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Continental News

Mauritius government suffers electoral wineful and we wish the country and the population good luck "said Ugandan TikTokers held for insulting first family electoral wipeout

NOVEMBER 13

he opposition Alliance of Change in Mauritius has won 60 of the 64 seats in parliament following Sunday's general election. Its leader, Navin Ramgoolam, 77, has been appointed prime minister.

figures posted online.

In response, the government issued a social media ban until after the election, although this led to an outcry and the decision was reversed within 24 hours.Ramgoolam, a former doctor, is beginning his third



The man he has replaced, Pravind Jugnauth, 62, already acknowledged on Monday that his Lepep alliance was heading for a "huge defeat". It now has two seats in parliament compared to the 42 after the 2019 election. Mauritius is known as one of Africa's most stable democracies, but this election was tainted by a phone-tapping scandal, with leaked recordings of public

period as the country's prime minister. He was also in the job for five years from 1995, and between 2005 and 2014. The Alliance for Change won 63% of the vote, the Lepep alliance got 28%.Ramgoolam said he was moved by the extent of people's support."The court of the people has delivered its verdict and a new Mauritius awakes," he told supporters.

"We must respect this choice...

and we wish the country and the population good luck," said Jugnauth.

The mood in the capital Port Louis reflected this changing tide, as people gathered on Monday in anticipation of results that signalled a fresh direction for the country. They were dancing and singing in the streets and blowing vuvuzelas. They also waved the country's flag and held fire crackers.

Ibrahim, who voted for the Alliance for Change told the BBC that "growing public dissatisfaction" was a major reason the ruling party lost. The cost-of-living crisis has been a major issue for many Mauritians, along with a growing concern about governance and corruption.

On the campaign trail, both parties promised to improve the lives of people on the islands.

Ramgoolam - whose father was a liberation hero - said he would increase pensions, introduce free transport and internet and reduce fuel costs.

Mauritius' former foreign minister and a member of the opposition coalition, Arvin Boolell, told the BBC's Newsday programme the election was a "victory of the people".

Voter turnout was about 80%, according to the electoral commission. The vote comes after a historic agreement in which the UK gave up sovereignty over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. BBC

wo Ugandans have been detained for allegedly insulting President Yoweri Museveni, the first lady Janet Museveni and the president's son Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba on the video-sharing platform, TikTok.

Magistrate Stella Maris Amabilis remanded 21-yearold David Ssengozi, alias Lucky Choice, and Isaiah Ssekagiri, 28, to Kigo prison until Wednesday when they will make an initial court appearance.

They are accused of hate speech and spreading malicious information against the first family and musicians linked to the governing National Resistance Movement (NRM).

Appearing in court on Monday, the two denied the charges.

They are jointly charged

magistrate ordered.

In September, police spokesman Rusoke Kituuma warned that abusing the president, who he termed the "fountain of honour", was an offence. He mentioned a TikToker with the name Lucky Choice who he said they were investigating. He was later arrested.

It is not clear which post led to the arrest, but a video released in April on TikTok on the page LuckyChoice70, with the title My First Enemies, criticised the first family using sexually explicit terms.

In July, a 24-year-old man was sentenced to six years in prison for insulting the president and the first family on a TikTok video. He had pleaded guilty and asked for forgiveness.

It comes as the government has been criticised for restricting people's ability to criticise actions by the state or its officials. The US government in a report last year



President Yoweri Museveni has been in power since 1986

World's longest detained journalist wins rights prize iournalist detained in or health, and many who were democratic reform and free

Eritrean prison without trial for 23 years has won a Swedish human rights prize for his commitment to freedom of expression. Dawit Isaak, who holds dual Eritrean-Swedish citizenship, was given the Edelstam Prize "for his... exceptional courage", the foundation behind the award said in a statement.

Dawit, who holds dual Eritrean-Swedish citizenship, was one of the founders of Setit, Eritrea's first independent newspaper. He was detained in 2001 after his paper published letters demanding democratic reforms. Dawit was among a group of about two dozen individuals, including senior cabinet ministers, members of parliament and independent journalists, arrested in a government

purge. Over the years, the Eritrean government has provided no information on his whereabouts

jailed alongside him are presumed dead.

The Edelstam Prize, awarded for exceptional courage in defending human rights, will be presented on 19 November in urging the Eritrean authorities Stockholm. Dawit's daughter, to disclose his location and Betlehem Isaak, will accept the prize on his behalf as he remains imprisoned in Eritrea. His work with the Setit included criticism of the government and calls for

expression, actions that led to his arrest in a crackdown on dissent.

The Edelstam Foundation has called for Dawit's release, allow him legal representation.

"Dawit Isaak is the longest detained journalist in the world. We are very concerned about his health and his before court and remanded of criminal punishments. in prison for the same offences.

Prosecutors allege that they posted information on TikTok meant to "ridicule degrade, demean, and promote hostility" against the first family and others

The magistrate allowed their detention after police said they were still making inquiries on the matter.

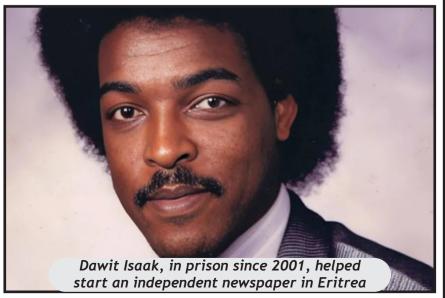
"You will come back on the 13 November, when the case will come up for mention. You are remanded at Kigo prison till then," the

with Julius Tayebwa, 19, who accused Uganda of restricting had already been brought internet freedom through the use

> Rights groups also regularly denounce the Ugandan authorities over violations of human rights and the freedom of expression.

> In 2022, award-winning Ugandan author Kakwenza Rukirabashaija was charged with two counts of "offensive communication" after making unflattering remarks about the president and his son on Twitter.

> He fled the country to Germany after spending a month in jail, where he said he had been tortured.BBC



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By Daron Acemoglu

EDITORIAL Liberia's dealing with ECOWAS

In less than six months, the Economic Community of West Africa is back in Liberia for mediation amid the current leadership crisis in the House of Representatives at the Capitol Building. Forty-three of the 73 members of the House are opting to oust Speaker Fonati J. Koffa, accusing him of conflict of interest and corruption, charges the Speaker has denied.

On the other hand, 30 lawmakers are standing with the Speaker, though no side has been able to obtain a quorum to conduct business in the main chamber, holding the business of the Liberian people hostage.

About three months ago, ECOWAS was in the country following a bloody standoff between riot officers of the Liberia National Police and partisans and supporters of the former ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) of Ex-president George Weah.

Though the regional bloc denied that its visit then had nothing to do with the fracas that left both police officers and stonethrowing rioters wounded, it came just after former President George Manneh Weah officially complained to the United Nations, African Union, and ECOWAS for alleged witch-hunt of his former officials by the government of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Mr. Weah also complained about the government denying him using the VIP Lounge at the Roberts International Airport, which caused his supporters to protest.

Despite the denial, the ECOWAS delegation met with President Boakai and former President Weah separately while in the

This time, the ECOWAS Parliamentary Mediation Mission is visiting Liberia to mediate between the factions in the House.

On November 8, 2024, the Economic Community of West African States sent a formal communication to embattled Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa, informing him and his colleagues about [the presence of its Parliamentary Mediation Mission in the country. The mediation, scheduled to take place from November 11 to 15, 2024, aims to address the ongoing political impasse within the 55th Legislature, specifically in the House of I Representatives, that has stalled legislative work.

But how does Liberia, a member country, want to work with the regional bloc when, in one instance, the Government of Liberia arrogantly ignored a ruling from the ECOWAS Court and, in another instance, it seeks the body's intervention in its political impasse?

The House of Representatives under the former 54th Legislature impeached Supreme Court of Liberia Justice Kabineh Ja'neh. Ja'neh filed a complaint before the Court and received a ruling in his favor, calling for reparation. However, the Government of Liberia has yet to respond accordingly.

In its ruling, the regional court ordered the Government of Liberia to award Justice Ja'neh US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice suffered in violation of his rights. However, the government has yet to pay.

Now it needs the intervention of the very body to resolve the crippling crisis in the House of Representatives that is stalling public hearings of the National Budget, leading President Boakai to beg the legislature for additional days to submit the budget.

It is important that we, as a country, learn to treat international bodies that we are a part of with respect to sustain such relationships because we will always need them, as in the current case, especially a body to which we have sent two justices to serve. Yet, we have continued to ignore its decisions.

