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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024	L\$188.7632/US\$1.00	L\$190.6293/US\$1.00

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

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Nominations face scrutiny

Gregory Coleman Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti Sylvester Grigsby Boimah Kamara

P11

I was never in control

-Miatta Fahnbulleh distances from poor inaugural planning

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Continental News

Kelly Khumalo accused of ordering Senzo Meyiwa's murder in South Africa

South African gospel singer Kelly Khumalo ordered the murder of her then boyfriend, football star Senzo Meyiwa, a court has been told.

Mr Meyiwa was shot trying to protect Ms Khumalo from

They added that Ms Khumalo could not comment but that her "legal team is actively addressing the situation".

The trial of those accused of killing Mr Meyiwa, a former captain of the national football team and Orlando Pirates

confession statement that Ms Khumalo had given them instructions to kill Mr Meyiwa.

The lead investigator also said Ms Khumalo was connected to the suspects through "cell phone linkages".

Last year Colonel Lambertus Steyn from the National Cold Case Investigation Unit testified that Ms Khumalo had been in contact with one of the accused at least twice before Mr Meyiwa's murder.

In addition to this, Ms Khumalo also had a photograph of money in a transparent bag on her phone - the same image was found on one of the suspect's phones.

The court is currently establishing whether the confession statements are admissible. Two of the suspects say their confessions were made under duress.

Ms Khumalo and Mr Meyiwa had one child together.

But Mr Gininda said the pair had fallen out.

He said Ms Khumalo "hated him and wanted to get rid of him". He added that "communication records" between Ms Khumalo and her sister from early 2013 showed that she wanted to depose of him. BBC



Kelly Khumalo has denied being involved in the murder of football star Senzo Meyiwa

armed robbers in 2014. Five suspects were arrested in 2020.

Lead investigator Bongani Gininda told a Gauteng High Court, on Wednesday, Ms Khumalo orchestrated "a contractual assassination or hit".

Ms Khumalo's spokesperson told the BBC they "trust in the legal process".

goalkeeper, has gripped the country.

Ms Khumalo was first suspected of being involved after police documents were leaked in 2020 following the arrests of the men.

At the time her lawyer told local media the gospel singer had "no knowledge" of the five individuals.

Mr Gininda told the court one of the suspects had said in his

Nelson Chamisa: Zimbabwe opposition CCC leader quits 'contaminated' party

Zimbabwe's opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has resigned, saying his party has been "contaminated" and "hijacked" by the government.

"I will have nothing to do with sewer politics," he said in a 13-page statement on Thursday.

He won about 44% of the votes in last year's presidential election which was plagued by allegations of foul play.

However, several MPs from his CCC party later lost their seats in what Mr Chamisa said was sabotage.

Mr Chamisa, a 45-year-old Christian pastor, is expected to set up a new party. He said that "giving up or giving in is not an option".

It is not clear how many of the CCC's remaining MPs and councillors will follow him.

While he does enjoy significant support, especially in urban areas, his critics say Mr Chamisa's weak leadership led to deep rifts in the opposition, and that has only helped President Emmerson Mnangagwa cement his grip on power.

In his resignation letter, he

said the CCC had been "defiled", accusing the ruling Zanu-PF party of being behind the move - allegations it denied.

"The original CCC idea has however been contaminated, bastardized, hijacked by ZANU PF through the abuse of State institutions," he said.

Throughout the statement, the former CCC leader blamed President Emmerson Mnangagwa for a number of issues plaguing Zimbabwe, including "death trap" hospitals, the cholera outbreak and the collapse of social services.

He said multiple people in his

party had been bribed to undermine it.

In a nod to President Mnangagwa's reptilian nickname, Mr Chamisa said he refused to swim with hungry crocodiles.

President Mnangagwa came to power in 2017 following a bloodless coup that ousted long-time leader Robert Mugabe.

At the time he was seen as a beacon of change and hope for the struggling country.

But high inflation, unemployment and censorship remains rife in Zimbabwe. BBC



Nelson Chamisa called Zimbabwe's last election a farce

Plateau state violence: At least 43 killed in Nigeria clashes in Mangu

At least 43 people have died in two days of clashes in a town in central Nigeria, residents have told the BBC, saying the search for bodies continues.

A row over cattle sparked the violence in Plateau state, where there are fraught ethnic and religious tensions.

One man in Mangu town told the BBC how his 63-year-old brother had been killed in his home, which was then set ablaze.

"As I speak to you, his six children are still crying. We have just buried him with another 14 bodies," he said.

Plateau is where Nigeria's mainly Muslim north meets the largely Christian south and many communities are mixed.

Residents of Mangu, which is 74km (45 miles) south-east of the state capital, Jos, are mainly from the Muslim Fulani and Christian Mwagaful ethnic groups

Seven mosques and four churches have also been destroyed, Mr Haruna said.

Umar Haruna's wife and children were not at home when the house was attacked. They only returned on Wednesday.

"When we went to the house, his body was burnt just as the house. We couldn't even give him the usual Muslim corpse bath due to the fact that the body was damaged badly," the brother said.

Dagen Emmanuel Bello, an ethnic Magwaful, said he seen dead bodies on the streets and buildings burnt.

"There are some people who were killed and their bodies hidden, so we are still trying to search for them at the moment," he told BBC Hausa.

The violence began after cattle belonging to Fulani residents escaped on to a road angering some in the Mwagaful community. A 24-hour curfew was then imposed but did not stop further violence on Wednesday.



About 100 houses have been destroyed in one area of Mangu town, residents say

Fulani businessman Umar Haruna was at home when the trouble erupted on Tuesday afternoon, his brother Abdullahi Haruna said.

He lived in an area of the town where both ethnic groups reside - and where now 100 houses have been burnt down, he said.

People in the area said soldiers were deployed to Mangu but stayed on the main roads and did not intervene in the suburbs where the tit-for-tat revenge attacks continued.

More than 100 people lost their lives in similar violence in another part of Plateau state over Christmas. BBC

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EDITORIAL

A journey that is irreversible

LIBERIA IS SAILING on an historical path of smooth democratic transition following two peaceful elections that is clearly becoming irreversible. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf peacefully handed power to now Ex-President George Manneh Weah in 2018 and six years after, Mr. Weah handed power to his successor, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai on Monday, 22nd January.

THE NATION CURRENTLY can boast of three surviving former Presidents: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Manneh Weah and Charles Ghankay Taylor, who is serving a jail sentence in Britain. This is a remarkable departure from former Presidents William R. Tolbert, Jr., and Samuel Kanyon Doe who both were violently ousted in bloody coup and civil war respectively.

LIBERIA IS GRADUALLY joining Ghana, Nigeria and other democratic nations in the region that subscribe to free, fair elections and peaceful transition of one government to another. All Liberians should endeavor to keeping the nation on such enviable path.

WITH FORMER PRESIDENTS Sirleaf and Weah sitting in the back and watching, President Joseph Boakai has no reason to fail, if he is willing to consult with his predecessors especially, having served as Vice President for two terms under the women he refers to as his "former boss."

THE CURRENT GENERATION of leaders owe it to the nation and its people to keep the Motherland on the path of democratic elections and peaceful transition, if this country is to make progress, for this is the surest way to attracting and maintaining attention of our international partners.

BOTH MADAM SIRLEAF and Mr. Weah have revolutionized the way Liberians should seek political power. That way is to go at the ballot and be willing to accept out of the poll following a transparent election that leaves no room for contention and violence.

IN HIS INAUGURAL speech on Monday, President Boakai noted that his election by Liberians is a clarion call for a new Liberia, a different Liberia, a Liberia, he says, that genuinely practices the rule of law and adheres to the tenets of democratic governance in the interest of all. We believe that should be the essence of seeking political office - to serve the people rather than selfish agenda that is a ground for corruption.

ALL LIBERIANS SHOULD pat themselves on the back for the democratic path the nation has taken. We should stand tall in ensuring that Liberia remains on the democratic journey by always exercising our franchise at the ballot box.

BY THEIR VOTES, Liberians have made the job easier for President Boakai, as he will go out to seek help from friendly governments and nations. The credential of our democracy is important in dealing with global partners.

