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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2024	L\$189.3309/US\$1.00	L\$191.0946/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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Washington should help Boakai

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Pres. Boakai Dr. Michael Rubin



Kailondo optimistic about Boakai's regime

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Cllr. George Kailondo

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Continental News

UK warns of risk of famine in Ethiopia

In Ayder hospital in Mekelle, the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region, the corridors are filled with the hubbub of any busy medical facility. But in the paediatric

2020 when the war between Tigrayan forces and Ethiopian and Eritrean armies began.

A ceasefire was agreed in 2022 but the impact of the conflict still lingers with at least one million

now, then there is every danger that a famine will engulf this war-torn country which has suffered so much already."He promised Britain would commit a further £100m (\$125m) to help up to three million mothers and babies in Ethiopia get access to health care; a new fund to provide medicines and vaccines designed to end preventable deaths. But is famine in Ethiopia really likely? International aid agencies are cautious about using what some call "the F-word". It has a precise technical definition - 20% of households facing extreme food shortages, 30% of children under five with acute malnutrition, and two people out of every 10,000 dying every day. Few suggest those criteria have been formally met in Ethiopia. But for Getachew Reda, president of the Tigray interim regional administration, those definitions are otiose.

He told the BBC there was an "unfolding famine" in Tigray. The numbers of those "staring death in the eye" were rising all the time, he told us, criticising the international community for its "lacklustre" response. "One thing I know is that thousands of people who would otherwise have been able to feed themselves are not in a position to feed themselves and are succumbing to death because of starvation," Mr Getachew said.

"Whether you call it famine or a risk of famine or a potential famine, for me it's purely academic. BBC



Tsega Tsigabu's baby is one of the many suffering from malnutrition in Ethiopia's Tigray region

wing, there is a stillness to the wards. For here lie children numbly bearing witness to the latest food crisis to ravage northern Ethiopia. Mostly babies, they are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Their mothers sit silently at their beds, staring into the middle distance, clutching their infants to their breast, hoping what milk they have can deliver the salvation for which they yearn. For they and Ethiopia are suffering once again from a devastating legacy of conflict and drought, twin evils that in recent years have destroyed farms and crops and forced millions from their homes. Doctors at the hospital tell us the numbers of severely malnourished children being admitted have doubled since

people still unable to return home remaining in the region. We travelled with the British Africa minister, Andrew Mitchell, to Agulae, an hours' drive north into the hills, where a clinic was assessing children from outlying villages. He watched as anxious mothers lined up to have the circumference of their children's arms measured; the less flesh on the bone, the more likely the malnutrition. The nurses showed him their charts and they all told a similar story of the numbers getting worse. "There is clearly a risk of famine if we don't now take action," Mr Mitchell told the BBC. "There are serious indicators of the danger of famine. If you ask me, 'Is there a famine taking place now in Ethiopia?' I say no, and we have the power to stop it. But if we don't take the necessary action

Namibia gets new leader hours after predecessor dies

Namibia has a new president in the shape of Nangolo Mbumba just hours after, as vice-president, he had announced the death of his predecessor.

Hage Geingob, 82, died early on Sunday while receiving medical treatment at a hospital in the capital, Windhoek. A veteran of the country's independence struggle, Mr Geingob had been diagnosed with cancer and revealed the details to the public last month. The nation had lost a "liberation... icon", Mr Mbumba said. He has since been sworn-in as Mr Geingob's replacement and will serve in the role until elections due later this year. "I am not going to be around for the elections so don't panic," he said at a swiftly arranged swearing-in ceremony at state house, just 15 hours after the death of the president. Paying tribute to his predecessor, he said "our nation

remains calm and stable owing to the leadership of President Geingob who was the chief architect of the constitution." I take on this heavy mantle cognisant of the weight of responsibility." Mr Geingob was first sworn-in as president in 2015, but had served in top political positions since independence in 1990.

The exact cause of his death

was not given but last month he underwent "a two-day novel treatment for cancerous cells" in the US before flying back home on 31 January, his office had said.

On Namibian radio, people have been sharing memories of someone they described as a visionary as well as a jovial man, who was able to share a joke. BBC



President Nangolo Mbumba took the oath of office hours after announcing the death of his predecessor

Tourists dismayed as Zanzibar runs low on beer

The spice islands of Zanzibar are facing a shortage of alcohol which threatens the tourism sector of one of Africa's top travel destinations.

Tourism generates about 90% of the Tanzanian archipelago's foreign revenue.

Prices of beer have shot up by almost 100% after the supply chain was disrupted by a sudden change of importers.

The islands' tourism minister resigned recently citing poor work conditions. However, some have linked his resignation to the issues with alcohol supplies.

Known for their stunning sandy beaches and rich cultural heritage, the Indian Ocean islands are popular with tourists from around the world.

Last year, Zanzibar was ranked among the 10 best travel destinations in Africa by several tour magazines. But hoteliers now warn that the problems over alcohol supply might make the island lose its tourism shine. Several tourist hotels along the Matemwa

whose population is largely Muslim. Most of the alcohol sold on the islands comes from mainland Tanzania, while some is imported from South Africa.

The initial shortage early this year began when the Zanzibar Liquor Control Board (ZLCB) delayed renewed permits for the three established importers - One Stop, Scotch Store, and ZMMI. It is not clear why the licences of the three firms, which had supplied alcohol to the island for more than two decades, were not renewed. For alcohol importers to get licensed, they must be Zanzibari-born residents with a clean tax record, a warehouse, and a delivery vehicle. Additionally, importers must also pay a \$12,000 (£10,000) annual fee to the regulatory board. Last month, ZLCB granted licences to three new companies - Kifaruru, Bevko and Zanzi Imports - but hoteliers say they are still struggling to meet the demand.