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Trump Shock Is he Democrats' Fault

OSTON - The outcome of the US now that Democratic elites are so culturally Democratic loss than a triumph for Donald middle class. Trump. The Democrats lost not because US failed to win them back.

South. The problem was already obvious after and automation. 2016, which is part of the reason why Biden

The Biden economy did deliver for the working class by creating jobs and strengthening the US industrial base. Wages at the bottom rose toward the views of American workers on cities - never internalized workers' cultural and economic concerns. Instead, Democrats often seemed to be lecturing or scolding them.

relationship between the Democrats and American workers: If a member of the Democratic elite is stranded in an unfamiliar city, would he prefer to spend the next four hours talking to a Midwestern American worker with a high-school diploma, or to a professional with a postgraduate education from Mexico, China, or Indonesia? Whenever I pose this question to colleagues and friends, they all assume it's the latter.

With her emphasis on the middle class and Reproductive freedom may be a critical issue, products. but it was never going to win over the working class, certainly not working-class men.

Silicon Valley starting to leave the Democrats coastal elites who have run the party aground. (ironically), there is no better time to change course.

presidential election was more of a disconnected from workers and much of the

President Joe Biden stayed in the race too long, The great tragedy is that while Biden's agenda and not because Kamala Harris is unqualified, had subtly started paying off for workers but because they have been losing workers and (proving that globalization and rising inequality are not just blind forces of nature), the next administration's policies will almost certainly The party ceased to be a home for American support plutocrats. High tariffs on imports from workers long ago, owing to its support for digital China will not bring back jobs that have left the disruption, globalization, large immigrant country, and they certainly won't help keep inflows, and "woke" ideas. Nowadays, those inflation in check. While Biden's pandemic-era most likely to vote for Democrats are the highly policies (coming on top of Trump's own stimulus educated, not manual workers. In the United measures) did fuel inflation, the US Federal States, as elsewhere, democracy will suffer if Reserve managed to restore price stability. But if the center left does not become more pro- Trump pressures the Fed for more rate cuts (to boost his own popularity), inflation could return.

While the Democrats did win some previous Moreover, Trump's championing of the crypto elections with support from Silicon Valley, sector will probably allow for more scams and minorities, portions of organized labor, and the bubbles, while doing nothing for American professional class in large cities, this was never workers or consumers. His promised tax cuts will sustainable. Such a coalition is alienating to primarily help corporations and the stock workers and the middle class in much of the market, with any resulting increase in country, especially in smaller cities and the investment going largely toward the tech sector

adopted a pro-worker industrial strategy in More broadly, the next four years of technology policy could turn out to be a disaster for workers. While Biden issued a major executive order on AI, this was merely a first step. If not regulated properly, AI will not only wreak havoc on many industries; it will also lead to pervasive rapidly, and policies started moving a little manipulation of consumers and citizens (just look at social media), and its true potential as a immigration, protectionism, support for tool that can help workers will go unrealized. By unions, and public investment. But the party supporting large companies and venture establishment - especially the highly educated capitalists in Silicon Valley, the Trump activists concentrated in prosperous coastal administration will fuel the trend toward laborreplacing automation.

Trump's threat to US institutions also poses a big risk for workers. It is no secret that he will Here is my own test for understanding the further weaken democratic norms, introduce uncertainty into policymaking, deepen polarization, and undermine trust in institutions like the courts and the Department of Justice (which he will try to weaponize). This behavior will not lead immediately to economic collapse, and it may even encourage some investment by his favored companies (including the fossil-fuel industry) in the short run. But in the medium term (say, ten years or so), weaker institutions and loss of public trust in the courts will take a toll on investment and efficiency.

patriotism, Harris initially seemed ready to Such institutional weaknesses are always address this problem. If credible, a true effort economically costly, and they could prove truly to win back workers may well have won the disastrous in an economy that depends on election. But by the end, the campaign had innovation and complex, advanced technologies, centered around the issues that mattered most which require greater contractual support, trust to the base. The biggest attempt to broaden the between parties, and confidence in the rule of coalition came from using Liz Cheney (a law. Without expert-led regulation, much of the Republican former congresswoman who has economy - from health care and education to been banished from her party) to appeal to online business and consumer services - will be suburban women on the issue of abortion, awash in snake oil, rather than high-quality

If the economy can no longer foster innovation and productivity growth, wages will stagnate. On the economy, Democrats can talk about Yet even in the face of such adverse outcomes, opportunity and jobs until they turn blue, but many workers will not return to the Democrats unless they distance themselves from the tech unless the party truly takes their interests on and global business elite, such messaging will board. That means not only adopting policies not translate into a real pro-worker agenda - that support workers' incomes, but also speaking and workers will see right through it. With even their language, however foreign it may be to the

Daron Acemoglu, a 2024 Nobel laureate in economics and Institute Professor of Economics But a redirection will be difficult now that at MIT, is co-author (with Simon Johnson) of Trump and J.D. Vance's Republican Party has Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle become the main home for workers - especially Over Technology and Prosperity (PublicAffairs, those in manufacturing and smaller cities - and 2023).

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By Hippolyte Fofack

By J. Bradford DeLong

Misinformation Decided the US Election

ERKELEY - Three days after Donald Trump's victory in this year's US presidential election, my friend Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research tweeted: "I hate to put a lot of highly paid pundits out of business, but look at this f**king graph." The accompanying image was an Ipsos infographic headlined: "Misinformed views on immigration, crime, the economy correlated with ballot choice."

In a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken in early October, potential voters who knew or assumed that violent crime was not at or near all-time highs favored Kamala Harris by a 65-percentage-point margin, whereas those who were misinformed broke for Donald Trump by a 26-point margin. Likewise, among those who understood that inflation had declined over the past year, Harris was up by 53 points, whereas Trump was up by 19 points among the misinformed. Among those who knew that the stock market was at an alltime high, Harris was up by 20; and among those who knew that southern border crossings had declined, Harris was up by 59.

What are we dealing with here? Do Trump voters express misinformed beliefs about violent crime rates, the inflation rate, the stock market, and border crossings because they are Trump voters, or are they Trump voters because they truly believe these falsehoods and are genuinely fearful for their country's future? If it is the latter, one must ask how they came to hold these false beliefs. And once we understand that, we need to figure out what to do about an information ecosystem that hoodwinked millions of people and turned our politics into a clown show.

At this point, the people who want to misinform you will show up and cry: "But there were lots of border crossings! There was a violent crime wave!" (Never mind that it started under Trump). "Inflation was high!" (Actually, it was moderate: the peak annual rate was 9% in the year ending June 2022, but 3% in the year ending June 2023, and 2.4% in the year ending September 2024.) "Okay, but people get confused when asked about complex economic matters! What they really meant was that prices had risen and had not come down!" (As if deflation would help anyone.)

Of course, the same people will be quiet about the stock market, because everybody knows that it is at or near record highs. Equities indices are how the mainstream media keep score when it comes to reporting on the economy. News bites about new record highs are frequent and ubiquitous.

The same people also will be quiet if you probe their beliefs. I will grant that people might not know how fast things have changed or know the difference between high inflation and higher prices. But everyone knows that you can always pan a camera to find a few examples of just about anything in the world, depending on what you are looking for. At the same time, most Americans who look around their own neighborhoods or check their retirement accounts will know that they and their real-world friends and colleagues are doing just fine. Their 401(k)s are way up, and no Haitians are barbecuing cats.

This brings us back to the question of whether people are misinformed because they want to be. If Trump asks his supporters whether they are going to believe him or their lying eyes, will they choose him? Or are we dealing with the work of some bad actors who have devoted considerable effort to bringing about this state of affairs?

If the answer is that more than half of the electorate wants to be misinformed, America - and indeed human civilization - is in serious trouble. This would imply that what tens of millions of Americans really want is a greenlight to hate their fellow citizens. But if we are confronting the work of cynical bad actors, that at least gives us some hope for the future. It would mean that the bulk of Trump supporters are good-hearted, well-meaning people who worry that the country is heading in the wrong direction, even if they themselves are doing fine. They voted for Trump more out of love than hate.

In that case, the task for Americans who want a healthier politics and a better society is clear. Unfortunately for Democrats, though, it is a task that must carried out by Republicans. In our broken information ecosystem, nothing that Democrats say will be believed by those who need to hear it. Well-meaning, patriotic Republicans need to look at themselves and adopt the project that Viscount Sherbrooke articulated after the 1867 extension of the franchise in Britain: We - or, rather, you - must educate our masters.