THERE IS NO turning back. We must keep on this journey of smooth transition, for we owe it not only to ourselves but to posterity.

COMMENTARY

By Mohamed ElBaradei

The International Order Is Dying in Gaza

VIENNA - After COVID-19 struck in 2020, creating chaos and misery, I hoped that some silver lining would emerge from this global tragedy. For a time, it seemed possible. The pandemic was a powerful reminder of our common vulnerabilities, our shared humanity, and the importance of solidarity that transcends our differences and borders.

Now, however, I wonder if I was wrong even to hope. Once the pandemic subsided, we rushed back to the precipice with renewed vigor. None of the lessons of solidarity stuck, as if we were coated in Teflon.

Many, if not all, of the pillars of the post-World War II global order seem to be crumbling. Violent conflict has become the default method to settle disagreements between countries (Russia and Ukraine) and within countries (Yemen and Sudan), while the multilateral security system, headed by the United Nations Security Council, is sliding into irrelevance.

Moreover, the inequality gap between the Global North and the Global South has widened, and more of the latter countries are suffering from debilitating debt burdens. This, in turn, has exacerbated poverty, fueled migration, and sown distrust. With populism and authoritarianism on the rise, attacks on human rights and democratic values have intensified and, in some cases, the veneer of elections has given these attacks spurious legitimacy. And the intensifying rivalry between the United States and China is fast becoming an end in itself.

But the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has dealt a particularly crushing blow to the system. The gross violations of international humanitarian law to protect civilians beggar belief.

In fact, the atrocities committed against civilians, first in Israel and now in Gaza, are evil in its purest form. These despicable acts should be at the top of the priority list for the International Criminal Court prosecutor and addressed in International Court of Justice proceedings. We must halt this descent into the abyss.

The cavalier disregard for the principles and norms of international law, such as limitations on the right to self-defense, and the willful blocking of the Security Council from fulfilling its "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," have been unconscionable.

Senior UN humanitarian officials on the ground in Gaza have used phrases like "hell on earth" and "humanity giving up" to express their desperation. Few seem to be listening.

There is now a looming rupture between the West and the Arab and Muslim world, even as Western and Arab populations are directing anger toward their leaders.

Dehumanizing, rage-filled rhetoric emanates from all sides and reverberates on

city streets, university campuses, and in small towns the world over. All efforts to build bridges of respect and understanding over the last few decades seem to have collapsed.

Moreover, the Arab and Muslim world has lost faith in perceived Western norms: international law and institutions, human rights, and democratic values. In their view, the West itself is showing that brute force trumps all else. Of course, the increasing belief that democracy and human rights - the liberal values that once inspired the Arab Spring - are simply tools for Western domination is music to the ears of autocrats and despots.

The war underscores two lessons. First, conflicts don't resolve themselves, and allowing them to fester is shortsighted and dangerous. UN Secretary-General António Guterres was viciously attacked by Israel after saying that Hamas's October 7 attack "did not happen in a vacuum." But he was acknowledging a truth - the pent-up humiliation and sense of injustice among the Palestinians - that most people who follow the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have long recognized.

The conflict has elicited calls for the revival of the ill-fated "peace process" that has been limping along for decades. But the same leaders now promoting a two-state solution silently looked on as Israel devoured (through annexation and settlement expansion) most of the land that was meant for a Palestinian state.

The aftermath of today's violence may very well offer the last opportunity to reach a just and lasting peace before the entire region goes up in flames.

The other important lesson is that building a more robust and equitable global security system and financial architecture requires structural reforms. For starters, the veto power of the UN Security Council's five permanent members should be drastically curtailed, if not eliminated.

The US and Russia must also resume nuclear arms talks and take meaningful steps toward disarmament. It is scandalous that there is no longer a single nuclear-arms-control agreement in operation between the world's two largest nuclear powers.

The Bretton Woods institutions - the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - must give the developing world a fair say in global decision-making and equitable access to financial resources for development.

Although policymakers have been calling for such an overhaul since the collapse of the Soviet Union more than 30 years ago, no progress has been made.

We must not permit an opportunity born of war to slip through our fingers. In the absence of radical reform of the international order, the Gaza war will herald a world spiraling out of control.



Lord, The Papay mom play dirty way again!

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Have you heard the news? They say, the Papay say election bisnay na fini so nobody mom run around here with their partisan noise becus him goworment will na be partisan goworment.

You joking!

Oh, you wan come see some partisan them hissing their teeth them again. The Papay fini giving them direct code. He say na becus you wore party t-shirt and made plenty noise all over the place bisnay they mom come give you job.

You say whatin?

Oh, Father, da na joking matter oo. Right na they say fire in the camp. They say the Papay say he will go by our village code of conduct. If you party big man you mom remain party big man.

Right, na, na, all the people name the Papay na called, na from inside the Party oo. Hayaka, the people na know that this Oldman geh dirt.

Already, they say him people na start causing noise all over the place. They say, it worn a easy at him house the orlor day.

Tell me something!

Oh, they say somebody go put some kina name on paper for Goworment lawyer, the Papay say he na want see it they mom take it from there fast, fast.

They say somer the people sef da wor round the Oldman who wor doing small, small stealing bisnay-chopping the money people wor sending to him for campaign, he fini chunking them one side.

Hmm, yes oo, they say da na small vex him people vex oo. They say somer the people we know sef will na geh anything. They say the Papay say they mom stay in the paprty and run it from there.

I say my son, then da na small thing oo.

Oh Father, da the one you talking slow like that so. The thin da made the people almost throw blow in the Papay yard the other day, da it you talking leh da.

Bor wah they complaining for na, ehn d orlor man say him geh plenty scholarship for the people. So, if the Papay na give them job they can jus go to him and go to school.

Mm, aya, da that jabber man the people will listen to, I beg you ya. Da orlor man d pure show man. He leh glory.

Anyway, da one thing I forgot to ask you my son- The Papay na finish him speech?

Father, da the thin we all sitting down here talking right, right na. Everybody asking the same question about wen he will fini him speech. Bor the play him eh na, I na think him on speech bisnay again oo.

What do you mean?

Bor da speech bisnay na it fini ever since Fahrter. Da so, so job bisnay the people on na oo.

You say whatin! And I here sitting down waiting for the Papay to fini him speech. Oh mehn, and I hear listening to Kissi choir thinking say I sitting down to some kina musical concert.

I say, bor who tell them say inauguration da musical concert bisnay?

Father, da orlor question for Aunty MF ooh, da she the one put all this yamayama together oo,

The whole program sef wor embarrassing-aye mehn.

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OPINION

By Dixon Chibanda

The Global Mental-Health Crisis Demands New Thinking

LONDON - The world is in the grips of a mental-health crisis. From rising climate anxiety in rich countries like the United States to intense trauma in conflict zones like Ukraine and Gaza (especially among children), psychological suffering has become widespread, and traditional health-care services cannot keep up. This leaves tens of millions of people at risk of serious pathologies and suicide.

As it stands, more than 25% of the world's population reports feelings of social isolation and loneliness, and more than 150,000 people aged 15-29 die by suicide each year. Climate change threatens to increase these bleak figures. As the American Psychiatric Association reports, climate change can "lead to job loss, force people to move, and harm social cohesion and community resources, all of which have mental-health consequences." Moreover, contemplating climate change and its consequences for both "national security and individual well-being" can cause "significant distress."

No groups are spared. Young people fear for their future; older people grieve the destruction of the world of their childhoods; and activists and climate scientists suffer from emotional burnout and despair. And this is to say nothing of the post-traumatic stress and depression experienced by those already affected by climate-related disasters, particularly in vulnerable developing economies.

Traditionally, a psychiatric patient would engage in one-on-one therapy with a trained doctor. But even rich-country health systems lack the capacity to offer such services as widely as is needed: in the US, more than 150 million people live in areas with too few mental-health professionals. Within a few years, the country could be short by as many as 31,100 psychiatrists.

The situation is even worse in poor and conflict-affected countries, where traditional psychiatric interventions are often very difficult to access, if they are available at all. Consider my home country, Zimbabwe: despite being a country of 16 million, it has just 13 psychiatrists and 20 clinical psychologists.