The new firms are reportedly entangled in a lengthy vetting process amid reports that some non-Zanzibaris are involved in the operations of the companies in contravention of the law. The



Hotel operators have warned of mass lay-offs if the situation is not addressed

beaches in the north of Zanzibar's main island are only serving soft drinks and people in that area say they have to go to the main city, Stone Town, for alcohol. Mr Mshenga's business selling beer and sea food has been badly hit. "We are running short of beer at my bar, and I just have a stock of soft drinks," he told the BBC. "The government has to take action. It is the high season now, it is very hot and these tourists need joy, they need cold beer on these beaches."

An American tourist, who did not want to be named, said: "I love Zanzibar and its beaches. The people are amazing and only challenge I feel now is I can't get hard liquor. I want to have spirits or even whisky but nothing is found in the hotel - they instead advised me to order it from Stone Town."

The local manufacture of alcohol is banned in Zanzibar,

situation has been complicated further after the three previous licence holders filed appeals, asking the government to renew their liquor import permits. Zanzibar's liquor stores are struggling to keep shelves stocked. "There is an alcohol shortage in Zanzibar and we've already informed authorities about the tourism sector's situation," Rahim Mbarouk, chairman of the Zanzibar Tourism Investment Association, told the BBC. The price of beer has gone up from 2,500 shillings (\$1; £0.80) to 5,000 shillings, according to Neema Meena, a frequent traveller to Zanzibar from mainland Tanzania. BBC

Some popular alcohol brands, like Safari, are said to be completely unavailable.

"This shortage hits hard," Frank John Kahamu, secretary at the Amani Alcohol Merchants Union, told privately-owned The Citizen website. BBC

EDITORIAL

UP government should come with clean hands

Circumstances surrounding the expenditure of US\$650,000 for the poorly organized inaugural ceremony of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai have a very high likelihood to taint the image of the new administration that campaigned on integrity and accountability to ascend to power, if nothing is urgently done to set the record straight and erase suspicions both within and outside the ruling UP.

By every account so far, nothing seems to be clear on how funds allotted for various aspects of the inaugural ceremony at which people fainted because of severe heat and dehydration, were expended, with tales of diverse shades being told.

Hell broke loose when a total of US\$365,000 allotted by President Boakai for ordinary citizens to celebrate his inauguration in all 73 districts across the country with each district apportioned US\$5,000 is greeted with noise and discrepancy. As if this was not enough, the woman who headed the President's inaugural committee, Auntie Miatta Fahnbulleh, told a media briefing Thursday, January 25, 2024 in Monrovia that she was never in control of activities for which she reportedly received huge cash.

Rather, she blames the former administration, security officers, protocol personnel everyone else, but herself, as head, for everything that went wrong on Inauguration Day, January 22, 2024 that was characterized by severe heat, lack of seats and water for guests, which nearly turned fatal for President Boakai himself!

Auntie Miatta is yet to account clearly how funds received for the program she presided over was expended, with people she claimed to have given money for specific activities, such as media, US\$50,000, and several thousands to an entertainment group "Kukatono" (we are one) refuting that they received far less than the amounts announced. Addressing the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Thursday, January 25, on Capitol Hill, she pointed fingers at the former Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA) Madam Broh, revealing that the former 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 prior to the ceremony, she decided to confront Madam Mary Broh, but the meeting ended in deadlock, alleging that Broh obstructed preparations for the inaugural ceremony.

But reacting on Spoon Talk last week Thursday, Madam Broh said she didn't receive a dime, contrary to allegation by Auntie Miatta that the former GSA boss received a larger chunk of the US\$650,000 inaugural budget for logistical purposes. She explains that she has in her possession vouchers for cars that were rented for the occasion.

Besides, the National Chairman for the now ruling Unity Party, Rev. Dr. Luther Tarpeh is vividly struggling to account for the US\$3650,000 allotted by the President for the 73 electoral districts to celebrate. Without consultation with other party executives in Monrovia, Chairman Tarpeh explains that UP county chairpersons from all 15 counties requested for some of the money to have their own celebrations, so he authorized disbursement of US\$1,000 from the amount to each county chair for said purpose.

It is hard to comprehend how a party that preached equity, accountability and moral leadership throughout the entire campaign could entangle itself and have its hands stained in the disbursement and expenditure of the first public money it handled right from the onset of its six-year rule.

COMMENTARY

By Peter Sands

Pandemic or Not, Medical Oxygen Remains Essential

GENEVA - Among the most shocking images from the COVID-19 pandemic were of people gasping for air, unable to breathe, their blood oxygen so severely depleted that some died in ambulances lined up outside hospitals. In wealthier countries, there was a panicked rush to expand ventilator capacity to deal with the surge of people experiencing acute respiratory distress. In countries like India and Kenya, there was an even more desperate scramble to find oxygen cylinders for loved ones. In low- and middle-income countries, nine out of ten hospitals lacked the equipment to provide oxygen therapy.

Seeing people dying for lack of oxygen, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Unitaid, USAID, and other global agencies took action. Under the umbrella of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, we established the Oxygen Emergency Taskforce to coordinate the emergency response, broaden access, and secure supplies. Since then, the taskforce has overseen an investment exceeding \$1 billion for oxygen-related needs, primarily via the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM). These funds have gone toward procuring oxygen cylinders and bulk storage tanks, installing oxygen production machines (known as pressure swing adsorption plants), and offering specialized training for health workers.

Tragically, this response came too late for too many people, because the peak of the pandemic coincided with a worldwide shortage of oxygen cylinders. Furnishing a hospital with a sustainable oxygen supply takes many months, given the need to install sophisticated equipment and pipework; and training health workers to provide oxygen safely cannot be done overnight.

Following the acute phase of the pandemic, the Oxygen Emergency Taskforce's focus shifted toward ensuring greater access to medical oxygen on a sustainable basis, so that what happened with COVID-19 is never repeated. Moreover, there is a compelling case for expanding access to medical oxygen even without the threat of a pandemic. Lack of oxygen in low- and middle-income countries leads to 800,000 preventable deaths every year. Newborn babies die of respiratory distress syndrome. Mothers die when complications in childbirth result in hypoxemia. Acute trauma victims - from violence or traffic accidents, for example - also die from lack of oxygen. Surgical procedures for

a wide range of conditions, including cancer, cannot be carried out without medical oxygen.