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Inequality Is Destroying Mental Health

RUSSELS/YORK - According to an Ipsos poll conducted in 2018, 27% of global respondents said that mental health was one of the biggest health problems. When the poll was repeated this year, that figure had risen to 45%, with mental health overtaking cancer and obesity as the top concern.

They are right to worry. A 2023 study found that half the world's population will develop a mental-health disorder in their lifetime. But as of 2020, average government spending on mental health represented only 2.1% of health expenditures.

While policymakers should increase spending on mental health, prevention is better than treatment. Addressing the problem at its root could mean implementing programs aimed at reducing poverty, which, given the relentless strain of economic insecurity, is a major risk factor. But a recent United Nations report (which one of us prepared) found that relative poverty (how an individual fares against others) fuels mental illness more than absolute poverty (being unable to afford the essentials) does. This suggests that reducing income inequality would have a greater impact on mental-health outcomes.

The UN report comes six years after one of us co-authored The Inner Level. That book demonstrated that people living in more unequal countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, suffer more from chronic stress, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and addiction than those in more equal societies, including Norway, Finland, and Japan.

With income inequality at alarmingly high levels, and mental health currently a bigger concern than cancer, governments - especially in wealthy countries - evidently need a reminder that the prosperity of the few is not to the benefit of all. As the gap between rich and poor has widened, individuals increasingly value themselves and others in terms of material wealth, driving a mentally damaging race to the top.

This ever-deepening division between haves and have-nots fuels status anxiety about how one is seen or judged by others, releasing a barrage of stress hormones. People compete to prove their worth by buying more stuff, even if it means going into debt. All this erodes the social capital and weakens the supportive environments that help people cope with stress.

In this bleak landscape of inequity, performative consumption, and isolation, it is hardly surprising that people find themselves more prone to depression, anxiety, and other mental-health problems. And while those at the bottom of the social hierarchy suffer the most, they are not alone. The rich are also more likely to experience status anxiety, as well as worse outcomes on almost every other quality-of-life indicator, the more unequal a society is.

Over the past 40 years, high-income countries have achieved economic growth by privatizing public assets, giving tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, chipping away at workers' rights, and implementing austerity measures. But these efforts to boost GDP have nearly always made life worse for the poor. Reaching a certain level of affluence has triggered spiraling inequality in many countries, canceling out the gains in well-being that economic growth is supposed to deliver and pushing the rungs of the social ladder farther apart.

Money can buy many things, but health is not one of them. If advanced economies are serious about tackling their frighteningly high rates of psychopathology, their governments must focus on reducing inequality, not chasing GDP growth that only makes the rich richer. Raising taxes on multinationals and the wealthy to fund universal social protection and improved public amenities would be a good place to start.

The world has become more open to conversations about mental health in recent years, but the same is not always true about taxing the rich. Given that it could be one of the most promising ways to address the growing mental-health crisis, policymakers must not shy away from the debate.





A Call on the Government to Implement Article 10 of the Liberian Constitution

In Chapter II: General Principles of National Policy, the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia states in Article 10 that "the Republic shall ensure the publication and dissemination of this Constitution throughout the Republic and the teaching of its principles and provisions in all institutions of learning in Liberia". Since its passage, the Government of the Republic of Liberia has failed to fulfil and fully implement this part of the Organic Law of the Land. Therefore, several Liberians including scholars or researchers do not seem to understand what the Constitution says or entails. Children that were born when the 1986 Constitution was formulated and ratified by the people through a referendum are now about 38 years old. Some people blame the war for this, but this writer disagrees because the war ended in 2003 with the election of Africa's first woman Head of State and Government, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in

The Liberian Constitution has not been fully disseminated by the Government, AS I see it. Those who possess printed or online copies of this Constitution either purchased it for themselves or got it through other means. The Constitution should be made a compulsory subject or course of study by the Liberian Government. This might help to remedy the knowledge or constitutional awareness gap. H.E Joseph Nyuma Boakia, President of the Republic of Liberia indicated that "there will be no business as usual" (Boakai, 2024). This agrees that there should be no bad business as usual. One old business that should not be a usual thing is the Government's failure to fully implement this Constitutional Article or National Policy-dissemination and teaching of the Constitution of the Republic in all institutions of learning. This Constitutional clause might be simple, but it is very essential for state building of the Nation-State and the bridge of existing knowledge gap.

Constitutional law is a body of law which defines the role, powers, and structure of different entities within a <u>state</u>, namely, the <u>executive</u>, the <u>parliament</u> or <u>legislature</u>, and the judiciary. It prescribes the basic rights of citizens and, in federal countries such as the United States, Nigeria and Canada, the relationship between the central government and state, provincial, or territorial governments. Not all nation-states have codified constitutions, though all such states have a 'jus commune', or law of the and, that may consist of a variety of imperative and consensual rules. These may include customary law, conventions, statutory law, judge-made law, or international rules, or norms, etc. Constitutional law deals with the fundamental principles by which the government exercises its authority. In some instances, these principles grant specific powers to the government, such as the power to impose taxes and spend for the welfare of the population. Other times, constitutional principles act to place limits on what the government can do, such as prohibiting the arrest of an individual or a group without sufficient cause, etc.

In most nations, such as the Liberia, <u>United States, India</u>, Nigeria, <u>Singapore</u>, etc., constitutional law is based on the text of a document ratified at the time the nation came into being. Other constitutions, notably <u>that of the United Kingdom</u>, rely heavily on uncodified rules, as several legislative statutes and constitutional <u>conventions</u>, etc. The 1847 Constitution was suspended by the Military Junta on April 12, 1980, when the Military overthrew the Government then led by former President William R. Tolbert, Jr. The Military later transformed itself into a civilian government and enacted the 1986 Constitution of the Republic.

As I SEE IT, there is a need for the Liberian National Legislature to allocate resources in the National Budget to print and disseminate the Liberian Constitution. Some Non-Governmental Organizations in Liberia could and should take an advantage of this national gap to raise funds for the education of Liberians on their Constitution. The National Legislature and the President as Head of State need to ensure that this Constitution is taught in all institutions of learning in the Republic of Liberia. This is paramount because so many literate Liberians who should be able to understand and nterpret the Liberian Constitution are simply unable to do so. Some Leaders in Liberia do not also understand the Constitution. Such people are found in all branches of the Government, the academic community and anywhere else in the Country. This is a national problem and catastrophe that must be urgently addressed. At the primary and secondary school level, the Ministry of Education needs to introduce and enforce teaching of the Liberian Constitution. As part of this subject, Liberian Civics could be lumped in and taught. At higher education and technical schools' levels, there should be a national enforcement of the compulsory teaching of the Constitution of Liberia. AS I SEE IT, the Liberian Government needs to take an Affirmation Action to ensure that Article 10 of the Liberian Constitution is fully implemented and enforced.

About the Author: Prof. Tom Kaydor, Jr. holds a PhD from the Department of Government and European Studies, the New University, Slovenia where he researched International Development and Diplomacy (with Security Aspects). His dissertation topic was 'Reconceptualizing Africa's Regional Integration for Peace and Sustainable Development.He also holds a Diploma in Leading Economic Growth from the Kennedy Graduate School, Harvard University, USA; and he holds other diplomas and certificates in professional fields from Italy, UK, Pakistan, China and Israel, Prof. Kaydor is equally an Adjunct Professor of Development Studies at the AME University Graduate School. Dr. Kaydor is an evidence-based researcher, a blogger, a columnist, and a published author. One can reach him via (kaydorth@ul.edu.lr or thkaydor@gmail.com).

What's driving Liberia's foreign policy?

Recent reports that Russia has announced plans to open an embassy in Liberia as part of its effort to expand its diplomatic footprint across Africa have ignited a new debate and raised questions about what is driving Liberia's foreign

In plain English, Liberia's foreign policy is firmly rooted in its political ideology of liberalism, democracy, and capitalism. It is modeled after the pattern adopted by the United States.

However, a foreign policy generally is a compendium of different strategies a country uses to guide its relationships with other countries and international organizations influenced by interests.

Mutual interests are expressed in every relationship. How the parties maximize those expressed interests is left to them individually.

A bilateral relationship between two countries is established through diplomatic interactions, trade agreements, and cultural exchanges to enhance mutual benefits. These mutual benefits are spelled out.

Thus, countries should have clear-cut goals or agendas before entering any bilateral relationship; they should know what they want and who to befriend to get it.

These clear-cut goals should be tied to the country's national development agenda, which should be the driving force for entering into bilateral relationships with strategic partners.