The consequences of this shortfall became starkly apparent in 2019, when Cyclone Idai tore through parts of Zimbabwe. The storm's powerful winds and heavy rains - and the massive flooding and landslides they triggered - led to hundreds of deaths, displaced about 60,000 people, and demolished 50,000 homes. It also decimated unharvested crops, destroyed seed stocks, and killed livestock, leaving people without food or livelihoods. All of this contributed to mental-health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

Barely a year later, things got much worse: the COVID-19 pandemic forced nationwide lockdowns that further undermined people's socioeconomic well-being. The resulting mental-health problems were well beyond the health-care system's capacity to handle.

But that did not mean Zimbabwe had no options. The Friendship Bench project, which I founded, trains community volunteers without any prior medical or mental-health training to provide talk therapy from wooden park benches in all ten provinces of the country. We have so far trained more than 2,000 of these "grandmothers" to provide counseling to their local communities.

The program works. In 2016, a randomized clinical trial found that patients with common mental disorders and indicators of depression who received Friendship Bench counseling had a significant decrease in symptoms. Communities with access to Friendship Bench services also experienced improvements in other areas, from HIV outcomes to maternal and child health. Even the grandmothers delivering the therapy report that they have benefited from a stronger sense of belonging and resilience.

Others in lower-resource countries have also been pioneering new, scalable models for delivering high-quality, low-cost psychiatric care to communities where it was not previously available. One trailblazer is Sangath, an NGO headquartered in the Indian state of Goa that trains ordinary people to deliver psychosocial treatments, particularly in areas with little access to mental-health services. Clinical trials have consistently shown that these "lay counselors" are effective in addressing a wide range of mental-health conditions, from depression and anxiety to alcohol-use disorders.

Similarly, StrongMinds trains "mental-health facilitators" to provide free group therapy to low-income women and adolescents with depression in Uganda and Zambia. The organization reports a powerful impact, not least in supporting communities affected by climate-related environmental disasters. And this impact is set to grow: StrongMinds founder and CEO Sean Mayberry expects the program to reach 335,000 people this year.

Western models of psychiatric care are too resource-intensive to be rolled out across the world, particularly in Africa and South Asia, where fast-growing populations and accelerating climate risks pose huge challenges. But well-crafted community-based initiatives are both cost-effective and highly scalable. Beyond improving individual mental health and resilience, such programs strengthen community cohesion and encourage collective problem-solving, both of which will become increasingly important as the climate crisis intensifies.

Tackling the global mental-health crisis effectively will require greater engagement from the international community. The World Health Organization's Special Initiative for Mental Health, which sought to deliver greater access to mental-health services across its six regions in 2019-23, was a step in the right direction. But it must be sustained and expanded. Meanwhile, local and national governments and philanthropies should embrace new, locally-based approaches that have proved their ability to help communities cope with growing risks to their lives, livelihoods, and well-being.



Firestone Liberia extends heartfelt congratulations to President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung on their recent inauguration.



We also wish to celebrate with the people of Liberia for a smooth and peaceful transition of power. Firestone remains dedicated to supporting the continued development and prosperity of Liberia under the leadership of the new government.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Boakai makes additional nominations

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai made additional nominations Wednesday, 24 January as he gradually forms his government, affecting the

Commissioner-General, Liberia Revenue Authority; and Abraham K. Kromah, Director General, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency. President Boakai Thursday,

State for Presidential Affairs; Samuel Kofi Woods, National Security Advisor; Gregory Coleman, Inspector General, Liberia National Police; and Sam Gaye, Director, Executive Protective Service (EPS), bringing to total 11 nominees as of 22nd January.

Same time, President Boakai has received a donation of Firefighting equipment from the International Association of Fire Chiefs for use by the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS). The Executive Mansion says in brief remarks during the presentation Wednesday at his private residence in Rehab community, Mr.Boakai thanked Mr. Butler for what he called 'his kindness and show of solidarity' to his administration.

He appealed to Mr. Butler to do all he can to assist the LNFS to enable it combat growing fire disasters in Monrovia and parts of the country.

Earlier, Mr. Butler assured President Boakai of his organization's readiness to work with Liberian fire fighters in the area of capacity building and many other important interventions.

According to the release, prior to assuming the Presidency, President Boakai had secured fire equipment and training opportunity for the LNFS from Brooklyn Park in the United States of America.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia receives 112,000 doses of malaria vaccine

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has announced the arrival of 112,000 doses of RTS, S malaria vaccine - the first ever in Liberia.

The Director of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) at the Ministry of Health, Adolphus Clarke, said the arrival of the vaccine is a game changer in the country's fight against malaria.

Speaking Tuesday, this week in Monrovia, he said the ministry is committed to ensuring that every child in Liberia has access to the vaccine and is protected from the deadly disease.

Mr. Clarke explains that the RTS, S vaccine was piloted in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi since 2019 and has been shown to be

vaccine reaches all children who need it.

UNICEF Representative ai. Amadou Cisse, said the arrival of the vaccine in Liberia is a day of hope for thousands of children in the country and millions in Africa.

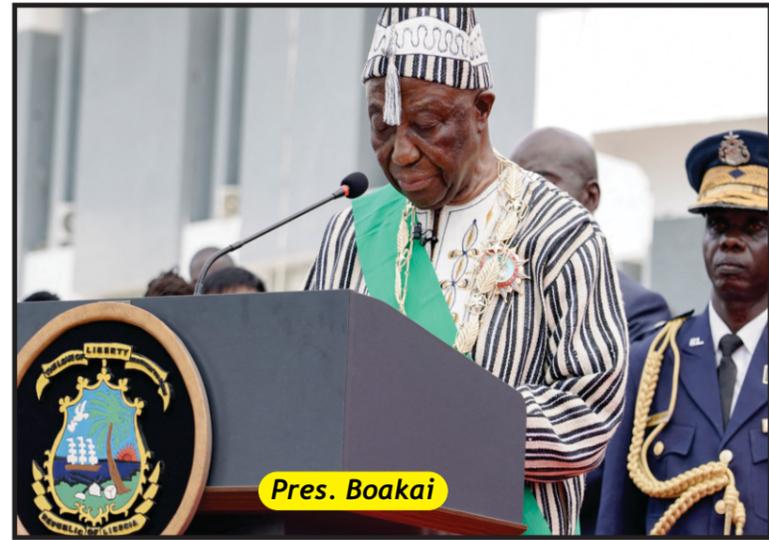
He stated that UNICEF is proud to be part of this historic effort to bring the malaria vaccine to children in Liberia and across the continent.

He expressed confident that the vaccine will save countless lives.

However, studies have shown that children under five in Liberia experience high rates of malaria infection with a prevalence rate of 10%.

The Malaria vaccine marks a significant milestone in the fight against malaria, a preventable mosquito-borne disease that kills a child under 5 every minute in Africa.

At the same time UNICEF and Gavi are working closely with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders ahead of the rollout



Pres. Boakai

ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Education, the Liberia Revenue Authority and the National Drug Enforcement Agency, pending senate confirmation.

According to the Executive Mansion, those nominated include by the President include Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Amin Modad, Minister of Commerce & Industry; Dr. Jarso Jallah Saygbe, Minister of Education; Dr. Louise Kpoto, Minister of Health; Mr. Dorbor Jallah,

25 January appointed Ms. Kula Bonah Nyei Fofana, as Presidential Press Secretary with immediate effect.

According to the Executive Mansion, Ms. Fofana comes to the position with deep knowledge in public relations and communication.

On Monday, January 22, 2024 immediately following his inauguration, the President nominated five officials, pending Senate Confirmation.

According to the Office of the President, those nominated include Boima S. Kamara, Minister of Finance and Development Planning; Sylvester M. Grisgby, Minister of

I was never in control

Starts from page 11

invitations to enter on the grounds, where the program was held. Why is somebody going to hold me responsible? How could I have known that EPS officers would allow people in without invitations?"

The EPS is the Executive Protective Service - the elite Presidential guards that provide protection for VIPs.

These are her concerns, highlighting the challenges she faced in managing the inauguration.

