieures concernées. Cette pause vise à créer une période intérimaire pour une restructuration ordonnée et consensuelle de ces obligations, en accord avec un programme d'ajustement économique soutenu par le Fonds monétaire international (FMI).

Réunion à Bamako pour faire de l'alliance des États du Sahel une coalition politique et diplomatique



Les ministres des Affaires étrangères de l'alliance des États du Sahel (AES) sont à Bamako pour « l'opérationnalisation » de la coalition créée le 16 septembre 2023 par le Mali, le Niger et le Burkina, les trois pays sahéliens dont les autorités actuelles sont issues de coup d'État militaires. La ministre burkinabè Olivia Ragnagnèwendé Rouamba, son homologue nigérien Bakary Yaou Sangaré et leur hôte malien Abdoulaye Diop sont réunis ce jeudi 30 novembre pour donner à cette alliance une dimension politique et diplomatique.

Initialement, l'AES est un pacte de défense : le Mali, le Niger et le Burkina Faso avaient décidé de mutualiser leurs moyens militaires pour combattre les groupes rebelles ou jihadistes comme cela a pu être constaté récemment au Mali, à petite échelle pour le moment. Mais les trois pays

veulent aller plus loin et fonder une véritable union économique et politique.

Sur le plan économique, les trois pays ont annoncé le weekend dernier leur intention de renforcer leurs échanges, de mener ensemble des projets énergétiques et industriels, de créer une banque d'investissement et même une compagnie aérienne communes. Aucune échéance n'a été fixée pour ces projets ambitieux.

Lignes politiques et diplomatiques communes

Ce jeudi, les ministres des Affaires étrangères des trois pays plangent, selon un communiqué de la partie malienne, sur « l'adoption des protocoles additionnels », « les organes [institutionnels et juridiques, NDLR] à mettre en place » et sur « la définition de mesures politiques et de coordination diplomatique ». De quoi faire de l'AES une organisation régionale jouant sur tous les tableaux.

Il faut rappeler que le Mali, le Niger et le Burkina sont suspendus des instances de la Cédéao, depuis leurs coups d'État militaires respectifs. Ils en sont toujours membres mais ne participent plus aux prises de décision. Cette situation devrait perdurer jusqu'à ce qu'ils organisent des élections et reviennent à l'ordre constitutionnel.

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Reflection Part Four - The Prophecies

By Hun-Bu Tulay ntevoma@gmail.com Cell # +231-886-517-356/777-111-032

Our mother land Liberia has wept for the past 178 years, and she continues to weep because she is dying gradually. She is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on life support. She has begged and is begging for help; she cries tears of blood. She needs your help, you must make a choice; help her or let her die without fulfilling the goal and aspirations of the founding fathers, who established a government for the purpose of promoting unity, liberty, peace, stability, equality, justice, and human rights under the rule of law, with opportunities for political, social, moral, spiritual and cultural advancement of their society, for their posterity. These were the basic rights and opportunities they were denied prior to their departure from the United States of America because they were of the Negro Race. And for 178 years, we have not fully achieved these rights. In addition, the country remains one of the least developed countries in the ECOWAS Region. If you let Liberia die, we all die with her. To the newly elected leadership, will you let her die? This is the million-dollar question to you and your team. Before you answer this question, we will take you into a bird eye perspective of the country’s history, especially when it comes searching for the leader that would transform the country. There have been many prophecies, but we will tell you about six.

The Prophecies

1798: This was before the establishment of the country or even before the arrival of the first ship (Elizabeth) that brought the freedmen of color to the shores of present-day Liberia. Many years before 1798, a young man from the north trekked northwest and landed in the Federation of the Western Mandingo Kingdom which extended from the West Bank of the Saint Paul River to present day Western Liberia, which includes Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Lofa Counties in Liberia to Musardu in Guinea Conakry and part of Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Mali. The young man was an Islamic scholar and when he arrived, the legendary Chief Mabulu hosted him in present day Kamatahun, Lofa County. He lived in Kamatahun for three years and his fame spread throughout the Federation of the Western Mandingo Kingdom and the father of the future king Sao Boso/Boatswain heard of him. He sent a messenger to his friend, Chief Mabulu, with a message asking him to send the Islamic scholar to his chiefdom to perform some works for his son. Chief Mabulu obliged. The scholar went to present day Gbarpolu and met the chief father. He was given the tasks to train his son in many things in warfare and he used the opportunity to teach the chief’s son, Sao Boso, Arabic and converted him to Islam.