National Agendas are long-term plans whose implementation spans ten years and requires periodic updating and revisions. They include a set of national indicators in education, healthcare, economy, police and security, housing, infrastructure, and government services.

The ultimate purpose of National Agenda is to achieve sustainable development through a transformation program. It promotes an inclusive environment that integrates all segments of society.

This is where strategic partners come in, and choosing these partners strategically to target individual pilar within a national development agenda is very important. Rather than a country spreading its net or its leader traveling around with a laundry list of development needs and wishing for any country to come to its aid, it is not strategic. It leaves donor partners confused. Each strategic partner has its unique strength.

Therefore, when deciding to enter a bilateral relationship with another country, it is important to know what you want from that country. Your interests and having a clear-cut goal for that relationship are more important than wasting resources.

For example, the United States could be a strategic partner in energy and electricity, Germany for Hospitals and vocational schools, China for roads and bridges, Isreal for security and counter-terrorism training, Education the United Kingdom, Japan for airports and technology, The Netherlands for seaports and so on.

Meanwhile, in the absence of a clear-cut national agenda and targeting strategic partners to serve your country's agenda, such a bilateral relationship is a waste of state resources.

It is critical to note that a national agenda without a clear, developed roadmap to achieve it is mere words on paper. Knowing what you want is one thing, but knowing what to do to achieve it and committing to that is another.

It is good for a country to expand its diplomatic footprint across nations, but it should do so based on its interests. What can this country offer my country, and how does it contribute to my country's development agenda? Are key questions to consider when entering diplomatic relationships the cost-benefit factors.

Liberia's national vision should be a working tool for all administrations and a desire to implement the right programs to achieve it. This vision should be legislated to compel every government to commit to such an agenda by law. The indicators within the vision should be stand-alone items in the budget. Liberia's National Budget has been recurrent expenditure-based and not development-oriented year on year, hindering progress in ach

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UL Launches Postgraduate Diploma | We come without favouritism and Certificate in Climate Action

apitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia Nov. 9, 2024 | The School of Environmental Studies and Climate Change at the University of Liberia (UL) has launched a Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate Program in Climate Action. The school has also dedicated a new

and Equity in Climate Action. Laboratory are under the pilot and a Certificate in Practice and Action-Based Approaches Launch of a Permanent MRV for

UL Graduate School Building on remarks at the ceremony, UL Capitol Hill and is accepting Acting President Dr. Al-Hassan applications for Conteh thanked the admission. Applicants are Environmental Protection required to have a minimum Agency (EPA) and NovaSphere qualification of a bachelor's



National University Climate Action Laboratory (NUCAL) on the Capitol Hill Campus of the University. The ceremonies took place on Friday, November 8, 2024.

The school offers one Postgraduate diploma in Climate Action and three Postgraduate Certificates.

They include a Certificate in Scientific and Systems Thinking in Climate Action, a Certificate in Policy, Ethics, degree, and an official transcript demonstrating strong academic performance.

Applicants are also required to submit a written statement of interest and passion for climate action, and two letters of recommendation from professional and academic references.

The launch of the Postgraduate program and the dedication of the new National University Climate Action

project "Development and in Climate Action, respectively. Climate Action for Tertiary The school is situated in the Education. "Delivering brief for their support of the UL, especially in the direction of Climate Action.

Dr. Conteh reminded the participants that the UL had been concerned with climate action long ago, but the focus was mostly placed on the environment, resources, and ecology.

He described them as the epistemology that was driven by many UL faculty then.

Dr. Conteh emphasized the importance of the postgraduate program and the NUCAL laboratory to students interested in the study of climate action.

He expressed optimism that the UL, through the Board of Trustees, will take all the necessary steps to support and sustain the program following a presentation to them the same day.

EPA Executive Director Dr. Emmamuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo launched the program and cut the ribbon to the laboratory on behalf of the Government of Liberia.

CONT'D ON PAGE 11

More protests at NEC

-Over US\$8 Million

The National Elections Commission is far from enjoying peace, as protests after protests engulf the Commission over a balance of US\$8 million from its US\$53 million disbursed for the

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

onrovia, Liberia, still engulfed by protests, as staffers demand hazard benefits from the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections.

Staffers rampaged here on Monday, November 11, 2024, on Capitol Hill, demanding answers from NEC leadership spearheaded by Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, about balance US\$8 Million of US\$53 million allocated for the 2023 electoral process.

Over hundreds aggrieved NEC workers held placards, while chanting slogans, demanding resignation of Chairperson Davidetta Browne- Lansanah, for what they term as unfairness,

corruption and lack of

Davidetta go; Davidetta go; we tired", the protesters November 12, 2024 demanded. "Staffers' - The National insurance benefits must be Elections Commission (NEC) is paid", they chanted. Reading a petition, they accused Chairperson Browne-Lansanah of misappropriation of funds from government coffers intended for their benefits.

In response, the NEC Boss reiterated that the remaining funds have been returned to government coffers, as is constitutionally required of public entities.

Dispute over the remaining US\$8 Million at the NEC has sent shock wave thru the Commission with Chairperson Browne-Lansanah and her Co-Chair at loggerheads.

The NEC Boss had explained that the money was declared to the government in line with the Public Financial Management (PFM) law after the elections were held. However, Co-Chairperson P. Teplah Reeves, argues that the remaining funds should be used to address pressing issues at the Commission, instead. Editing by Jonathan Browne



-ECOWAS Mediators sav

The delegation is in the Country to mediate the leadership crisis that has engulfed the House of Representatives for roughly a month now.

By Lewis S. Teh

onrovia, November 13, 2024: A high-power **V** Imediation delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) no favoritism in settling a political crisis among Liberian lawmakers.

The delegation is in Monrovia to resolve a longstanding political stand-off between embattled House Speaker Fonati Koffa and 43 rebel lawmakers him.

The ECOWAS Parliamentary Mediators have informed the leadership of the Liberian Senate in a consultative meeting that they come without favoritism to settle the drama at the House of Representatives.

2024, a six-member ECOWAS delegation concluded a Senate.

leadership of the Liberian Senate for granting them the opportunity to interact and discuss. She further indicated that they are here to listen and hear from the Senate to ease their process of being says it has come to Monrovia with here. "We have been instructed to come here today in Liberia in order to seek more clarity about the situation prevailing currently at t h e House Representatives.""Also, we have come to facilitate mediation between both parties."

Madam Ibrahima explained that who are seeking to dethrone ECOWAS is like a family or, better still, like a human body.

> "When a single finger is sick, it's like the whole body is sick. And it's our agreement that when one member is sick, we have to care because it's a general issue," she explained.

"I would like to say that we come On Tuesday, November 12, here without any favoritism. We are not also here to give blessings."

Receiving the ECOWAS consultative meeting with the delegation, Senate Pro-tempore leadership of the Liberian and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence The delegation is in the expressed appreciation and



leadership crisis that has coming. engulfed the House of month now.

During the briefing with the Senate leadership, the ECOWAS delegation's Speaker spoke through an interpreter. She provided the importance of the dialogue in French.

Senate, the head of delegation and speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Memounatu Ibrahima extended warmest gratitude from the ECOWAS Parliament to the Liberian

Senate for the hospitality accorded the delegation since its arrival in Liberia. According to her, the presence of the delegation in Liberia is predicated upon a mandate from the ECOWAS

Parliamentary and the ECOWAS

Commission.

Country to mediate the gratitude to the delegation for

According to her, this issue at Representatives for roughly a the House of Representatives has the potential of affecting the working of the Liberian Senate in extension, and the Executive.

> "For and on behalf of the Liberian Senate, I want to take this time and welcome you to Liberia."

"We are happy that you are here Briefing the leadership of the and it's important to us because we are all a part of it."

Madam Karnga-Lawrence said these are the kinds of dialogue that help with peaceful elections.

"So, we appreciate [it]. We have a bicameral legislature, the senate and the House of Representatives with separate rules," she disclosed.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Majority bloc condemns vandalism at Capit

Rebel lawmakers calling themselves majority bloc here are Delta Architectural & angry by removal of chairs from the Joint Chamber in the Construction Company (DACC) Legislature where they have been gathering, by unknown on August 16, 2024, persons, describing the action as vandalism.

By Bridgett Milton

onrovia, Liberia, November 12, 2024-Majority members of the House of Representatives have strongly condemned alleged vandalism in the Joint Address by the President and conduct of joint business has lost its chairs to unknown individuals. Since the fight for the removal of Speaker Fonati Koffa, the joint chamber has been used by a majority bloc of



Chambers of the 55th Legislature where they have been gathering for session.