In a phone interview with this publication, the Commander-In-Chief of the Economy Freedom Fighters of Liberia (one of the alliance parties of the UP) Emanuel Gongua, describes the entire inaugural event as a mess.

He points out several lapses that the inaugural team failed

to consider in the planning stages.

Gongua emphasizes that the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia should have announced the weather conditions, days before the inauguration to keep international guests aware of the temperature they would encounter.

He highlights a situation where the weather was around 87 degrees Celsius, and President Boakai was attired in traditional outfit without proper ventilation.

"For example, we had a situation where the weather conditions were around 87 degrees Celsius, and you dressed the President in traditional attire, carrying him to an inaugural ground with no ventilation and without giving him any fan or anything."

He continues that if they were aware of the President's choice of attire to showcase his love for Liberian products, the inaugural stage could have been built with enough fans to mitigate the situation and provide comfort for the President and international guests. In his view, the entire inaugural event was a mess, saying "we should have known better."

In the middle of his speech Monday on Capitol Hill, delivered before Presidents, dignitaries, and Liberians, President Boakai froze suddenly due to severe heat and exhaustion amid a temperature that some say was over 100 degrees Celsius. Several other persons reportedly fainted during the occasion, including security officers with one death reported. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



safe and effective, reducing severe malaria by 30% and malaria deaths by 13%.

Also speaking, Gavi Senior Country Manager for Liberia Fatima Babiker, said this is a historic moment in the fight against malaria.

She added that Gavi is proud to support the rollout of this life-saving vaccine to children in Liberia and across Africa.

Miss. Fatima Babiker said GAVI is committed to working with partners to ensure that every child has the chance to grow up healthy and free from malaria.

WHO Liberia Representative Dr. Clement Peter, explains that the arrival of the malaria vaccine in Liberia is a testament to the power of global collaboration.

Dr. Clement said WHO is committed to working with her partners to ensure that this

of the malaria vaccine. The Ministry of Health of Liberia plans to start vaccination in April 2024.

WHO is providing technical guidance, primarily focusing on epidemiological analysis to determine priority districts for roll out of the currently available doses, integration of the vaccine in routine immunization to boost wider uptake by the target group, and vaccine administration support to the targeted counties and districts, while UNICEF is procuring and delivering the vaccine doses to the Ministry of Health.

The arrival of the malaria vaccine in Liberia is a major step forward in the fight against the deadly disease. With continued collaboration and support, the Government of Liberia will ensure that every child has the chance to grow up healthy and free from Malaria. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Noise over inaugural money at Capitol Let Boakai enjoy his honeymoon

By Bridgett Milton

Noise over inaugural money from Liberia's 73 electoral districts has spilled over to the House of Representatives, with

House of Representatives who have written their Plenary seeking clarification on the issue of the US\$5,000.

According to Lofa County Electoral District #3 Representative Momo Siafa

further complained that his people are waiting on their lawmakers to give an account of their share of the money.

He therefore called on the House of Representatives to write the Executive to come and clarify the money issue.

According to him, news has gone in the various districts that they have received the money in question, and they cannot go there without explaining to the people.

Also speaking, Montserrado County Electoral District #17 Rep. Bernard Blue Benson said he did not receive any money from anyone for the people of his district.

He called on the Committee on Executive to be fast enough to get clarity because when you sign for any [money], the [name of the] person who signed will be written down so that it is known.

During the discussions, a member of the ruling Unity Party informed the Plenary that the money was a gesture by President Joseph Nyumah Boakai for the celebration of the inauguration.

The Unity Party members added that the president called 73 lawmakers and told them he would give them US\$5,000.

However, the ruling party member said the money was intended to be given to the district's leadership and it was done that way.

Kpoto, it has come to his attention that the executive gave the amount.

However, he claimed that he has received up to 97 phone calls from his district asking him to explain the purpose of the money.

He said he was informed that Lofa County received its share of the money through one Mr. Forkpah Gizzie.

Mr. Kpoto noted that when he called Mr. Gizzie, the latter allegedly acknowledged receipt of Lofa County's money.

But Kpoto said Gizzie stated that his district's money was delivered to one Mr. John Sailay for use by all citizens in various constituencies.

The Lofa County lawmaker



legislators seeking clarification about US\$5,000.00 allegedly given by the Executive per district.

In the days leading to President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's inauguration, it was reported that the new president had authorized the provision of US\$5,000 for each district to celebrate the day on 22 January 2024.

There have been claims that the money did not land in whole, but officials of the ruling Unity Party (UP) have denied claims that they instructed the deduction of US\$1,000 from each district's portion of the money.

But the latest concern comes from members of the

-Ex-VP Taylor says

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Liberian Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor says President Joseph Nyumah Boakai should be allowed to enjoy his honeymoon, but hopes that the ruling Unity Party (UP) will deliver on all its promises.

Madam Howard-Taylor, the estranged wife of imprisoned former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor, served as former President George Manneh Weah's vice president for a six-year term.

They peacefully turned over power to the Boakai-led administration following the Coalition for Democratic Change's (CDC's) defeat in the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election.

Former VP Howard-Taylor argued during a local radio talk show Thursday, 25 January 2024 that the Boakai government is very new and it should be given



Former Vice President, Jewel Howard-Taylor

She admonished Liberians that elections have consequences, adding that whatever decisions are taken today will live with the people for the next six years.

Accordingly, she wishes that all the promises and policies that were outlined by the UP in the campaign will be upheld.

"We did our best even though we were not able to do everything. Change took place because the people of Liberia wanted more and so, let's see how this goes," said Madam Howard-Taylor.

"I'm still young and so there is still much more that will come out of the Jewel Howard-Taylor coming out of these processes," she noted.

On the other hand, former VP Howard-Taylor indicated that she is excited that there has been a smooth and peaceful transition of power without any crisis or bloodshed.

The Liberian politician lauded the religious community for the prayers during the election period to save the land, including the media for keeping the land.

In another development, Madam Howard-Taylor said the Jewel Starfish Foundation will be twenty-five years in existence.

She said it's something that is at her heartbeat, disclosing that she will ensure that more girls and women are helped to contribute to society.

"Creating opportunity for girls to form part of the rebuilding of our country is my passion. Girls are very important to this process and so over the [next] few years I will work from there to continue to provide training, empowerment, and mentorship programs for them," said Madam Howard-Taylor.

She promised to also be available to speak anywhere she is called. The former vice president extolled Liberians, especially the people of Bong County, for allowing her to win the election in Bong County, describing it as a plus for her. "Look, you will see me in the county, and you will see me moving around. I'm not going to die and I'm not going to go away. I also want to thank God for everything and all those who prayed for me."

According to her, she will actively be engaged with the issues of women and girls including rape, murder, and other forms of sexual gender-based violence.

Regarding governance issues, she said she is not going to get involved in them to allow the government to enjoy its honeymoon. "We have six years and we finished with our time. We have turned over to the new government and I think they must be given some opportunities, and that work is now for the media and the other people," said Madam Howard-Taylor.

3 Senators declare assets

By Ethel A. Tweh

Three members of the Liberian Senate have declared their assets to the Secretary of the Senate, J. Nanborlor F. Singbeh for onward presentation to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

The Senators concerned are the President Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of Montserrado County, and Senator Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie of River Gee County.

During the declaration process, Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence said the declaration of assets was necessary to fulfill the Asset Declaration provision as enshrined in the Code of Conduct.

The Grand Bassa County Senator further indicated that the declaration of her asset was also intended to promote transparency and accountability in governance.

At the same time, Pro-

Tempore Karnga-Lawrence promised to have her asset published in fulfillment of the law.

She called on her colleagues to follow suit.

Receiving the Asset Declaration from the Pro-Temp, Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh acknowledged that Pro-Tempore Lawrence remains one of the Senators who have previously declared her assets in keeping with the law.

Singbeh called on Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence to encourage her colleagues to do

the same for the sake of transparency in the Senate.

In a related development, Senators Abraham Darius Dillon and Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie of Montserrado and River Gee Counties have also declared their respective assets in fulfillment of the Code of Conduct.

The two Senators made individual declarations on Thursday, 25 January 2024 to Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh.



Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence

the space to enjoy its honeymoon.

She said she will not actively be engaged with the governance issues of the state.