That is the reason, when you read Liberian history, Chief Sao Boso/Boatswain is referred to as a Mandingo Chief. He was not a Mandingo, Sao Boso was Gola and a Muslim. But in this country, the majority of the population refer to all Muslims as Mandingoes. When the scholar completed his tasks, the father of the son, who later became the legendary Chief in Liberia, Chief Sao Boso killed him. But before he died, he told the Chief that his son Sao Boso would be the last legendary chief from his family lineage and that for the federation to prosper, they needed to honor an elderly man from the West. Liberians have waited for 245 years to elect a son from the WEST as president. Would Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr. be that elderly man from the WEST? We wait and see what he does in the next six years. If he does not transform the country, Liberians might have to wait another 275 years? Remember the Israelis waited for 500 years for the Messiah.

1944: In 1944, a young man, who attended and graduated from two of the most prestigious universities in the world—Harvard and Columbia, Mr. Didhwo Welleh Twe was selected to deliver the 97th Independence Day Oration. Mr. Twe was delighted and expressed his sentiments on this occasion as follows: “As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, so the great revolutionary force which has influenced the progress of mankind has always come from the East and marched westward, but never from the West to East, nor North to the South. The ancient civilization of Africa marched from Egypt to the West. “Where is he that was born king of the Jews?” asked the three wise men. And from the East, Christianity marched westward.

When Mohammed of the Islamic Faith lifted his sword, he pointed it to the West, and he marched from the East to the West. The Pilgrims Fathers planted Anglo-Saxon Civilization on the North American Continent not in the North, nor West or the South but in the end from the East. American Civilization and democracy marched westward. To fulfill her destiny, Liberia must turn her back to the East and March westward”. Since D. Twe expressed these sentiments the Liberians people have

democratically elected three sons from the southeast. Those who believe him further said that he was a young man, all these sons of the southeast were young (Tubman was 48, Doe said he was 35 and Weah claimed that he was 51 when he was elected.

1980: On April 6, 1980 three different sermons were preached at three churches and by three different clerics. The churches and clerics were as follows:

1. Rev. Dr. E. Toimu A. Reeves of the Providence Baptist Church at the corner of Center and Ashmun Streets. His theme was: “The Arrow with blood plummeting flies over Monrovia.”

2. Rev. Dr. Samuel Ford Dennis preached at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Camp Johnson Road. His theme was, “DDD” meaning Death, Destruction, and Disaster.

3. Rev. Mother Wilhelmina Dukuly of the Faith Healing Temple of Jesus Christ on Bushrod Island. Her theme was, “The Sea Covers Monrovia”. Go to LBS, and you might find the recordings because the sermons were live.

All these three sermons carried the same meaning. These sermons were interpreted by many people to mean that something bad would happen in Liberia. Six days later, the country experienced a BLOODY COUP D’ETAT during which the country’s leader was killed and ten days later thirteen former government officials were executed by FIRING SQUAD. Would we say that this was the correct interpretation of those sermons?

1983: It is alleged that on July 3, 1983, Mother Dukuly prophesied that George Weah would be president and that he would run for a second term and win. Prophecy cannot be this precise. Anyway, Mr. Weah lost the election in which he was seeking a second term.

1999: It is alleged that in 1999, the late Michael K. Francis, Archbishop of the Catholic Church in Liberia sent a report/prophecy to the Vatican. For the purpose of this feature, we will

quote only the last two paragraphs, follows:

The worst is not under Taylor, it is yet to come when mayhem will take the land and a dictator will rise, but no one who celebrates him will see by then, they will all be blind and will end up as a blind leading the blind.

At the end of that realm an astute statesman will rise, and the nation will prosper forever. Is Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr. that astute statesman? We will find out after six years.2005: June 5, 2005 at an Intercessory Service organized by a ground called Friends of Brumskine at the Bethel World Cathedral in Congo Town, Sinkor, ten pastors prophesied that Charles Walker Brumskine would be the next president of Liberia. Unfortunately, he ran three times (2005, 2011 and 2017) but he was never elected. He died without becoming president of Liberia. This prophecy never took place. Would we say that it was a FALSE PROPHECY?