Early Monday morning lawmakers and staff of the Legislature woke up to news of the joint chambers being vandalized, with all chairs removed.

The Joint Chambers that usually hosts both the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives during State of the Nation

43 lawmakers to conduct their session.

Embattled Koffa had condemned the majority bloc gathering, terming it as illegal. According to the Chairperson on Modernization, Rep. Prescilla A. Cooper, who is on the side of the embattled Speaker, the reported removal of chairs from the joint astactics. chambers may be part of an ongoing renovation of the main chamber.

communicated with Representative Priscilla A. Cooper, regarding repairs of the roof of the Joint Chamber and also outlined plans to conduct repairs from September 1-15, 2024, subject to approval.

The communication also indicated that further renovation work on the Joint Chamber would commence once the rainy season ends, with completion targeted by January 15, 2025, in preparation for the State of the Nation Address.In a release issued by the majority bloc Chair, Nimba County district #5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar, said this is a blatant attempt to disrupt the House's functioning.

According to him, the removal is intended to prevent the majority bloc from conducting business for the Liberian people, lamenting that it is undemocratic and unacceptable.

The Majority members said they are committed to the rule of law and democratic principles, reaffirming their resolve to continue with legislative proceedings, undeterred by what they term

They note that such unlawful

Senators bid farewell to Sumo Kupee

Born in 1959, the late Senator Kupee served the Lofa County Legislative Caucus from the 52nd to the 53rd Legislature.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, November 13, 2024: Past and current members of the Liberian Senate, along with other government officials, bid farewell to former Lofa County Senator Sumo Kupee on Tuesday, 12, November the Rotunda of the Capitol Building to bid farewell to Kupee, a former Senate Committee Chair on Ways, Means, Finance, and Budget. The late Kupee served the Lofa County Legislative Caucus from the 52nd to the 53rd Legislature.

He made an impeccable impact on the budget committee as well as on other bills.

Mr. Kupee was born on December 20, 1959, and died on October 21, 2024, at his residence in Brewerville, outside Monrovia. During the program commemorating the Lying in State of the late senator, members of the 55th Liberian Senate, along with family members, friends, and sympathizers, assembled at the Capitol.

lives.Delivering the tribute on behalf of the 55th Liberian Senate, President Pro-tempore Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence tearfully reflected on the life and contribution of the fallen senator. Madam Karnga-Lawrence described him as a great asset to Lofa and Liberia.

2024. Sympathizers gathered at Pro-tempore Lawrence added that when the Legislature recently had issues about budget alteration, ex-Senator Kupee took his time off to advise and help guide her throughout that process.

> According to her, he was not just their colleague but a professor, mentor, and advisor.

> She recounted that during her period of orientation at the Senate, Senator Kupee's office was where she went for knowledge.

> "The Senate is deeply saddened by the death of former Senator Kupee. Our hearts break many times we gather in this rotunda to [bid] farewell to one of our colleagues," she said.

"Senator Kupee was just here a few months ago. Today, we are here to say farewell to this man who impacted lives."Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence stated that the Senate will dearly miss him.



Govt. begins vehicle inspection today

Vehicle owners and taxi drivers are bracing themselves here, as the Government of Liberia commences vigorous inspection of vehicles plying roads across the country to ensure compliance with traffic regulations.

Ministry of Transport in the same inspection process, collaboration with the Liberia including checks on license National Fire Service (LNFS), plates, vehicle registration, Liberia Revenue Authority and insurance, among other (LRA), Drug Enforcement requirements. According to Agency (DEA), and the Liberian him, the exercise is meant to Immigration Service jointly enhancing road safety and begin vigorous vehicle ensuring compliance with inspection today, Wednesday, transportation regulations November 13, 2024 at key locations across Monrovia.

Speaking Tuesday at MICAT press briefing, the head of the inspection team and Assistant Minister of Transport for Land and Rail, Zolu Kokolu Duyann, said the aim is to assist the Liberia National Police in enforcing traffic laws.The Inspector General at the Ministry of Transport, Africanous M. Fahnbulla says the exercise is a joint effort, involving

stakeholders. Mr. Fahnbulleh says regardless

onrovia, Liberia, of compliance status, all November 13, 2024 -The vehicles will be subjected to across the country.

He adds that focus is also on evaluating road worthiness of vehicles, fire safety standards, and adherence to traffic laws.

Also speaking, Col. James Blackee, Inspector General of the Liberia National Fire Service, notes that they will be inspecting vehicles for fire extinguishers and other essential safety equipment.

The officials emphasized the importance of maintaining body of the deceased while the deep sympathy. musical band played.

were not seen at the program. Nobody showed up when the Master of Ceremony called the House of Representatives to deliver a tribute. Rev. Sagaciou A. Jallah, Acting Chaplin General at the Liberian Senate said the absence of the spirit from the body is best known to God. However, he argued that life is sometimes short due to lifestyle, sins, and perception.ut he urged that the

of obedience and honor God. He further urged them to

performance results of

Dressed in dominant black and To the family, church, and people white, they marched with the of Lofa, she expressed the Senate's

Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Speaking on behalf of the Lofa County Legislative Caucus, Meanwhile, members of the Senator Joseph Jallah said that to 55th House of Representatives pay a tribute to a great man is difficult.

Senator Jallah noted that the death of the ex-senator is difficult

to explore. He termed the ex-senator as a man of tremendous energy, whether in

the class or deliberating on bills.

He assured that the Caucus would stand for the country and the people of Lofa that he fought for.

Jallah indicated that Kupee had left a very big shoe behind.

"Besides knowing Senator Kupee congregation exhibit the spirit from the University of Liberia, where he was a professor of Economics, and I was a lecturer in impact society positively Liberian society, when he became because those things are the senator, he added value and drew



r'rançais

Cummings alerte sur la crise à la Chambre des représentants : une menace pour la démocratie et l'investissement

lexander B. insisté sur la primauté de l'État la deuxième fois, la National Congress (ANC), a lancé un avertissement face à la crise qui paralyse la Chambre des représentants.

développement économique dépendent fondamentalement présentation du projet de budget national, en d'experts sur la crise.

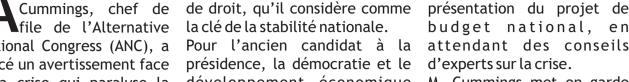
M. Cummings met en garde contre les effets de cette crise sur la confiance des investisseurs étrangers et des donateurs, estimant que le mépris de l'État de droit pourrait ternir l'image du Liberia. « La politique, sans l'assise de la loi, conduit au chaos et compromet le développement », a-t-il souligné.

Un appel au respect des institutions et au dialogue

M. Cummings a également exhorté les parlementaires à placer les intérêts du pays et du peuple libérien au-dessus de toute autre considération, en recherchant une solution conforme à la Constitution, qu'ils ont tous juré de défendre.

Cette crise, poursuit-il, exige une réponse coordonnée de toutes les branches du gouvernement, qui doivent assumer leurs responsabilités constitutionnelles sans aggraver la situation. « Il incombe à l'Exécutif et au Judiciaire de favoriser une résolution plutôt que de complexifier la crise », a-t-il ajouté.

M. Cummings a rappelé que dans un monde



du respect de la Constitution et Il estime que cette impasse menace non seulement la des lois. « Ces valeurs

stabilité du Liberia mais aussi l'avenir de sa démocratie.

Dans une déclaration diffusée lundi, M. Cummings a qualifié ce blocage au sein de la Chambre basse de « défi majeur » pour l'ordre constitutionnel du pays. Bien qu'il reconnaisse le droit de chaque camp à défendre sa position, il a

essentielles, » a-t-il affirmé, « ne doivent jamais être sacrifiées aux intérêts partisans. »

Depuis plusieurs semaines, les sessions législatives sont entravées par un bloc majoritaire qui s'oppose à la présidence de Koffa, conduisant à des réunions parallèles et bloquant le fonctionnement normal de l'Assemblée. En réponse à cette paralysie, le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a dû reporter, pour

Éditorial

Crise politique : La CEDEAO de retour en Libéria

our la deuxième fois en moins de six mois, la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) est de retour au Liberia pour une mission de médiation. Cette fois, l'organisation intervient dans un contexte de crise de leadership à la Chambre des représentants, où 43 des 73 députés réclament la destitution du président de l'Assemblée, Fonati J. Koffa, l'accusant de conflit d'intérêts et de corruption accusations qu'il dément fermement.