"I want to say one thing, when I'm called to speak anywhere for now, I will not delve into political issues. I think there is a new government in place, and we must give them the chance to enjoy their honeymoon," the former Liberian First Lady said.

"To admit, they deserve to enjoy their honeymoon time," Madam Howard-Taylor continued. Jewel said she is one of the few politicians that will be left, along with her former boss, ex-President George Manneh Weah, and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, who also lost his 2023 presidential bid on the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ticket. "I don't know what his (Weah's) plans are, but you have very few opposition politicians that are in the country," she stated. The former Vice President's comments came when she received a brief courtesy call on a local radio talk show in Monrovia.

Français

Jewel annonce sa candidature pour 2029

L'ancienne vice-présidente, Jewel Howard-Taylor, lâche le morceau tôt ici, en annonçant sa candidature à la présidence en 2029.

traversé tout cela seulement pour y arriver et dire que je fais demi-tour? C'est une fraude dans mon caractère. Quand je suis sur une trajectoire, comme vous le savez, il faut un bulldozer pour

car l'accord était de participer à l'élection présidentielle en espérant qu'ils pourraient avoir remporté et être restés ensemble.

"Maintenant, puisque cela n'a pas été le cas, chaque parti politique retournera maintenant en interne et s'assurera s'il reste ou se reforme. Il y avait d'autres nouvelles choses, dont l'appel à la rotation de la présidence du parti, entre autres, sur lesquelles ils doivent s'accorder quant à la marche à suivre."

Le mercredi 24 janvier 2024, le président controversé du NPP, l'avocat George Mulbah, a déclaré qu'ils présenteraient un candidat à la présidence en 2029.

Mulbah a déclaré que le parti ne perdra plus jamais son identité sur le bulletin de vote, ajoutant qu'ils ont remporté tous les sièges qui leur ont été attribués dans la coalition, ce qui montre qu'ils ont la force de remporter des élections nationales.

"Bien que je ne sois pas le décideur final du NPP, je proposerai au Comité exécutif national; nous pouvons former une collaboration, mais nous ne pouvons plus perdre notre identité sur le bulletin de vote.

Alors que dans la CDC, ils nous ont donné cinq sièges en 2017, lors des élections récemment terminées, le NPP a remporté environ six sièges. Ils nous ont donné un siège à contester dans le Maryland et nous avons gagné. Ils nous ont donné une élection

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Les partisans de l'UP se sont battus à cause de manger

L'investiture du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, le lundi 22 janvier, a été entachée par l'insatisfaction et l'émeute, quand des partisans mécontents de l'Unity Party se sont disputés au sujet de la nourriture. L'incident a conduit à des tensions, des arrestations temporaires et des révélations de corruption présumée.

La confusion a éclaté dans la communauté de Mandingo Quarter à Kakata, à la résidence de la présidente de l'UP Margibi, seulement identifiée comme Mère Gwee. Les éléments déclencheurs de cette émeute étaient trois sacs de riz de 25 kg, 100 dollars américains, deux gallons d'huile d'arachide et divers articles destinés à la cérémonie d'investiture. Les partisans mécontents ont violemment pris certains de ces produits, dont du riz

brut, de la nourriture cuite, des gallons d'huile, des sachets d'eau minérale, du poulet, etc.

Certains partisans, se plaignant du comportement de la présidente Gwee, ont affirmé qu'elle avait reçu 100 dollars américains et trois sacs de riz, mais qu'elle prétendait n'avoir reçu que 20 dollars américains et deux sacs de riz, qualifiant cela de corruption flagrante. Cette situation a sérieusement entaché la réputation de l'UP, provoquant l'indignation des résidents

ordinaires, qui s'attendaient à une journée de jubilation pour le parti nouvellement au pouvoir.

Des partisans avaient été informés par leur direction de district que Mère Gwee avait reçu 100 dollars américains et trois sacs de riz de 25 kg pour la célébration dans leur zone, mais elle aurait caché cette information à la plupart d'entre eux. Certains ont également critiqué le fait que la présidente Gwee affirmait

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Pres. Boakai

Éditorial

Le Liberia se lance sur une trajectoire démocratique irréversible

Le Libéria a emprunté un chemin historique de transition démocratique fluide suite à deux élections pacifiques. C'est une randonnée clairement irréversible.

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a pacifiquement transmis le pouvoir à l'ex-président George Manneh Weah en 2018, et six ans plus tard, M. Weah a remis le pouvoir à son successeur, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, ce lundi 22 janvier.

Le pays peut actuellement se vanter de trois anciens présidents vivants : Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Manneh Weah et Charles Ghankay Taylor, qui, lui, purge une peine de prison en Grande-Bretagne. C'est une distinction remarquable par rapport aux anciens présidents William R. Tolbert, Jr., et Samuel Kanyon Doe, qui ont, tous deux, été évincés violemment lors d'un coup d'État sanglant et d'une guerre civile.

Le Libéria se joint progressivement au Ghana, au Nigeria et à d'autres nations démocratiques de la région qui souscrivent à des élections libres et équitables ainsi qu'à des transitions pacifiques d'un gouvernement à un autre. Tous les Libériens devraient s'efforcer de maintenir le pays sur cette voie enviable.

Les anciens présidents Sirleaf et Weah étant en retrait et disponibles, le président Joseph Boakai n'a aucune raison d'échouer. Il n'a qu'à consulter ses prédécesseurs, surtout étant donné qu'il a été vice-président pendant deux mandats sous la femme qu'il appelle son "ancienne patronne".

La génération actuelle de dirigeants doit cela à la nation et à son peuple pour maintenir la patrie sur la voie des élections démocratiques et de transitions pacifiques, si l'on veut le pays progresse, car c'est le moyen le plus sûr d'attirer et de maintenir l'attention de nos partenaires internationaux.

Tant Madame Sirleaf que M. Weah ont révolutionné la manière dont les Libériens devraient rechercher le pouvoir politique. La voie à suivre est de passer par les urnes et d'accepter les résultats suite à un scrutin transparent qui ne laisse aucune place à la contestation et à la violence.

Dans son discours d'investiture lundi, le président Boakai a souligné que son élection par les Libériens est un appel clair à un nouveau Libéria, un Libéria différent, un Libéria qui pratique véritablement la primauté du droit et adhère aux principes de la gouvernance démocratique dans l'intérêt de tous. Nous croyons que cela devrait être l'essence de la recherche d'une fonction politique - servir le peuple plutôt qu'un agenda égoïste qui est le terreau de la corruption.

Tous les Libériens devraient se féliciter du chemin démocratique que le pays a pris. Nous devrions être fiers de veiller à ce que le Libéria reste sur le chemin de la démocratie en exerçant toujours notre droit de vote.

Par leurs votes, les Libériens ont facilité la tâche du président Boakai, car il sollicitera l'aide des gouvernements et des nations amis. La crédibilité de notre démocratie est importante dans nos relations avec nos partenaires mondiaux.

Il n'y a pas de retour en arrière. Nous devons continuer ce voyage de transition en douceur, car nous le devons non seulement à nous-mêmes, mais aussi à la postérité.

Français

Starts from page 8

Jewel annonce sa candidature

partielle à Sinoé et nous avons gagné. Je crois fermement que si notre emblème est affiché sur le bulletin de vote, nous obtiendrons plus de représentations", a ajouté le

président Mulbah. Elle a dit qu'elle convoquerait une réunion avec la chef politique et les autres dirigeants du parti pour déterminer la prochaine action du NPP dans la coalition.

Starts from page 8

Les partisans de l'UP se

que la nourriture était destinée uniquement aux participants à la cérémonie d'investiture dans le district.

La tension a atteint son paroxysme lorsque Mère Gwee a conduit une autre partisane de l'UP, Madame Jemima Palmer, à la police, l'accusant d'être responsable de la confusion à sa résidence. Cependant, Madame Palmer a nié les accusations, expliquant qu'elle avait simplement vérifié des informations sur la réception d'argent et de riz par la présidente Gwee, et qu'elle avait été surprise d'être accusée d'avoir provoqué la violence.