Analysis:

1798 Prophecy: The Islamic scholar said an elderly man would come from the West. Would Joseph N. Boakai Sr. be that elderly man from the west? Liberians have waited 225 years for this to happen. If he is not, then Liberians will have to wait for another 275 years making it 500 years since the prophecy just like the Israelis did, they waited 500 years. His performance will show us whether he is the one referred to by the Islamic Scholar.1944 Prophecy: Didhwo Welleh Twe did not give any prophecy. In fact, during the early days of the Tubman Administration, Tubman was greatly supported by Didhwo Welleh Twe. He was the brain behind Tubman’s Integrations Policy; he did the zero draft. Since the July 26, 1944, Independence Day Oration, the southeast has produced five heads of government (Constitutional Presidents: Tubman, Doe and Weah), and two interim heads of government (Dr. Amos C. Sawyer and Gyude Bryant). Some people of the southeast believe and said that Twe said a young man from the southeast will be the one to transform Liberia. This is not true, He said in the July 26, 1944, Independence Day Oration “To fulfill her destiny, Liberia must turn her back to the East and March westward.” But, even if Twe had said a young man, the southeast had produced three young presidents over the past 79 years (Tubman was 48 years, Doe said he was 35 and Weah was 51).

CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

Court subpoenas Koijee, Varlee Telleh

Criminal Court 'A' asked the court to subpoena Judge, Roosevelt Z. the two GSM companies to Willie, has granted trace the gadgets of the said defense's application to phone numbers from the 22nd the Clerk of Court to do a subpoena Ad Testificandum Decu Tecum to Police Inspector General, Patrick



subpoena Monrovia City of February 2023 up to Mayor, Jefferson Koijee and November 30, 2023, because Varlee Telleh, a senior officer the GSM companies had of the Monrovia City Police. earlier testified that they have the ability to locate the phones.

The court's decision is in response to defense lawyers' request for subpoena Decu tecum and ad testificandum to be served on Mayor Koijee to present to the court, Mr. Varlee Telleh along with his (Telleh's) numbers that were used from 21st - 25th February 2023, and to also testify to said numbers as to whom he called within the timeframe mentioned.

The subpoena request also wants Orange GSM and Lonestar GSM to present telephone numbers that were being used by former Chief Justice, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, who is on trial for murder, and that the court makes the GSM companies to disclose who is using those numbers now since her phones went missing on the night of the murder of her niece, Chaloe Musu in her November 27, 2023, Judge (Justice Scott's) residence. Roosevelt Z. Willie ordered Defense Counsels also

Sudue, to produce the report of April 25, 2022, on incident of Justice Gloria Musu Scott's missing license plate, and the ledger testified to on Monday, November 27, 2023, by Col. Sudue's representative, Detective Curtis B. Koffa.

The Police Chief had earlier been subpoenaed by the court to appear in relation to Cllr. Scott's mysteriously missing license plate, while she was defending the Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence-led faction of the Liberty Party and Gbarpolu County Senator Botoe Kanneh, at the National Elections Commission, as well as the reported intrusion incidents of the 8th and 9th of February 2023, at her Virginia residence where Charloe Musu was murdered. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Naymote captures UP campaign promises

natural resource management (3 promises), job creation (6 promises), commerce and industry (2 promises), infrastructure development (5 promises), transportation (4 promises), information communication technology (ICT) (3 promises), and culture and tourism (5 promises)", he adds.

Naymote also captures that pillar two of the UP manifesto is about Health, WASH, the Environment and climate Change with nine (9) promises, focusing on health (6 promises), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (1 promise), and environment and climate change (2 promises) while pillar three talks about Human Capacity Development with seven (7) promises that primarily focus on education.

He continues that pillar four of the soon-to-be ruling party is about Governance and Rule of Law with seven (7) promises, emphasizing foreign relations (1 promise), security (1 promise), rule of law (1 promise),

Four (4) promises including reform of tax administration policies, targeted fiscal incentives for agriculture and light manufacturing, implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), introduction of a program budgeting system, and the roadmap for the de-dollarization of the Liberian economy, Asset Declaration of the President and all those appointed, and audit of outgoing officials, etc.

Jarwolo notes that election promises are a social contract between voters and candidates and that President-Elect Boakai is under obligation to fulfill commitments made during the campaign.

He says immediately post-inauguration in January 2024, Naymote will commence tracking the government's performance against these promises for the next six years.

He emphasized that the objective for tracking them is to ensure that promises made to the Liberian people during the campaign period are fulfilled.

"Those promises if



accountability (2 promises), governance and transparency (2 promises), and reconciliation (1 promise), while pillar five covers Gender, Youth, Children and Social Protection under which eight (8) promises were tracked and documented, with focus on gender (1 promise), social protection (2 promises), and youth empowerment (5 promises).