De l'autre côté, 30 parlementaires se rangent derrière le président Koffa, mais aucun des deux camps n'a jusqu'ici réussi à obtenir le quorum requis pour dénouer l'impasse et reprendre les travaux parlementaires, paralysant ainsi les affaires publiques du pays.

La CEDEAO avait déjà déployé une mission au Liberia il y a trois mois, après de violents affrontements entre les forces antiémeutes de la police nationale libérienne et les partisans du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), ancien parti au pouvoir de l'ex-président George Weah. Bien que la CEDEAO ait nié tout lien entre cette visite et les violences, elle est intervenue peu après que M. Weah eut officiellement saisi les Nations Unies, l'Union africaine et la CEDEAO, accusant le gouvernement du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai de persécuter ses anciens collaborateurs. L'ancien président avait également dénoncé le refus du gouvernement de lui accorder l'accès au salon VIP de l'aéroport international Roberts, déclenchant des manifestations de ses partisans.

Malgré ses démentis, la délégation de la CEDEAO avait rencontré séparément le président Boakai et M. Weah, marquant ainsi un effort pour désamorcer les tensions.

Aujourd'hui, la CEDEAO a envoyé sa mission parlementaire de médiation pour tenter de résoudre le blocage au sein de la Chambre des représentants. Le 8 novembre 2024, la CEDEAO a officiellement notifié au président Koffa et à ses collègues la présence de cette mission au Liberia, avec pour objectif de faciliter un dialogue entre les factions en conflit et d'apaiser l'impasse politique qui paralyse la 55e législature.

Mais une question de fond demeure : comment le Liberia, en tant que membre de la CEDEAO, peut-il à la fois ignorer de facon flagrante une décision de la Cour de la CEDEAO, tout en demandant son intervention pour régler ses crises politiques internes?

Sous la 54e législature, la Chambre des représentants avait voté la destitution du juge de la Cour suprême Kabineh Ja'neh, qui avait ensuite obtenu gain de cause auprès de la Cour de la CEDEAO, cette dernière ordonnant au gouvernement libérien de verser 200 000 USD en réparation pour violation de ses droits. À ce jour, cette décision de justice reste pourtant inappliquée.

Le paradoxe est donc manifeste : alors que le gouvernement libérien sollicite aujourd'hui la CEDEAO pour résoudre la crise interne à la Chambre des représentants qui bloque l'audience publique sur le budget national, il continue de négliger les décisions de la même organisation. Cette impasse budgétaire a d'ailleurs poussé le président Boakai à demander un délai supplémentaire pour soumettre le budget au parlement.

En tant que nation, il est impératif que nous respections les engagements que nous prenons avec les organisations internationales. Les traiter avec sérieux et respect est essentiel pour entretenir des relations de confiance qui nous sont bénéfiques, surtout lorsque nous faisons appel à leur soutien dans des moments de crise, comme c'est le cas aujourd'hui.



'Autorité Nationale des Ports du Liberia (NPA) ∎et Marsa Maroc, opérateur majeur de gestion portuaire au Maroc, ont signé un protocole d'accord à Monrovia visant à moderniser et étendre les Liberia. Ce partenariat économique de la région. stratégique est conçu pour renforcer les capacités des ports libériens et accroître la compétitivité régionale du pays dans le secteur maritime.

Cette collaboration d'une durée de 18 mois repose sur deux projets clés :

Développement d'un terminal polyvalent au port de Monrovia : Dans le cadre d'un partenariat public-privé (PPP), ce projet vise à établir un terminal moderne pouvant accueillir divers types de marchandises, optimisant ainsi l'efficacité et la capacité de traitement au

port principal du Liberia.

Modernisation du terminal polyvalent du port de Buchanan : Ce projet comprend la conception, la construction, le financement et la gestion d'un développement des terminal conçu pour faciliter la infrastructures portuaires du manutention des cargaisons et Liberia. Il réaffirme notre infrastructures portuaires du soutenir la croissance engagement à moderniser les

signature, M. Sekou H. Dukuly,

Directeur Général de la NPA, a exprimé son enthousiasme pour ce partenariat novateur. « Cet accord marque une étape décisive dans le services portuaires pour Présent à la cérémonie de soutenir une croissance



F'rançais

Cummings alerte sur la crise à

interconnecté, les actions et a-t-il conclu. inactions des institutions En conclusion, le chef de l'ANC nationales influencent a insisté sur la nécessité d'un directement la perception de dialogue constructif dans le l'engagement du Liberia envers respect des institutions, pour propres défis de gouvernance », a-t-il déclaré.

sans intervention extérieure »,

l'État de droit. « Une résolution redonner aux citoyens libériens rapide de cette impasse confiance en l'avenir et enverrait un message fort, au promouvoir des changements niveau national et réels. « Nous ne pouvons pas international, que le Liberia espérer des résultats différents est capable de résoudre ses en répétant les mêmes erreurs

La NPA du Liberia et Marsa

durable et favoriser une commerce régional. a-t-il déclaré. Avec le soutien de Affaires étrangères, Mme Sara plan en Afrique de l'Ouest.

infrastructures portuaires la prospérité du pays. africaines, apporte une En marge de la signature de ambitieux du Liberia.

essentielle pour la réalisation besoins croissants du secteur. position du Liberia dans le de l'Ouest.

intégration régionale accrue », La Ministre libérienne des Marsa Maroc, la NPA aspire à Beysolow Nyanti, a également transformer les ports libériens salué ce partenariat en pôles logistiques de premier stratégique, soulignant que le développement des Ce protocole d'accord prévoit infrastructures portuaires est un échange d'informations et essentiel à la réalisation de une collaboration pour évaluer l'agenda gouvernemental les besoins techniques et ARREST. Elle a affirmé que opérationnels, avec l'objectif sous la direction du Président d'aboutir à des accords de Joseph Nyuma Boakai, le concession détaillés. Marsa Liberia s'engage à promouvoir Maroc, filiale du Groupe Tanger des partenariats internationaux Med et spécialiste en pour accélérer la croissance et

expertise solide en matière l'accord, M. Nasser Tlassellal, d'innovation et de durabilité, en Directeur Général de Tanger phase avec les objectifs Med Engineering, a exprimé sa satisfaction, ajoutant que Marsa M. Reda Moukhli, Directeur de Maroc et Tanger Med sont prêts la Stratégie Portuaire et du à fournir au Liberia des solutions Développement chez Marsa de pointe en matière Maroc, a salué cet accord, le d'infrastructures portuaires, qualifiant de « fondation d'une destinées à répondre aux coopération plus approfondie et standards internationaux et aux

des ambitions du Liberia en Ce protocole d'accord marque matière d'infrastructures ainsi le début d'une nouvelle ère portuaires modernes et pour les ports libériens, qui compétitives. » Il a souligné bénéficieront des compétences l'importance de cette initiative et de l'expérience de Marsa pour stimuler le développement Maroc pour atteindre des économique et renforcer la niveaux d'excellence en Afrique

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Le bloc majoritaire condamne le vandalisme au Capitole



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es membres du bloc majoritaire de la Chambre des représentants ont fermement condamné ce qu'ils appellent un ■acte de vandalisme dans les Chambres conjointes de la 55e Législature, où ils se réunissent régulièrement. Lundi matin, les législateurs et le personnel parlementaire ont découvert que tous les sièges des Chambres conjointes avaient été retirés par des individus non identifiés.

Les Chambres conjointes, qui accueillent habituellement les membres du Sénat libérien et de la Chambre des représentants pour le discours annuel sur l'état de la nation du Président et pour d'autres affaires parlementaires, ont été privées de leurs sièges dans un acte jugé délibéré et perturbateur.

Depuis les tensions liées à la tentative de destitution du président Fonati Koffa, une majorité de 43 législateurs utilise ces Chambres citoyens à dénoncer ces actes qui pour leurs réunions. Koffa, contesté dans son rôle, a qualifié ces séances de bloc majoritaire d'illégales.

La présidente de la commission de modernisation, la députée Priscilla A. Cooper, proche de Koffa, a suggéré que le retrait des sièges pourrait être lié aux travaux de rénovation en cours dans la Chambre principale.

La société Delta Architectural & Construction Company (DACC) avait informé la représentante Cooper le 16 août 2024 des réparations prévues sur le toit des Chambres conjointes, avec des travaux de rénovation programmés entre le 1er et le 15 septembre 2024, sous que les travaux de la Chambre des

réserve d'approbation. Le communiqué précisait également que d'autres travaux débuteraient après la saison des pluies, avec une date de fin prévue pour le 15 janvier 2025, en préparation du discours sur l'état de la nation.