Une enquête ultérieure a révélé que Madame Palmer avait des informations indiquant que la présidente Gwee avait effectivement reçu 100 dollars américains et trois sacs de riz. Yahn, un homme qui s'était enfui avec l'un des sacs de riz, a été brièvement emprisonné puis libéré, la police réalisant qu'il avait instigué la violence en mal présentant la situation à ses amis. Parallèlement, des partisans pacifiques de Boakai et de l'UP dans le district, n'ayant pas participé à

l'émeute, expriment leur mécontentement quant à la gestion des 5 000 dollars américains alloués par le président Boakai au district pour sa cérémonie d'investiture. Certains affirment qu'ils n'ont pas été informés de l'argent avant la cérémonie, tandis que d'autres dénoncent le manque d'informations sur le lieu de l'événement. Les 5 000 dollars américains, remis à Richard Carter, un associé proche de l'ancien représentant Ben A. Fofana, ont suscité des critiques. Certains habitants estiment que l'UP, en votant contre un gouvernement pour corruption, commence déjà sur une mauvaise voie. Cette situation crée un paradoxe, car le président Boakai et l'UP avaient fait campagne sur la promesse de restaurer l'intégrité et de sauver le pays. En conclusion, l'investiture présidentielle à Kakata a été éclipsée par des conflits internes, des accusations de corruption et des tensions au sein de l'Unity Party. Les événements ont provoqué un mécontentement généralisé parmi les partisans, compromettant la perception du nouveau gouvernement nouvellement élu.

La Côte d'Ivoire signe le retour de l'Afrique sur les marchés d'obligation et emprunte 2,6 milliards

La Côte d'Ivoire a levé, lundi 22 janvier, près de 2,6 milliards de dollars dans des opérations sur les marchés obligataires internationaux. Cet emprunt est un moyen habituel pour les États pour se financer, mais la levée de la Côte d'Ivoire est notable car c'est le premier pays africain à revenir sur le marché international.

Ce retour en grande pompe signe le premier emprunt obligataire émis par un pays d'Afrique subsaharienne depuis deux ans. Au total, 2,6 milliards de dollars à travers deux obligations de 9 et 13 ans. Cela veut dire que la Côte d'Ivoire paiera des intérêts annuels sur ces durées avant de rembourser les montants levés.

Refinancement

Cette somme va notamment servir à refinancer des obligations déjà émises et des prêts. Il s'agit d'un message envoyé par le marché financier international : il a confiance en la Côte d'Ivoire.

« Pour pouvoir lever cette

enveloppe aussi importante, la Côte d'Ivoire a su faire prévaloir ses atouts, notamment les fondamentaux et son économie, explique l'économiste ivoirien Ange Ponou. Derrière la dette, il y a une autre réalité : c'est qu'on ne vous donnera jamais de l'argent si on n'est pas sûr que vous soyez en mesure de pouvoir rembourser. »

Et la dette ?

Ces derniers temps, Abidjan se focalisait sur le marché obligataire régional ouest-africain, mais celui-ci ne concentre pas suffisamment d'investisseurs pour répondre aux besoins ivoiriens.

Reste la question de la dette, qui fait couler beaucoup d'encre en Côte d'Ivoire, car le taux d'endettement est de 57 % du PIB. Le gouvernement estime que la situation des finances publiques est saine, mais des voix s'élèvent pour mettre en garde : la dynamique des créations de richesses peut s'estomper en cas de crise à l'international et entraîner dans son sillage un dérapage du taux d'endettement.

Côte d'Ivoire : l'ancien ministre Tidjane Thiam a pris officiellement ses fonctions à la tête du PDCI



Politique en Côte d'Ivoire : l'ancien ministre, Tidjane Thiam, a pris officiellement ses fonctions pour diriger le Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI). Il avait été élu lors d'un congrès, organisé le 22 décembre 2023 à Yamoussoukro.

C'est une cérémonie purement symbolique. Passés les protocoles d'usage, Sylvestre Emmou, le responsable du comité de transition, fait un état des lieux sur la vie du parti. Il communique aux membres deux urgences : « Les actions politiques, judiciaires, administratives pourraient permettre de faire cesser définitivement l'usage frauduleux du logo du PDCI par

le RHDP (Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix). Le deuxième point des dossiers urgents : la réforme de la CEI (Commission électorale indépendante) et le code électoral. Réorganiser le parti

Puis, le président par intérim, le professeur Philippe Cowpli-Bony, passe le témoin à Tidjane Thiam. Il lui remet une boîte contenant des documents, dont les statuts du PDCI. Tidjane Thiam décline ses priorités : organiser les funérailles de l'ancien président Henri Konan Bédié et réorganiser le parti : « Les grandes batailles se construisent dans l'union et la

discipline. Nous allons, dans cet esprit, parcourir tous les coins et recoins de la Côte d'Ivoire pour porter haut et fort le message du PDCI-RDA, à savoir faire la politique mais la faire autrement.

Nous avons besoin de tous. Nous devons être à l'écoute de tous. Tous ensemble, nous réussirons sûrement. Je m'engage donc à renforcer la démocratie interne du parti par la promotion d'un processus de décision participatif et inclusif. »

Le discours du Président Boakai fait polémique



Le discours d'investiture du Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai le 22 janvier a suscité des réactions mitigées parmi les citoyens. Des résidents de l'île de Bushrod, une banlieue de Monrovia, ont exprimé leur insatisfaction, décrivant l'adresse présidentielle comme non concluante en raison de l'épuisement dû à la chaleur, de sa longueur excessive, de son aspect historique et de son manque de contenu. Selon eux, le discours n'a pas abordé de manière adéquate les réalités actuelles et les défis auxquels les Libériens sont confrontés.

Cependant, en opposition à ces critiques, de nombreux autres citoyens défendent le discours présidentiel, le qualifiant de long mais très informatif et réaliste. Ils soulignent les recommandations significatives du Président pour résoudre les problèmes du Liberia, mettant en avant les aspects historiques du pays et insistant sur la nécessité de surmonter les divisions, de promouvoir l'inclusion, de stimuler la création d'emplois et de renforcer l'économie. Lors d'une interview exclusive avec The NEW DAWN le 24 janvier 2024 à Zondo Town Community, Logan Town, un résident nommé Jackson Doe a exprimé sa déception quant au discours du Président Boakai. Il a souligné que le discours était trop long et dépourvu de substance et d'informations

concrètes pour résoudre les problèmes du Liberia. Doe a critiqué le fait que, malgré les promesses de campagne sur l'économie, la création d'emplois et la réduction de la pauvreté, le Président n'a pas fourni de solutions concrètes, préférant se concentrer sur des rhétoriques historiques ennuyeuses.

Une autre résidente, Ruth Saryon, de la communauté de Guinea Yard dans le district de Montserrado #15, a loué le Président Boakai pour ce qu'elle considère comme un discours inclusif. Selon elle, le discours abordait tous les aspects de la société libérienne, mettant particulièrement en avant la raison d'être du Liberia. Elle a exprimé son incompréhension face aux critiques, soulignant que le Président avait abordé des problématiques cruciales telles que la corruption, la création d'emplois, l'autonomisation des jeunes et la lutte contre la drogue.

Ruth Saryon a également noté que par le passé, le Président Boakai avait formulé des recommandations et des suggestions sur la manière de lutter contre la corruption, l'abus de drogues et d'autres vices sociaux. Cependant, elle a souligné que certaines critiques étaient motivées par des oppositions politiques plutôt que par une évaluation objective du discours présidentiel.

L'incident pendant le discours, où le Président Boakai s'est figé en raison de la chaleur intense, entraînant un malaise, a ajouté une dimension tragique à l'événement. Cet épisode a suscité des préoccupations quant à la sécurité et à la préparation de l'événement.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Murder In Liberia: Court Verdict And Other Actions In The Death Of Charloe Musu

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore

This is a continuation of the updates on the Charloe Musu murder case. In June 2023, this writer reported the arrest of Cllr. Gloria Scott and three co-defendants for the killing. The co-defendants and Charloe lived with Scott in her Brewerville home in Virginia, Montserrado County, Liberia. This report discusses the verdict.