It would be difficult to identify a better example of an investment that simultaneously reinforces pandemic preparedness and saves lives now. Research by the Every Breath Counts Coalition shows that hospitals that offer pediatric care with a fully functioning supply of oxygen can reduce deaths due to child pneumonia by almost half, and all children's deaths by one-quarter.

To maintain the pace of progress in expanding access to medical oxygen, the Global Fund and Unitaid, alongside other partners, have transformed the Oxygen Emergency Taskforce into a Global Oxygen Alliance, known as GO2AL. Its objectives are to provide financial support for oxygen production and supply, comprehensive technical and training assistance, and advocacy for equitable access.

National governments are also taking the lead. For example, this past April, Kenyan President William Ruto and county governors set aside \$41.7 million for a program to distribute medical oxygen cylinders and bulk storage tanks to the country's health-care centers. With the support of the Global Fund and other partners, Kenya also is building a nationwide network of oxygen-production plants, bulk-storage tanks, and cylinder distribution channels to ensure that hospitals and primary-care facilities have sufficient supplies.

Far too many people died from lack of oxygen during the COVID-19 pandemic, and far too many are dying unnecessarily today from other conditions because medical oxygen is not routinely available. That is why we have embarked on the most ambitious effort yet to increase access to medical oxygen in low- and middle-income countries.

To date, and thanks to the generosity of donors led by the United States and Germany, the Global Fund has invested \$617 million to support 98 countries and six regional projects in their efforts to increase access to oxygen. Doing so will save millions of lives and significantly improve low- and middle-income countries' ability to respond to future disease threats.

Sadly, nothing will bring back the people who died gasping for air. But owing to our unified response to COVID-19, millions of others can be spared a similar fate.

OP-ED

By Eric Posner

Will Trump Be Disqualified?

CHICAGO - This week, the US Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Donald Trump's appeal of the Colorado Supreme Court's decision disqualifying him from the ballot for the 2024 presidential election. The Colorado court based its decision on Section 3 of the US Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment, which bars from federal and state office anyone who, having sworn to uphold the Constitution, engages in insurrection. Nearly everyone on the left and right has already decided that the ruling is obviously right or obviously wrong, respectively. But the truth is that both the law and the facts are unclear, which means the Supreme Court justices' political acumen will be tested like never before.

Start with the question of whether Trump engaged in "insurrection," the resonant but undefined core of Section 3. One view is that he did so by orchestrating a mob attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, while Congress was trying to certify the election results. Another is that Trump gave aid and comfort to the insurrection by failing to call in the troops to quell it, and by waiting hours before telling his supporters to go home.

But it is not clear that he called for violence ("fight like hell" is an all-too-trite expression in the American vernacular), and it is unlikely that he expected the Capitol police to be overrun. Moreover, the president's executive power is normally understood to be discretionary. It would be very unusual for a court to find that presidential inaction, as opposed to action, violated the constitution.

The trial court in the Colorado case noted that Section 3 does not explicitly apply to the president. It applies, rather, to electors of the president, suggesting that the drafters trusted the electors to choose the president even if they did not always trust the people to choose the electors - a view shared by America's founders. Some critics have ridiculed this argument, noting that Section 3 also applies to "officers of the United States," which surely describes the president. And yet, other clauses of the Constitution distinguish the president from officers of the US, as have judicial opinions over the years.

Faced with these and similar conflicting arguments that turn on the vagaries of language and understandings lost to history, the Supreme Court cannot plausibly resolve the case by the sort of narrow legalistic analysis that courts often use. As they have in nearly every major case, the justices will have to account for larger problems of constitutionalism, politics, and the public good, giving careful thought to the possibility of a popular backlash at a time when the Court's public support has waned.

As he has done in past controversial cases, Chief Justice John Roberts will strive for a unanimous opinion to shield the Court from charges of partisanship. Since the usual way to achieve a unanimous opinion is to rule on the narrowest grounds possible, one option is to hold that the president is not an "officer of the United States" for the purposes of Section 3. That would preserve Section 3 for most other government officials, and it would enable the Court to avoid taking a position on the explosive political question of whether Trump engaged in insurrection.

Alternatively, the Court could follow the 1869 Griffin's Case and hold that Section 3 authorizes Congress to disqualify government officials, but does not mandate it on its own. In 1870, Congress implicitly accepted that theory by imposing disqualification only on officials who interfered with Reconstruction. But it seems unlikely that the three liberal justices would go along with this. So, Roberts might conceivably try to knit together a unanimous ruling against Trump.

A narrow ruling against Trump could hold that the federal courts should not disrupt states' handling of ballot access where state courts provide good-faith interpretations of the US Constitution. That could well kill off Trump's campaign by embroiling it in litigation in 50 states, which could result in his removal from the ballot in key jurisdictions.

But would Republican-appointed justices rule against Trump? It's possible. After all, they are establishment figures, not populist rebels, and they have not shown much loyalty to Trump in cases where he tried to advance his personal and political interests, as opposed to broadly shared Republican policies. Trump characteristically denounced the Court as "nothing more than a political body" after one of the rulings against him. The justices surely would be delighted to get him out of their hair.

The conservative justices also might accept the conventional wisdom that a Republican other than Trump stands the best chance of defeating Joe Biden. Ruling against Trump thus would secure a more respectable candidate and put the Court on the side of a majority of Americans who think Trump should be disqualified. Moreover, the Court's conservatives could still bank on goodwill among some Republicans for their elimination in 2022 of the federal right to abortion.

But abortion notwithstanding, right-wing rabble-rousers would have a field day attacking the Court, which may find itself without allies on the right or the left. So uncertain would be the consequences, which could deepen polarization and even spark political violence, that it is hard to imagine the justices coming together for a unanimous opinion.