Pillar Six of the UP manifesto, according to the report, is about Fight Against Corruption with

implemented, will not only benefit the Unity Party but it will benefit everyone, if we can hold President-Elect Boakai by his campaign promises, it will benefit all of us".

The Naymote boss reveals that prior to the campaign, he wrote all candidates, asking them to share their visions about the country and informing them that those promises will be tracked after winning the election and coming to power. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

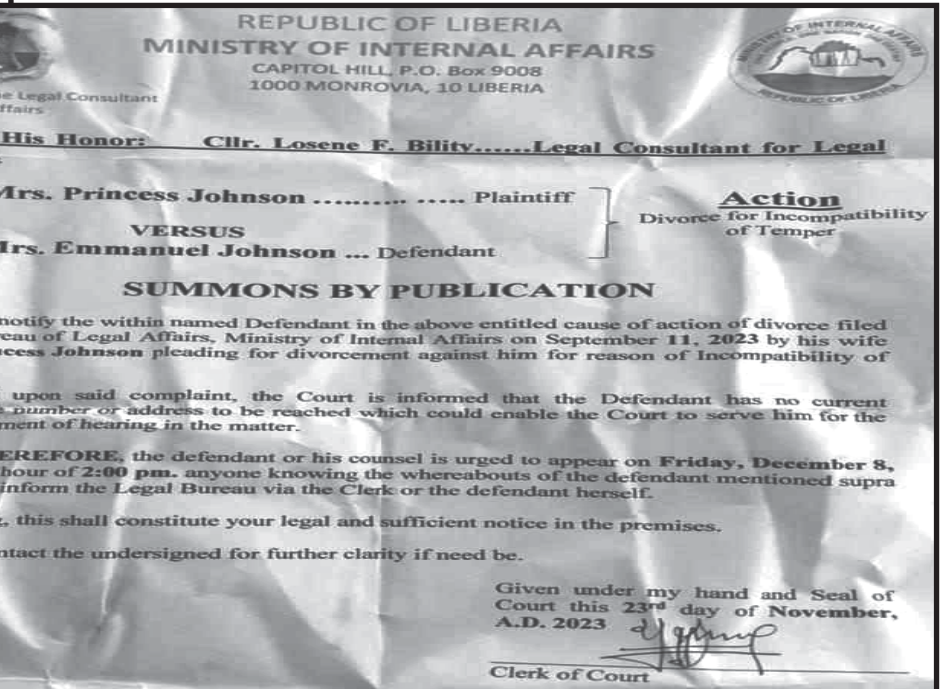
Starts from page 6 Red Cross launches RRBA

amount of eight million and the ECOWAS policy on Liberia was able to secure humanitarian grounds. Amb. some funding for Nkrumah explained said flood. According to him, the they need to build a good project was guided by a policy community so that they that the government should know how to manage or find a credible implanting reduce the risk associated partner for the project on with disaster. Also Speaking, behalf of the government. He the Secretary General of the said 46 communities were Liberian Red Cross Mr. affected, both in Montserrado Gregory Blamo thanked ECOWAS for the continued

For her part, ECOWAS support towards the Resident Representative to Liberian Red Cross and the Liberia Josephine Nkrumah Government of Liberia. Mr. said the project is in line with Blamo said the project is to

benefit the individuals that are affected. He said the money is not going to the community leaders or volunteers, but to individuals that are affected.

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Naymote captures UP campaign promises

By Bridgett Milton

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development releases its latest report, capturing campaign promises of President-elect and Unity Party Standard Bearer, Joseph Nyumah Boakai,

elect Boakai, Sr., who secured victory with 50.64% of the total votes cast from the 14 November Presidential Runoff Election, as announced by the National Elections Commission.

He says these promises

at Liberia's development", he explains.

He details that pillar one on Macroeconomic Stability and Infrastructural Development contains a total of fifty-eight (58) promises that have been



Executive Director Eddie Jarwolo

during the 2023 presidential election. Speaking at a news conference here Thursday, November 30, Executive Director, Eddie Jarwolo, said Naymote meticulously monitored and documented 93 campaign promises made by President-

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

"The manifesto outlined six pillars, each encompassing specific commitments aimed

documented.

"These promises spanned economic aspects (8 promises), financial management (10 promises), agriculture (12 promises),

▶ CONT'D page 10

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