Le président du bloc majoritaire, le représentant Samuel G. Kogar (district #5, comté de Nimba), a dénoncé cet acte comme une tentative flagrante de perturber le fonctionnement de la Chambre. Selon lui, le retrait des sièges vise à empêcher le bloc majoritaire de poursuivre ses activités pour le bien du peuple libérien. Il a qualifié cet acte d'« antidémocratique » et « inacceptable ».

Les membres du bloc majoritaire ont réaffirmé leur engagement en faveur de l'état de droit et des principes démocratiques. Ils ont exprimé leur détermination à poursuivre leurs travaux législatifs, malgré ce qu'ils considèrent comme des tactiques d'intimidation.

Ils ont également souligné que cet acte illégal renforce leur engagement à honorer le mandat que leur a confié le peuple libérien, et à restaurer la confiance, l'honneur et la dignité au sein de l'Honorable Chambre.

« Nous appelons tous les dirigeants et sapent la démocratie au Liberia. Nous assurons à notre peuple que ce genre d'intimidation ne nous empêchera pas de représenter leurs intérêts et de traiter les questions cruciales pour notre pays de manière transparente et responsable », ont déclaré les parlementaires.

Ils ont également assuré les Libériens

Notre nation est sur une bombe à retardement, alerte le député Thomas Goshua

e député Thomas Goshua, président de la Commission des ■stupéfiants à la Chambre des représentants, a mis en garde contre une "bombe à retardement" au Libéria en raison de la montée alarmante de la consommation de drogues parmi les jeunes.

Pour M. Goshua, l'avenir de la jeunesse libérienne est gravement menacé si aucune action déterminée n'est entreprise pour enrayer la propagation rapide des stupéfiants. « Il n'y a pratiquement aucun foyer au Libéria qui échappe aux ravages de la drogue », a-t-il déclaré récemment lors d'une campagne de sensibilisation anti-drogue, ajoutant que chaque famille, y compris celles des dirigeants et responsables publics, est touchée par ce fléau.

Ces propos interviennent alors même que le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a déclaré cette année les drogues comme une urgence nationale de santé publique. Malgré les efforts initiés, le problème persiste, et les jeunes continuent d'avoir un accès croissant aux substances illicites, gonflant les

rangs d'une population de plus en



plus vulnérable.

Lors d'une récente campagne de sensibilisation organisée à Grand Bassa, le thème « Des livres, pas des drogues » a été choisi pour encourager les jeunes à privilégier l'éducation. M. Goshua, représentant de la circonscription électorale n°5 de Grand Bassa, a qualifié la situation de « critique » et réitéré l'urgence de l'action : « C'est une guerre contre notre avenir. Si nous n'agissons pas maintenant, les conséquences seront lourdes. »

Le député a appelé à intensifier les campagnes de sensibilisation, à renforcer la surveillance et à engager des mesures actives contre les stupéfiants.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Koung arrives in Baku for COP29 Liberian children are swallowing coins

-As Liberia pushes for global support

Liberia is calling for swift, decisive action against climate change at the ongoing COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

November 13, 2024 -

aku, Azerbaijan, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado Counties.

Liberia's Vice COP 29, running from President, Jeremiah Kpan November 11 to 22, 2024, is a Koung, arrives in Baku, pivotal moment for Liberia and Azerbaijan to lead the other vulnerable nations as



country's delegation at the they strive to secure stronger 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), representing President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. A dispatch from Azerbaijan says Liberia's call for swift, decisive action against climate change comes as the nation grapples with increasingly severe impacts from global warming, including devastating floods that recently ravaged communities in Margibi,

global commitments to combat climate change.

Representing Liberia's interests, Vice President Koung will address high-level sessions of Heads of State and Government on November 12 and 13, presenting Liberia's National Statement.

The Liberian Vice President is expected to emphasize Liberia's heightened exposure to climate threats despite its low carbon footprint, urging developed nations to intensify their support for adaptation, loss and damage mechanisms, and climate financing.

According to the dispatch, Vice President Koung's address will particularly advocate for the establishment of Loss and Damage Fund-a crucial support system for countries enduring the worst impacts of climate change. Liberia is seeking substantial international aid to alleviate the economic and human toll of climate events, particularly as severe flooding and unpredictable weather patterns continue to disrupt communities, damage infrastructure, and displace families.

VP Koung will also challenge developed countries to honor their commitments under the Paris Agreement, advocating for a New Collective Goal on climate finance to empower Liberia and other developing nations in building climate resilience and sustainable growth.

Meanwhile, beyond his formal address, Vice President Koung will participate in bilateral talks with climate action leaders and financial partners, aiming to solidify support for Liberia's climate agenda.

He is also expected to join a special session hosted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, where developing nations will address the urgent challenges facing the global South, a region disproportionately impacted by climate change.

-X-ray technician alarms

X-ray results indicate that a number of children in Liberia are swallowing newly minted Liberian five and ten dollars coins release by the Central Bank of Liberia, raising health implications here.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributor)

onrovia, Liberia, November 13, 2024 - A **▼ L**iberian X-ray technician alarms here over a trend that sees a significant number of children swallowing newly introduced 5 and 10 Liberian dollar coins.

According to the technician, the coins have been showing up frequently in X-rays of children who have been taken to medical facilities for treatment after ingesting the metallic currency. This alarming discovery is sparking growing concern among medical professionals and parents alike, as the ingestion of coins might lead to serious health risks, including choking, internal injury, or damage to digestive system other organs of the body. The introduction of the new coins, which are smaller than their predecessors, may have made them more appealing to children, increasing the likelihood of accidental swallowing. These coins, which were reintroduced by the Amid these growing concerns,

doctors across the nation are also involved in similar operations, dealing with the growing number of cases of children swallowing coins.

Coleman notes that the issue is not isolated to his own practice, but has become a widespread situation, with medical professionals nationwide now addressing the health risks posed by the coins.

"Since the coins were reintroduced into the market, this issue has been growing, and it is becoming very concerning," he alarms.

As the number of cases continues to rise, health workers are being called upon to respond quickly to such emergencies, including surgeries to remove the coins. The collective involvement of multiple doctors across Liberia underscores the severity of the situation, prompting both medical and public health experts to push for greater awareness and preventative measures to protect children from potential dangers of ingesting these small, attractive coins.

UL Launches Postgraduate Diploma

Dr. Yarkpawolo underscored the importance of the EPA working with other institutions to protect the environment by enforcing environmental laws.

He said that effort led to the establishment of bachelor, postgraduate, and graduate programs at the UL to support the goals of providing quality tertiary education to Liberians.

"This is the EPA's way of supporting the UL in our capacity building with huge support coming from the people of and government of Canada," Dr. Yakpawolo acknowledged.

He assured the UL authorities of the EPA's continued collaboration and support to achieve the University's full mandate. "Going forward, we expect this to continue and ... we are in touch with universities from Switzerland and other developing partners concerning the ideas

of providing opportunities for

knowledge sharing, students and faculty exchange programs which the UL is going to benefit," Dr. Yakpawolo assured. The EPA boss pledged his agency's commitment to fostering more collaboration with the UL.

He further disclosed that the EPA is going to establish a national data center with support from the International Environmental Agency (IEA) in all parts of Liberia to enhance the process of gathering and reporting data locally and at the level of the IEA.

"These are all research academic programs that require us to continue to work with the UL so that [in] the end we will not have too many international consultants coming to Liberia," said Dr. Yarkpawolo.

Instead, he noted, more Liberian students and professionals will be going international to offer consultancy. The two Co-Directors of MRV for Climate

Action/NovaSpherer, Prof. Scott Muller and Prof. Lisa Marroquin expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the project by their Liberian counterparts.

In separate remarks, they expressed pleasure to partner with the EPA and the University of Liberia in this effort.Prof. Muller said the launch of the Postgraduate program and the dedication of the NUCAL laboratory is not a donation. However, he stated that it is a bilateral effort that is focused on implementation and collective action.

For her part, Prof. Morroquin thanked the EPA and the UL for showing immense interest in the project.

She pledged her expertise to support climate action in Liberia.

The House of Representatives Chairperson on Science and Technology,



swallowing them.

Speaking in Monrovia, Jackson Coleman, a concerned X-ray technician, raised a disturbing alarm about the growing number of cases of children swallowing the newly dollar coins.