One possible way forward, then, would be for the Court to resolve some of the legal issues - like the correct definition of "insurrection" - and appoint a special master or commission to engage in expedited fact finding, with a quick appeal back to the Court after the facts have been unearthed. While the Colorado trial court did hold a brief hearing to determine the facts, its account of its fact-finding suggests that only a skimpy record was developed. A hearing before a commission consisting of senior or retired federal judges would allow the public to learn what happened on January 6 in a less partisan setting than the congressional January 6 Commission.

This process would echo the Electoral Commission of 1877, which resolved the contested election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden. That commission was appointed by Congress, not the Supreme Court, but the Court has appointed commissions and special masters before (albeit in different circumstances). There is no doubt that it could find the authority to do so again.

Americans don't trust government much anymore, but they do harbor a residual trust in the judiciary, with its intimidating forms and procedures. A regular trial (ideally televised, though that, too, would require a change in policy) could finally offer a clear path forward.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of *How Antitrust Failed Workers* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

OPINION

By J. Bradford DeLong

What Is the Fed Thinking?

BERKELEY - At its monthly meeting on January 31, the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee held firm on interest rates. "The Committee judges that the risks to achieving its employment and inflation goals are moving into better balance," the FOMC explained in its press release. But the "economic outlook is uncertain, and the Committee remains highly attentive to inflation risks." As a result, "[t]he Committee does not expect it will be appropriate to reduce the target range until it has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent."

I must say, this announcement left me somewhat alarmed, particularly the parts about keeping the target range for the federal funds rate at 5.25-5.5%. After all, the US macroeconomy is already moving forward at a sustainable cruising speed. It is in balance, with an unemployment rate of 3.7%, implying "full employment." The core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index (excluding food and energy) over the past six months shows that inflation has fallen steadily toward the Fed's target.

Moreover, I see no significant private-sector forces at work that would imminently strengthen demand by enough to boost inflation, or that would push the economy into recession. And neither does anybody else.

True, a few commentators still worry that the somewhat elevated state of the Beveridge curve (reflecting the relationship between job vacancies and the unemployment rate) indicates the potential for growing wage-inflation pressures. But to harbor such fears, one must pretend that job-vacancy postings in the digital age mean the same thing as they did in the past. Before widespread adoption of the internet, employers had to spend money to advertise vacancies and then interview those who responded. Now, firms can post vacancies for free and reject applicants with ease. And since job applications are usually sent to a mass audience, a rejection today does not amount to a negative signal that would impede a firm-worker match in the future.

With these changes, it would be astonishing if the current Beveridge employment-vacancy relationship was anything like previous cycles. Those who have attempted to forecast with an estimated slope for the Beveridge curve have missed the mark massively.

There also may be some commentators who worry that rising real (inflation-adjusted) wages are jeopardizing macroeconomic stability. But just as margins cannot expand forever, labor's share of income cannot fall forever. After a generation of capital's share of income rising at labor's expense, we should expect a shift in the other direction, especially as some of the factors that boosted capital's bargaining power have ebbed.

Moreover, one must consider productivity growth, which counteracts the inflationary effects of wage growth. A high-pressure full-employment economy tends to deliver higher productivity growth, because businesses find that training workers and investing in their productivity is an attractive option compared to fishing in a shallower pool of potential hires. This effect was evident in the latest US Bureau of Labor Statistics report, according to which annualized nonfarm-business productivity grew by 3.2% in the fourth quarter of 2023, capping off a 2.7% year-on-year increase.

Thus, neither the Beveridge curve nor real-wage increases offer a reliable foundation for forecasting a rebound of inflation. Still, looming over the Fed's deliberations is the zero lower bound: the Fed can always raise interest rates, but it cannot cut them below zero. This asymmetry thus imposes a strategic constraint on monetary policy. The last thing the Fed wants is to find itself in a situation where it might have to cut its policy rate to zero.

But this risk must be weighed against the presumption that in a balanced, neutral economy like the current one, monetary policy, too, should be neutral. That means setting interest rates at their long-run neutral level: the shadowy, mysterious variable r^* , at which monetary policy is neither stimulative nor restrictive.

I seriously doubt that even a small handful of FOMC members believe that today's r^* corresponds to a policy rate in the range 5.25-5.5%. If I am right, that means most members recognize that current policy is not neutral but restrictive. And yet, the latest announcement carried a strong message that the FOMC is in no hurry to align policy rates with the presumed value of the neutral rate r^* .

That concerns me, and it should concern us all. What is the thinking - about current inflation pressures, r^* , and the likely distribution of future supply and demand shocks - that justifies such a reluctance to move policy rates back toward a neutral level? When a boat is already pointed at its destination, its tiller should be straight, not hard-a-starboard.

ARTICLEBy: Austin S. Fallah-
Concern Liberian.**Navigating Liberia's Political Landscape: A Comprehensive Review and Guidance for Sustainable Leadership.**

Devoted followers embody Liberia's vibrant spirit through dedication to democracy and integrity, echoing distinguished role models. Successfully navigating politics requires acknowledging life's crossed bridges as essential for turnaround.

In politics, profit and investment intertwine, essential for the party's sustenance.

The Unity Party, in power, exemplifies unwavering loyalty. Integrating party concerns into policymaking is imperative for representative leaders, prioritizing party interests in collective decision-making.

Global political trends offer insights. Examining the CDC, the United Kingdom, and the United States provides perspectives on engagement, policy implementation, and stability—values Liberia should embrace.

In Liberia's evolving socio-political landscape, the "6 and 9 years" concept reflects the political life cycle, underlining the need for promised reforms. Leadership must balance party loyalty with governance for national stability.

Recent political changes, with President Dr. Joseph N Boakai and VP Jeremiah K. Koug, demand a reassessment of leadership, party principles, and stability. The Unity Party mirrors a business, highlighting the partnership between politics and corporate ideologies.

Drawing lessons from the UK and the US emphasizes integrating party principles in decision-making. The article concludes with a reminder of the Liberian paradigm, urging leaders to deliver on promises.