On December 21, 2023, the jurors in the Charloe Musu murder case found former Liberian Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott and three co-defenders guilty of murdering Charloe. On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Criminal Court C sentenced the Defendants to life in prison. The Defense lawyers intend to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Charloe Musu, a 23 year-old college student pictured above, was murdered on February 22, 2023 in the house of Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, who is her traditional African mother. She had lived with the counselor since childhood. According to an autopsy, Charloe was stabbed multiple times. The mother reported to the police that an intruder killed the victim. Scott also reported using pepper spray on the intruder before he escaped. Besides being an ex-Supreme Court Chief Justice, Madam Scott is a renounced lawyer, a former senator, justice minister, and Liberian National Elections Commission Chair.

On June 21, 2023, the Liberian National Police (LNP), through the Justice Ministry, arrested Mrs. Scott, Gertrude Newton, Alice Johnson, and Rebecca Youdeh Wisers "for murder, criminal conspiracy, and false reports to law enforcement officials regarding Charloe Musu. On June 22, LNP detailed the arrest, indicating that there was no intruder into the house by their investigations. That the Defendants killed the deceased, conspired, and reported to LNP that an intruder murdered the victim." As the above photo shows, the counselor and her family lived in a high fence compound, which professional security men guarded. Also, dogs were protecting the yard. Hence, it would be difficult for an intruder to enter and, after being pepper sprayed, escape from the place.

The arrest received political reactions. Liberian former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf viewed the arrest "as a sad day and said the Liberia's Justice System has reverted to the bad ways of the past." Counselor Tiawan Gongloe, a 2023 presidential candidate, called the LNP's action "unfair and unfortunate". Cllr. Jerome Verdier, former chairman of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, alleged that "Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee of having masterminded the murder carried out by Varlee Telleh," an employee of the city.

Further investigation cleared Kojjee and Telleh. However, other Liberians happily expressed that the government finally took action on the case.

The politicization of the case continued during the four-month trial. Immediately after the November 2023 presidential election, Patrick Honnah, Punch Radio CEO, proclaimed that Cllr. Scott would be free now that Ambassador Joseph Boakai has won the election. She was once a Unity Party partisan and later a legal advisor for the Liberty Party. The two political institutions were of the opposition in the election. Seemingly, the opposition viewed the case politically; they believed that the ruling CDC government was prosecuting Scott unjustly.

Before the arrest, a group of Liberian females dressed in black demonstrated at the ground of the Capitol Building, supporting Cllr. Scott. Meanwhile, Front Page Africa, a newspaper, had reported that there was friction between the LNP and the justice ministry regarding the murder. Accordingly, LNP "want[ed] to charge Cllr. Scott with the crime of murder, but Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean reportedly opposed that decision and called [ed] for a lesser charge of manslaughter or negligent homicide." But some Liberians peacefully protested before the ministry and called on the minister not to halt justice.

Also, know that a few months before the killing, Madam Scott reported to the police two rubbery attempts at her compound. According to her, the police did nothing. It was alleged that immediately after the stabbing, she drove to the home of Minister Dean and informed the minister. Dean advised her to change her phone number. Scott did not, and neither did anyone else, take Charloe to the hospital until the following day, about 7 hours after. Some analysts viewed that Charloe's life would have been saved had someone taken her quickly to the hospital.

The Defendants hired a team of over 30 lawyers considered "some of the best legal minds in Liberia." It included retired associate Supreme Court judges and Cllr. Augustine Fayiah, the group lead lawyer. The persecution team included Cllr. Lafayette B. Gould, an experienced lawyer. The Defense argued that the persecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the Defendants committed the crime. The State maintained that there was no intruder into the house and that a security guard came to the house upon hearing "a crying sound coming from inside the house" and found the deceased's body in co-defendant Scott's private bathroom with bloodstains. Her living quarter is separated from the general quarter with a secured bar. Moreover, the victim's face is said to have "a foreign substance believed to be a pepper spray," which collaborates with Scott's earlier statement that she discharged pepper spray."

The court granted the Defense request to bring its own pathologist to conduct a second autopsy. The Defense employed Dr. Mathias Okoye, a Nigerian-born pathologist who practices in the US. Accordingly, his finding alleges that a DNA sample from Charloe's fingernails showed

that a male intruder committed the murder, contrary to the first autopsy performed by a team of Liberian pathologists headed by Dr. Benedict Kolee, chief pathologist at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Liberia. The Kolee group's examination claims that a female did the killing. On the witness stand, both pathologists debunked each other. The State produced 20 witnesses while the Defense had 11, including Cllr. Scott.

On December 21, 2023, the jurors visited the crime scene. They saw the bloodstains in the bathroom, the fortification of the house, and other conditions. Apparently, the Defendants vacated the premises intact after the incident. A few days after, the Persecution and the Defense rested their case. There were 12 jurors, and 11 found the Defendants guilty. 1 disagreed. After the verdict, some jurors expressed that besides the evidence presented, the visit to the house helped convince them.

While some Liberians applauded the verdict, others did not, blaming the ruling on corruption and poverty. Africa Report indicates. "The justice system is seriously challenged, and all this is due to poverty. People with no means of income are randomly selected to serve as jurors and promised a huge amount of money to influence their judgment. It's a challenge to the rule of law, says Frances Johnson-Allison, one of Musu-Scott's lawyers, who also served as chief justice of Liberia's Supreme Court from 1996-1997."

Cllr. Gould viewed the case differently, saying that the State won by overwhelming evidence. According to the same Africa Report, he stated that as a drafter "of the indictment, my opinion was that people committed a crime and I was under obligation to present a piece of evidence to a panel of jurors to decide whether my case was right, so the jurors did exactly what the law required."

Specific facts are cleared in this case. Besides Scott, the Defendants are ordinary Liberians. The jurors are from Montserrado County, which Joseph Boakai, an opposition, won twice in the October and November presidential elections. Yet, neither the verdict was close or divided. It was overwhelmingly majority, thus removing the resembling of politics from the process.

As pointed out earlier, the defense lawyers said they would appeal to the Supreme Court. The court will open in March this year. A new trial will likely be held if the Supreme Court rules for the Defense. Other than that, the Defendants will serve the sentence unless the president grants them clemency. Had the jurors ruled for the Defense, the case would have ended entirely, and the Defendants would have been free because, by law, the State cannot appeal to the Supreme Court. While some observers think the high court could overturn the verdict considering Scott's past political positions or the president could grant clemency, others said such a move would discredit the high court and affect and weaken the presidency. Though the Constitution gives the president the power to free a convict, critics say criminals would willfully commit crimes and look to the president for clemency. This could encourage impunity, increase crimes, and create insecurity in the county.

However, the Maryland County ritualistic murder case of 1977 could be an example of a strong presidency for justice. Indeed, in that matter, the State arrested Maryland Superintendent James Anderson, County Representative Allen Yancy, and others for allegedly killing Moses Tweh, a Kru fisherman and famous local singer from Grandcress. The State claimed that the accused murdered Tweh for ritualistic sacrifice for political advancement. Anderson was said to have wanted to become an ambassador and Yancy to be a senator. Anderson was the son of Nathaniel Anderson, chairman of the ruling True Whig Party, and Yancy was the son of former Vice President Allen Yancy, Sr., and cousin of William Tubman, Liberian's past president. They were all Marylanders and powerful. Moreover, President Tubman selected sitting president William Tolbert as vice president in 1951. Tolbert loyally served under Tubman for over twenty years and became president upon Tubman's death in 1971.

The lower court found the defendants guilty, but the Supreme Court ruled for a new trial. However, the lower court ruled the Defendants guilty in the second trial. Chairman Anderson untiringly appealed to President Tolbert for clemency. The president refused and later spoke that he would not be influenced by sentiment in carrying out his "duty in the fear of God in keeping with the oath of office of the president."

The guilty individuals were hung as sentenced. The president's stance, despite other shortcomings, enhanced his legacy as a strong leader who stood for justice. The commoners in Maryland County and Grand Kru County cheered and rejoiced in the streets for the decision.

Another murder case should be an example. On November 30, 2007, Angel Togba, a 13-year-old virgin girl, was reportedly found hanging in the bathroom of her guardian, Mr. Han Williams, a former Deputy Managing Director of the Liberia National Port Authority. The State alleged that Mr. Williams' wife, Madea Williams, murdered Angel after she found her husband having sex with the victim. The Prosecution maintained that "out of anger, Madea strangled the girl to death."