In an interview with Truth FM Tuesday, Coleman disclosed that the number of incidents has exceeded 58, with a significant rise in cases he has personally handled.

According to him, he alone has addressed 28 of these cases, with 12 children requiring

surgery after ingesting the coins. He says while the situation is

concerning, several other

Central Bank of Liberia in parents are urged to be extra September 2022, are causing vigilant and ensure that these serious health concerns after coins, which have become more reports emerged of children common in daily transactions, are kept out of reach of children.

Although the Central Bank of Liberia is yet comment on the situation, there is a call for both public awareness campaigns and potential adjustments to the coin's design or size to minimize the risks introduced 5 and 10 Liberian posed to children. The 5 and 10 Liberian dollar coins are part of a new series of coins issued by the Central Bank of Liberia, as part of a currency reform. The coins are made of nickel-plated steel and feature a latent image security feature.

> The new coins are smaller and lighter than the previous coins used prior to the Liberian Civil War, and were designed to be durable for daily transactions. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberian ex-fighters are being reportedly recruited for Fassou Touray, with Sheriff subversive activities in neighboring Guinea, the Government of Liberia reveals.

By Kruah Thompson onrovia, Liberia, November 13, 2024 -The Government of

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at a press conference in Monrovia.

Minister Piah says the



Liberia announces a suspected ongoing recruitment of Ex-fighters here for subversive activities in neighboring Guinea.

Government says it revelation is based on intelligence provided by Guinean authority and the International Criminal Police Organization - INTERPOL.

Liberia's Information Minister Jerolinmek Piah made the disclosure

Starts from back page

suspected recruitment is targeting Liberians particularly, former fighters for what he terms "subversive action in Guinea."

Though he did not say exactly where the alleged recruitment is taking place, but narrates that based on assistance from INTERPOL the Liberia government has arrested two Guinean nationals identified as Abraham Sheriff and Zayzay

serving as financier of the recruitment.

The two suspects have been handed over to the Government of Guinea, Piah further reveals.

"We know too much what war means and we are not determined to go back to it. We will continue to strengthen our democracy and work to consolidate peace in our subregion." He underscores.

He also reaffirms government's commitment to uphold the rule of law and protect life and property, including its diplomatic relations with neighboring Guinea.

"Not an inch of Liberia's territory will be used to cause subversion and in any other country", Piah vows.

He discloses that a joint investigation of individuals or suspects involved in the situation is continuing and they will pursue evidence without any malice, but in the supreme national interest of the country.

He calls on all Liberians and residents to abide by and respect the rule of law, saying "To live here is to respect the law." Editing by Jonathan Browne

Dr. Kpoto Envisions an Improved

The Ministry has been actively collaborating with agencies like the Civil Service Agency (CSA) and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to formalize the roles of Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSS) and improve welfare for volunteer health workers.

"As someone from an advocacy background, I understand the need to prioritize health worker welfare. Increasing salaries and support for volunteer health workers will be a key focus in the next budget cycle," she affirmed.

Dr. Kpoto also expressed gratitude to partner organizations, including Care Liberia, Last Mile Health,

Committee (IRC), at the event nationwide. community-centered services.

interventions.

Global Fund, Plan training, mentorship, and International, and the career advancement for health International Rescue workers, ensuring quality care

for their commitment to In her concluding remarks, Dr. supporting Liberia's health Kpoto emphasized the shared sector. These organizations responsibility to transform reinforced their dedication to these engagements into advancing Liberia's health tangible improvements for objectives through the Liberians. "We're not just here National Community Health to discuss policies but to make Program (NCHP), which a real difference in the lives of emphasizes equitable, the Liberian people," she declared.

The NCHP policy outlines eight The Minister reiterates her guiding principles, including commitment to a people $h \ e \ a \ l \ t \ h \ e \ q \ u \ i \ t \ y \ , \ centered approach that values$ decentralization, community and amplifies community engagement, and evidence- voices. This dedication will based, cost-effective guide the Ministry's efforts to build a resilient, inclusive, and As part of this strategy, the sustainable healthcare system

Ministry aims to expand for all Liberians.-Press release

Starts from page 6

Majority bloc conde

action only strengthen their commitment to upholding the mandate given to them by the Liberian people and their desire to restore trust, honor and decency to the Honorable House. "We call upon all leaders and citizens to denounce such actions that

transparent, responsible Editing by Jonathan Browne manner", the group says.

democracy; this act of Liberians that the work of the intimidation, we assure our House of Representatives will people will not deter us from proceed responsibly and representing the interests of decisively, and that the our constituents and ensuring business of Liberia will that critical issues affecting continue as mandated, without our country are addressed in a intimidation or obstruction.

undermine Liberia's It at the same time assures

Executive takes side in House dispute

Three members of the executive appear before majority bloc lawmakers seeking to oust Speaker Fonati Koffa despite request from the embattled Speaker not to do so.

By Bridgett Milton

Despite embattled hemustattend. Speaker J. Fonati Koffa's government to appear before former senator defends. rebel lawmakers here styled as government have appeared before that faction to answer to them.

Those who appear before the Affairs Minister Francis Sakila Nyumalin; Minister of Transport, Sirleaf Tyler and Mo Ali, Managing Director of LWSC. The Minister of Internal Affairs Minister was invited to provide a report on rollout of the Local Government Act of 2018 and provide reason why County reasons for such withdrawal. services to the people.

LWSC Director Ali and Transport Anti-Corruption Commission to

onrovia, Liberia, representative from his district November 13, 2024- that has authority to invite him,

"Most especially so, when you request to President Joseph N. have 43 members of the House of Boakia not to allow any member Representatives sitting and they of the cabinet or officials of call me, I must attend", the

He says one of the pillows of majority bloc, three officials of President Boakai's agenda is decentralization and they have been instructed that decentralization takes full stage in the running of the government, majority bloc are Internal so they have no choice but to do it. For his part, LWSC's Mo Ali notes that information of his entity bribing the Majority is false and misleading, adding that because the LWSC operates on best financial practices, and cannot afford to withdraw a cent from its account without stating clearly

Service Centers across the Transport Minister Tyler country are not providing buttresses Ali that the information is false and The majority bloc also invited misleading but calls on the Liberia



Minister Tyler to provide clarity quickly investigate. on recent statement by the bribery involving them.

government and whenever a coughing.

While in session in the Joint Liberia Anti-Corruption Chambers, some members of Commission about alleged embattled Speaker Fonati's bloc forcefully made their way to the Speaking before the majority Joint Chambers to disturb the bloc Tuesday, Minister Nyumalin session but were resisted by told the body that he was security of the majority bloc.It attending their invite because was in that process, members of under the doctrine of the the Majority bloc and some separation of power, the Journalists were pepper sprayed Legislature has oversight of the allegedly by Rep. Marvin Cole, other two branches of leaving the entire chambers

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 VOL. 14 NO. 201

Dr. Kpoto Envisions an Improved Healtheare System

Rallies key stakeholders to confront prevailing health challenges with robust measures

Health Minister Dr. Louise Mapleh Kpoto is confident of transforming Liberia's crippled Heath Sector expressing her commitment to the process.

onrovia, Liberia)- The Minister of Health, Dr. Louise Mapleh Kpoto, has reaffirmed her commitment to transforming Liberia's health sector by prioritizing community event held in Monrovia, Dr. Kpoto called for the urgent need for community engagement and health equity to confront the nation's ongoing health challenges.

Dr. Kpoto emphasized the

directly on the ground. I wanted to see firsthand what we inherited as a government and where improvements are needed," she stated.

Her approach surfaced numerous innovative ideas and insights from community health workers, whom Dr. Kpoto described as being closest to the issues faced in remote areas.

"These individuals feel the struggles of those unable to reach essential services," she added.

Throughout her recent tour in the southeastern region, Dr. Kpoto visited over fifty health centers, engaging with local leaders to establish a collaborative path forward.

She underscored the importance of amplifying the voices of grassroots leaders who hold unique solutions to the barriers preventing quality healthcare access.

Despite progress, Dr. Kpoto noted that Liberia still faces high maternal mortality rates and other pressing health challenges, which she identified as areas requiring immediate, sustained focus.

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health services, strengthening human resource capacity, and ensuring essential healthcare access for every citizen.

In an address to key stakeholders, partners, and community representatives at the Community Health

significance of direct community involvement, marking a shift from the former practice of ministerial visits focused at county seats.

"During my county tour, I chose to meet with community leaders and health workers





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