For Liberia's sustainable progress, President Dr. Boakai and VP Koug must remember their roots in the Unity Party and MDR.

The paper appeals not to forget the bridge that led them to power, emphasizing the importance of delivering on promises for those who supported the party.

Urging the leadership not to sideline the party in decision-making processes, the writing emphasizes that this presidency is a collective effort of the party, presented to the people through the Unity Party.

Inspired by global political environments, the article emphasizes the trend of leaders aligning with parties for unity and collaboration. Liberia stands at a crucial juncture, confident that adherence to party principles can lead to unprecedented growth.

The commentary expresses confidence that adherence to party principles and manifesto promises can lead the nation into unprecedented growth and prosperity, bridging the gap between expectations and reality.

FEATURE**Leadership Dynamics in Liberia: Contrasting George Weah and Joseph N. Boakai:**

By: Austin S. Fallah-US based Liberian-Midwest of these United States:

American political history is dynamic, marked by leaders with diverse ideologies on governance.

This analysis compares the contrasting leadership styles of Presidents George Weah and Joseph N. Boakai, examining their impact on Liberia's youth.

President Weah's tenure saw the young generation grappling with perceived leadership failures, including corruption allegations, economic regression, and increased drug abuse.

Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer and reports on rising drug abuse reflected this challenging period.

In contrast, Dr. Boakai's ARREST agenda targets Agriculture, Roads, Education, Security/Health, and Technology. It aims to combat corruption and drug abuse, fostering economic opportunities for the youth and steering Liberia towards prosperity.

Weah's leadership faced criticism for enabling corruption, leaving the youth disenfranchised. Boakai's promise of systemic change resonated, addressing the economic and social crises through his ARREST agenda.

Boakai emphasizes active youth participation in agriculture and technology, countering drug abuse through gainful employment and economic empowerment. This dichotomy highlights the demand for transformative and inclusive leadership supporting Liberia's youth.

Weah's administration struggled with corruption, eroding public trust and demanding anti-corruption measures. Boakai prioritizes social and economic justice, aiming to reform education and stimulate economic growth, contrasting Weah's failures.

Liberians must stay vigilant, holding the government accountable for responsible and responsive leadership. The transition from Weah's disappointment to Boakai's promises underscores the importance of experience and vision in leadership.

Dr. Boakai's ARREST agenda envisions a drug-free and corruption-free Liberia, promoting social and economic justice.

The shift from Weah to Boakai signifies the potential of experienced leadership in driving progress.

Weah's presidency, initially promising, faced mismanagement, corruption, and neglect of social justice.

Boakai, with the ARREST agenda, offers a corrective path, leveraging political and administrative experience to build a prosperous Liberia.

The transition faced challenges like resource scarcity, youth drug abuse, and corruption. Boakai, drawing on 35 years of public service, symbolizes hope, resilience, and commitment to inclusivity.

Boakai's ARREST agenda emphasizes accountability, transparency, and the rule of law.

Economic restructuring, focusing on agriculture, aims to reduce unemployment and foster prosperity, laying the foundation for a thriving nation.

Youthful aspirants' failures underscore the need for wisdom and experience in governance.

Boakai's ARREST agenda provides a fundamental strategy for Liberia's transformation, promising a nation marked by social and economic justice.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sen. Konneh reminds Boakai

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., Margibi County

Gbarpolu County Senator Amara Konneh, a very strong supporter of President

President Joseph Boakai has appointed Ministers to head 15 Ministries including 2 ministers of state without portfolio. Lofa has 5 (29.4%), Bong has 4 (23.5%), Bassa, Bomi and Nimba

cabinet ministers which is 83.3% of cabinet positions appointed from seven of the fifteen counties so far, constituting 46.6%.

According to the senator, three cabinet positions remain with about eight of the 15 counties without ministerial positions.

He names the remaining positions as Ministers of Posts and Telecommunications, Mines and Energy and Labour, lamenting that the President has so far just appointed one Muslim in his government, Mamaka Bility.

He observes that Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Kru, River Cess, Maryland, Grand Gedeh and River Gee are without cabinet positions.

According to him, President Boakai won in Margibi and Gbarpolu in both rounds of the elections and won Montserrado in the runoff.

Senator Konneh points out that Southeast Liberia that has six counties only got one cabinet position.

He explains that those of them who supported President Boakai must remind him quietly and publicly of promises made during the campaign because change means change.

"Those of us who supported President Boakai must remind him of his promises quietly and publicly when it becomes necessary to help him deliver the promises he made when he campaigned for president. Change means change!" This is Senator Konneh's demand.

have 2 each (35.3%) while Cape Mount and Sinoe have 1 each (117%)."

According to the Senator, Lofa County has the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Education, Youth and Sports, Internal Affairs and State Without Portfolio, while Grand Cape Mount has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sinoe, Ministry of State and Nimba, Ministries of Justice and Defense, respectively.

He continues that Grand Bassa has the Ministries of Health and Information; Bomi has Ministries of Finance and Transport and Bong has Ministries of Public Works, Agriculture, Gender and State Without Portfolio.

He notes that 15 of 18



Amara Konneh

Joseph Nyumah Boakai is disappointed and unhappy about ongoing nomination of officials in government, particularly the cabinet, seriously calling for geographical balance.

Senator Konneh, who was also very instrumental in calculating and securing votes for President Boakai during the 14 November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election, has written on his official Facebook Page that the President is not fulfilling his campaign promise to take at least a cabinet minister from each county. "The President promised a Minister from each county. Clearly, this promised will not be fulfilled", he writes and continues,

Accountability Lab Liberia congratulates Dorbor Jallah

Accountability Lab Liberia congratulates its 2018 national integrity icon, Mr. James Dorbor Jallah, on his appointment as the fourth Commissioner General for the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

In a press release, Accountability Lab recalls that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai nominated Icon James Dorbor Jallah to lead the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), an institution tasked with managing and upholding revenue laws to assess, collect, audit, and account for all national revenues, as well as enable lawful international trade and customs border management and enforcement.