The Prosecution argued that the Defendants then covered up the killing by hanging the victim to indicate that she killed herself. The Defendants pleaded not guilty. However, an autopsy, which a Ghanaian pathologist conducted, showed Angel was sexually abused before her death by strangulation. The lower court ruled the Defendants guilty of murder. But on August 15, 2014, following a lengthy legal battle, the Supreme Court overturned the verdict and freed the Defendants. The decision met public outcry.



Liberians x-ray Boakai's nominations I was never in control

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Foreign Affairs; Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Amin Modad, Minister of Commerce & Industry; Dr. Jarso Jallah Saygbe, Minister of Education; Dr. Louise Kpoto, Minister of Health; Mr. Dorbor Jallah, Commissioner-General, Liberia

County District#8, Moses Dean thinks the nominees are ok, saying that it's too early to pass judgment.

He notes that though those nominated have not taken office in order to observe their performance, the expectation of Liberians is progress for the country and a better tomorrow.

"We believe that the first appointees will do their best because they are all experienced people from their track records; we know who they are."

Augustine T. Focko of Barnesville says there are no new faces in the first batch of nominees especially, Samuel Kofi Woods and Boimah Kamara, as these are officials from the 12-year leadership of the Unity Party before Ex-President Weah came on the stage.

Gulley Swen of the Monrovia suburb of Sinkor differs. He says the President's choices are in the right direction because these are experienced public servants, who demonstrated their expertise years ago, while they were in government.

Mr. Swen specifically praises the nomination of Boimah Kamara, former Minister of Finance and Development Planning from the Sirleaf administration, who he argues, served well.

He believes that the candidates are competent and people with integrity, adding that they are going to make a change.

A resident of Redlight, Paynesville, Carr Othello, describes Mr. Kamara as a very good and smart man, explaining that Kamara is a very straight forward person and was never involved in corruption, while serving at that ministry. Editing by Jonathan Browne

By Kruah Thompson

The United Party's nominee on the Joint Presidential Transition Team's sub-committee on President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's inaugural ceremony that became a flop on Monday, Miatta Fahnbulleh distances herself from the poor execution that characterized the event.

Instead, Aunty Miatta, as she is affectionally called, squarely blames the Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA) Mary Broh, Foreign Minister Maxwell Kemayah, and the 55th Legislature for the disastrous inaugural ceremony held on Monday, January 22, 2024, in Monrovia.

Miss Fahnbulleh, who was appointed on December 8, 2023, to head the leadership and members of the Joint Presidential Transition Team openly admits that she was never in control of the inaugural planning, but held the title of inaugural head only in name, while most decisions were made by individuals within the former

of the committee because oversight and communication within the committee were poorly conducted, leading to the disastrous heat exhaustion incident that nearly destroyed the President's life.

"There was a total breakdown in coordination amongst those that were appointed by former President Weah to head the inaugural committee", she notes, and adds, "When I realized that I was not in control, I sincerely contemplated relinquishing the position."

However, she says based on advice from her colleagues, she ultimately decided to go along with the situation.

Turning to the 55th Legislature, Aunty Fhanbulleh questions their involvement in overseeing planning processes leading to the event, asking how often they checked the Capitol's readiness before the actual inaugural date.

Though she expresses gratitude to other national stakeholders for their participation in the planning, Aunty Miatta sternly criticizes the Legislature for allegedly neglecting its oversight



Gregory Coleman

Boimah Kamara

Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Sylvester Grigsby

appreciation. Several citizens in Monrovia describe the President's pick as a good step, noting that President Boakai has appointed individuals with years of experience in public service and competency.

But others say these are recycled officials from the former Sirleaf administration in which Mr. Boakai himself served as Vice President, lamenting that with such individuals nothing will change.

According to them, President Boakai's nomination of Gregory Coleman, Boimah Kamara, Samuel Kofi Woods, Sam Gaye, and Sylvester Grigsby is a complete return of the Sirleaf administration, so there is nothing strange.

The President has also nominated Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, as Minister of

Revenue Authority; and Mr. Abraham K. Kromah, Director General, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency.

But speaking in an exclusive interview with The NEW DAWN on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in the slum community of West Point, a resident, Leon B. Saydee, said the President's nominations were based on personal contacts of the candidates in the global community coupled with professional competence, integrity and respect for the country.

However, Mr. Saydee explains that his only dissatisfaction is that three of the nominees hail from Lofa County, adding "We want to see regional balance in employment, and President Boakai should get away from tribalism in his regime."

A resident of Montserrado

Starts from back page VP Koung calls for peace, reconciliation

the Liberian Senate that the first Regular Session of the 55th Legislature is not only historical because it climaxes the constitutional responsibilities of the 54th Legislature.

But he said it also sets the platform for the emergence of a new era of a smooth political transition which has enhanced the nation's democratic credentials. Meanwhile, the Liberian Vice President lauded former President George Manneh Weah and former Vice

President Jewel Howard-Taylor for their stewardship over the last six years.

VP Koung believes that the ultimate winners in these elections are the Liberian people who are the true custodians of peace and democracy.

"Today, our Nation has once again ushered in its second successive post-war democratic transition from one government to another," he said.

"These transitions are marks

of our country's preparedness for democracy. During the conduct of our elections and the attending transition of state power, we have, as a Nation, demonstrated our commitment to peace and the credibility of our democratic aspirations and institutions," Koung noted.

He also congratulated all senators for a hard-fought campaign and welcomed all newly elected senators who have joined the body to continue the legacy of service to the Liberian people.



Miatta Fahnbulleh

Weah government.

Addressing the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Thursday, January 25, on Capitol Hill, she pointed fingers at Madam Broh, revealing that the GSA boss allegedly received funding for the renovation and preparation of the Capitol Building where the inauguration was held, but due to the poor management, progress was only halfway.

According to her, every time she tried to inquire, the consistent response she received was that the responsibility fell on the GSA.

She narrates that before the ceremony, she decided to confront Madam Mary Broh, but the meeting ended in deadlock, alleging that Broh obstructed preparations for the inaugural ceremony.

She adds that much of her recommendations proffered were not adhered to by members

responsibility.

"They failed to inspect whether the Capitol Building was properly set up and if everything was in order. But when I presented my proposal, they emphasized their oversight and responsibilities." She laments.

On the other hand, while acknowledging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's role in the printing of invitations, she similarly blames the ministry for overcrowding the event.

According to her, despite an initial agreement for 400 tickets, she subsequently discovered that additional 300 hundred tickets were printed by the ministry's protocol section, bringing to a total 700 tickets while there were only four hundred chairs arranged for guests.

"So why should I be held responsible, when EPS officers were allowing people without

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VP Koung calls for peace, reconciliation

By Ethel A. Tweh

Liberian Vice President Jeremiah Koung has called on all citizens to eliminate what he terms the idea of a 'Green or Blue Liberia,' and

and Blue' Liberia that must be eliminated appears to reference not just the dominant colors associated with the ruling Unity Party and its main rival Coalition for

first session of the Liberian Senate, VP Koung underscored the need to give every Liberian the opportunity to contribute his or her quota to nation-building.



Vice President Jeremiah Koung

"We have a shared responsibility to promote reconciliation and demonstrate true leadership in bringing our people together under the umbrella of peace and national development," he said.

According to him, the results obtained from the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections point to the diversity of the political views and aspirations of the people.

"As we take pride in the many commendations received from friendly nations across the world, we must be reminded that the ultimate goal of our service is not in the victory which comes during elections, but in the crafting and execution of laws and policies which have a positive transformative effect on the lives of our people," he added.

He also told the plenary of

promote peace and reconciliation.

The President of the Liberian Senate appealed to the citizenry while delivering a special statement to members of the Liberian Senate on his first day at work Thursday, 25 January 2024. Koung's description of a 'Green

Democratic Change (CDC), but the division among Liberians supporting these political parties.

The former Nimba County Senator stressed that the 2023 elections are over and it is now time Liberians embrace such a new mindset.

On the 4th Day Sitting of the

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