The appointment was made on Wednesday, 24th January, and a week later (Friday, 1st February 2024),

Mr. Jallah was confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

Country Director Mr. W. Lawrence Yealue, II, says the appointment of Icon Jallah indicates his committed hard work, integrity, and accountability demonstrated in previous positions he has served. Mr. Yealue notes that the appointment is laudable

and a bright example for all hardworking Civil Servants who are ambitious to advance their career through exemplified work in the public sector.

He says it is also a boost for the Accountability Lab Integrity Icons campaign worldwide and in Liberia, which since 2015 has worked incredibly hard to shine

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Mr. James Dorbor Jallah

Continue cleaning the city

-Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo urges UP-led government

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian People's Party (LPP) former vice standard bearer Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo has called on the Unity Party (UP)-led administration to create means for volunteers to continue cleaning the city. In a special remark delivered on Saturday, 3 February 2024

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo urged the administration to take the efforts applied by the JNB-JKK Volunteers and transform them into meaningful initiatives.

He urged the UP government to create means for the volunteers to continue cleaning the city and provide some incentives for them.

"I want to thank all of you for your effort. Cleanliness is next to godliness and it is important that

across the country. Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo said he believes that the exercise is not ending today as demonstrated, rather, it's taking another shift.

"What we are saying to the Government of the Republic of Liberia is to seize this opportunity. The young people have volunteered, let them continue to work," Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo suggested. "In fact, we can take it to another level. Instead of just volunteering we can let them do this with some levels of incentives in order for them to be able to take care of their families," he urged.

Explaining how it can be done, he noted that in Liberia, people are not paying taxes for their land and properties.

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo explained that there are vacant lands all in the communities and people are not



Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo

we keep Liberia and our communities clean," Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo said over the weekend at the front of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS).

On Saturday, Region #4 of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai (JNB) and Vice President Jeremiah K. Koung (JKK) Volunteer for a Green and Clean City held a closing program at the front of LBS in Paynesville.

During that program, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo encouraged all citizens to try to keep Liberia clean by being responsible citizens.

"Do not throw dirt in the streets, for it is bad to do so. These people have helped us to clean all the drainages. Do not throw plastic bags in the drainage, if you do so, it will clog it," he admonished the citizenry.

"And during the rainy season we will have flooding occurring all over the place because we have blocked the waterways with trash," he emphasized.

The former LPP vice presidential candidate recommended collective efforts of all and every Liberian to have a sustainable green and clean city

paying taxes for those lands. He noted that some of those lands are being used as major hazard grounds for the communities.

"So we are asking the city government and the national government as well, to leverage property taxes so we can generate money to give some incentives to our clean up volunteers," he pointed out. Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo indicated that cleanliness, in the simplest terms, is the state of being free from clutter, anything irrelevant and unnecessary, and the maintenance and sustenance of any city or community.

He added that for Paynesville, the largest city in Liberia, cleanliness is a vital aspect that distinguishes a progressive, cultured, and civilized society from an underdeveloped and uncivilized one. He noted that it is not just limited to personal hygiene but also encompasses all aspects of daily life, including households, workplaces, and surroundings.

Emphasizing the broom as a symbol of fighting corruption, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo said even as they are using the broom to clean up dirt from the city, other dirt is eating

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

At-Risk-Youth suffer community wrath

By Kruah Thompson

Residents of Gbazon community, on Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia have attacked a

not entirely clear, it is speculated that the community members are frustrated with what they perceived as a rise in criminal activities attributed to the At-Risk-Youth.

we are ready for them. If they refuse to leave the ghettos, we will be waiting to beat them if they return, and we will not stop until they can learn their lesson," one community member warns.

The aftermath of the incident saw a divided community, with some residents defending the action, emphasizing their readiness to take further steps if the At-Risk-Youth refused to leave.

However, with their continued refusal to leave, the residents stormed into the five ghettos in the community, beating on anyone they saw inappropriately dressed. The beating occurred in broad daylight, with residents taking matters into their own hands.

While no local authorities were on the scene to calm the situation and restore order, some at-risk youth sustained major injuries during the assault.

Local activists have condemned the violent approach, emphasizing the importance of addressing underlying issues affecting the youth rather than resorting to physical force.

A local organization advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations under the umbrella youth in action for a better Liberia is calling for a thorough investigation to ensure justice is served. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Eyewitnesses narrated that a group of residents had confronted the At-Risk-Youth on many occasions to leave, accusing them of various misdemeanors and disruptive behavior within the community.

One resident, Abyss Kamara, justified the attack, citing the community's growing concern over increasing criminal activities involving the at-risk youth during nighttime. Kamara couldn't identify specific assailants, but expressed the belief that forceful removal was necessary to restore peace and safety to the community. "We have five ghettos in this community, and



group of At-Risk-Youth locally known as "zogos," in an attempt to drive them out of their neighborhood.

Armed with rattles, stacks and other materials, the angry residents stormed a ghetto, assaulting anyone they identified as At-Risk-Youth. The chaotic situation resulted in injuries among the targeted individuals, while others fled for safety.

The incident unfolded early Friday, February 2, 2023, when community residents raised serious concern about their safety, demanding At-Risk-Youth to vacate the area. While the motives behind the attack are

Rep. Mensah wants Legislature to investigate Gbondoi Clinic

By Bridgett Milton

Bong County Electoral District #6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah is calling on the 55th Legislature to investigate money that has been allocated by the 54th Legislature towards the Gbondoi Health Clinic in Bong County.

Speaking Monday morning on a local radio station Punch FM, Rep. Mensah said she is going to join the effort with Senators for accountability in budgeting on Gbondoi Health Clinic. The Bong County lawmaker added that she will spearhead a legislative inquiry into the mysterious absence of Gbondoi Clinic, a budgeted project for about six

during her confirmation hearing, seeking answers about the prolonged inclusion of Gbondoi Clinic in the budget without any tangible outcomes.

She added that the clinic in question has in the past years been captured in the National Budget with no physical structure for services to be rendered to citizens of Bong County.

The mystery surrounding how funding was allotted in the National Budget for an allegedly non-existent Gbondoi Clinic has left many wondering over who is chopping the allotted cash. During the tenure of former President George Manneh Weah, the amount of US\$25,000 was allocated to the National Budget for the Gbondoi Clinic in Electoral District #6, Bong County. The money



Rep. Moima Briggs Mensah

years with no physical presence.

She noted that despite allocations to the clinic, the clinic remains elusive, prompting concerns about fiscal transparency and accountability.

Rep. Briggs Mensah said she's going to work with the two Senators of Bong County - Sen. Johnny Kephe and Sen. Prince K. Moye - to address this situation. She said they will scrutinize Deputy Minister for Budget, Madam Tanneh Branson,

was placed in the budget for the operations of said clinic.

Bong County Electoral District #2 Representative James Kolleh and Bong County Electoral District #6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah said there is no need for the clinic to be included in the National Budget.

Rep. Kolleh told members of the House of Representatives that it had been established that the clinic did not exist and that the allocation was only meant for some individuals' selfish gains.

House mourns the passing of Rep. Erol Madison Gwion

By Bridgett Milton

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas P. Fallah, representing the members of the House of Representatives, paid heartfelt tribute to the late Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1 Representative, Rep. Erol Madison Gwion, during the State Funeral held in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building. The occasion brought together dignitaries, fellow lawmakers, family members, and well-wishers to honor the memory of the esteemed late Representative. Speaking on behalf of the House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker Thomas P. Fallah expressed deep sorrow and extended sincere condolences to the family, friends, and constituents of Rep. Gwion. "Today, we gather not just as colleagues but as a close family to mourn the passing of

a dedicated public servant, Rep. Erol Madison Gwion," he said. "His unwavering commitment to the people of Grand Gedeh County and his tireless efforts in the service of our nation will forever be etched in our hearts," he continued. Rep. Erol Madison Gwion's remains were lain in state in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building, where colleagues, including the Vice President of the Republic Jeremiah Koug, the Senate Protemp and Members of the

Senate and citizens paid their respects.

The State Funeral was a dignified event, reflecting the profound impact Mr. Gwion had on the community and the nation as a whole.

The House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature joined the entire nation in mourning the loss of a remarkable leader.

The legacy of Rep. Gwion will endure through the memories of his dedication, passion, and selfless service to the people of Liberia.



Starts from page 6 Accountability Lab Liberia

spotlight on active citizens working incredibly hard in the public sector, contributing to the growth and development of Liberia, despite many challenges related to 'doing the right thing' in the country Mr. Yealue calls on all young Liberians currently serving and those being called to serve in the public sector to abandon the idea of trying to enrich themselves overnight and work with integrity toward building a just and better Liberia for all.

He describe Icon James Dorbor Jallah is an astute public servant, who has also worked in the private sector as the Carter Center's national representative in Liberia before being appointed to the LRA.

In this role, he managed and arranged the organization's activities in the country. Additionally, he was Commission General at the Public Procurement Concessions Commission (PPCC), where he was nominated and recognized as an Accountability Lab Liberia Integrity Icon. Icon James Dorbor Jallah has maintained his commitment to operating with honesty and integrity in the face of social pressure while managing the University of Liberia Testing and Evaluation Center before leading the PPCC.

Accountability Lab Liberia is optimistic that Icon Jallah will continue to serve and lead with integrity in his new position and wishes him all the best as he serves the country. Press Release

Français

La ministre adjointe désignée à la Condition féminine mène une campagne de sensibilisation aux drogues, inspirant plus de 720 étudiants

Le vendredi 2 février 2023, Mme Garmai Tokpah, ministre adjointe désignée à la Condition féminine, a dirigé un programme interactif et

Teach Global, Mme Tokpah a ensuite exploré les sombres réalités de l'abus de substances, soulignant les effets néfastes de drogues notoires telles que la marijuana, la cocaïne et le

Elle a appelé à des contrôles réguliers des sacs à dos et des chaussures, soulignant que la vigilance parentale est essentielle pour prévenir les conséquences néfastes des substances illicites.

La ministre adjointe désignée a partagé des anecdotes personnelles soulignant l'importance d'une forte implication parentale comme bouclier protecteur contre le fléau omniprésent des drogues.

Mme Tokpah a également attribué le taux élevé d'abandon scolaire chez les élèves libériens à la consommation de drogues et d'alcool par certains élèves du primaire.

"Nos élèves consomment des drogues et même de l'alcool, c'est pourquoi le nombre d'abandons scolaires au primaire ne cesse d'augmenter", a-t-elle déclaré.

"C'est un problème grave qui nous concerne tous. Dieu merci, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a déclaré les drogues comme une urgence sanitaire nationale au Libéria", a révélé Mme Tokpah.

L'appel de Mme Tokpah s'est étendu au-delà des murs de l'école, appelant à une action unifiée contre le fléau des drogues.

Elle a plaidé pour une collaboration entre le ministère de la Condition féminine, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale, le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, le



complet d'une journée sur la sensibilisation aux drogues à l'école Confidence System de la communauté de Fendell, dans le comté de Montserrat.

S'adressant à plus de 700 étudiants, Mme Tokpah les a exhortés avec passion à faire preuve de détermination et à cesser de fréquenter les mauvais amis qui les incitent à des activités de pression négative entre pairs.

En tant que PDG de la Fondation internationale

crack.

Grâce à des exemples concrets, la scientifique sociale libérienne a fourni une compréhension claire des conséquences de chaque substance, afin de donner aux étudiants les connaissances nécessaires pour faire des choix éclairés.

Soulignant le rôle crucial des parents, Mme Tokpah les a exhortés à être des gardiens vigilants et à s'impliquer activement dans la vie de leurs enfants.

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Sept Sénateurs Libériens se soumettent à un test de dépistage de drogues

Sept membres du Sénat libérien, conduits par le sénateur Nathaniel McGill, ont subi un test de dépistage de drogues en réponse à l'appel du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à lutter contre l'usage et l'abus de drogues illicites.

Au cours du week-end, un groupe de sept sénateurs a fait appel à une équipe de médecins professionnels spécialisés pour les tester aux drogues.

S'exprimant au nom de ses collègues après le test, le sénateur McGill a remercié les sénateurs de s'être soumis au test et a déclaré que les résultats de chaque membre seront rendus publics.

Il a également encouragé la Présidente Pro-Tempore du Sénat et sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, à porter la question devant le plénum afin que tous les sénateurs soient testés de

manière aléatoire.

"Nous encourageons le Sénat à le faire par l'intermédiaire du Pro-Temp afin que nous puissions le faire encore et encore. Vous savez, aujourd'hui vous pouvez être négatif, mais demain vous pouvez encore être positif, donc ce sera une sélection aléatoire continue", a noté le sénateur de Margibi.

Le sénateur McGill, qui préside le Comité sénatorial sur l'éducation et l'administration publique, pense que les citoyens,

y compris les jeunes, seront encouragés à se joindre à la lutte lorsque leurs dirigeants nationaux donneront l'exemple.

"Je veux donc dire merci, chers sénateurs, pour cette démarche courageuse. C'est bon pour notre pays comme l'a dit le président. Comme nous l'avons dit, les résultats des tests rapides seront rendus publics pour que tout le monde puisse voir ce que nous faisons et de quoi nous parlons", a-t-il ajouté.

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Éditorial

Le Libéria 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

La députée Cooper promet de s'attaquer au fléau de la drogue



La députée de la circonscription électorale n°5 du comté de Montserrado, Priscilla Abram Cooper, s'est engagée à faire de la lutte contre l'abus de drogues une priorité absolue dans son combat contre les menaces à la sécurité dans son comté. Son objectif est de réduire le taux élevé de criminalité et d'abus de drogues illicites qui gangrèment le comté de Montserrado et ses environs. La circonscription, située à la périphérie de Paynesville, comprend au moins 19 communautés, dont certaines parties de Du-Port, Paynesville Townhall, Redlight, Neezo, Bassa Town et les communautés de 72nd. Ces dernières années, cette zone a connu une forte augmentation du taux de criminalité et de l'abus de drogues illicites. Lors d'une parade de remerciement organisée dans la circonscription électorale de Montserrado #5 le week-end dernier, la députée Cooper a déclaré que son bureau prendra des mesures drastiques pour endiguer et combattre le trafic de drogues et d'autres substances illicites qui détruisent la jeunesse de la circonscription. Elle a promis de déployer tous ses efforts pour

garantir une sécurité optimale à ses électeurs, tout en soulignant que l'éducation, l'assainissement et l'autonomisation des jeunes figurent en tête de ses priorités. La députée Cooper s'est également engagée à introduire de nouveaux programmes de formation professionnelle pour le bénéfice des jeunes de la circonscription. Elle a insisté sur la nécessité de l'unité entre les habitants de la circonscription électorale n°5. Elle a assuré ses électeurs qu'avec leur coopération et leur engagement, son bureau pourra répondre de manière adéquate à certains besoins pressants de la circonscription, notamment l'éducation, la santé et l'autonomisation des jeunes. La députée Cooper a reconnu les défis rencontrés avant son

élection et a déclaré que les divisions partisans entre les habitants ont entravé le développement de la circonscription. Elle a affirmé sa volonté de racheter et de transformer la circonscription.

"Je suis venue pour m'assurer que tout le monde se sente inclus dans la circonscription. Peu importe qui vous êtes, je suis votre représentante", a-t-elle déclaré.

"Je suis venue pour servir non seulement mon bureau et mes partisans, mais tous les habitants de la circonscription n°5. Je suis une représentante, non pas pour un seul, mais pour tous, pour m'assurer que chacun a l'opportunité de réaliser son plein potentiel et ses rêves", a-t-elle poursuivi.

La députée Cooper a succédé à l'ancien représentant du comté de Montserrado, Thomas Fallah, qui a brigué un siège dans la circonscription électorale n°1 du comté de Lofa après trois mandats à la Chambre des représentants.

Les habitants de Kpolokpalai soutiennent la création d'une Cour de crimes de guerre



Kpolokpalai, une ville paisible du comté de Bong au Libéria, porte encore les stigmates d'un passé douloureux. Plus de trois décennies après la guerre civile, ses habitants réclament justice pour les atrocités commises. En 1994, un massacre a endeuillé la ville, coûtant la vie à plus de 200 personnes. Les survivants, marqués à jamais par ces événements tragiques, exigent la création d'une Cour de crimes de guerre. Gormai Kollie, leader communautaire et rescapé du massacre, exprime la douleur et la frustration des habitants : "Nous avons porté le poids de notre douleur trop longtemps. Nous demandons justice pour nos proches qui nous ont été cruellement arrachés." L'appel à la justice ne se résume pas à une simple vengeance. Il s'agit d'un désir profond de vérité, de réconciliation et de guérison. Les habitants de Kpolokpalai comprennent que les

blessures de la guerre ne peuvent se refermer sans que justice ne soit rendue. Samuel Flomo, activiste local, souligne l'importance d'une telle cour : "Créer une Cour de crimes de guerre ne vise pas seulement à punir les individus pour leurs crimes. Il s'agit de restaurer notre dignité, de rétablir la confiance dans notre système judiciaire et de garantir que de telles atrocités ne se reproduiront plus jamais." Pour se faire entendre, les habitants de Kpolokpalai se mobilisent. Manifestations pacifiques, réunions communautaires et interventions auprès d'acteurs nationaux et internationaux ponctuent leur combat. Josephine Kollie, survivante ayant perdu toute sa famille lors du massacre, affirme : "Nous ne sommes pas seuls dans cette lutte. Nous avons le soutien d'autres communautés touchées par la guerre, d'organisations de défense des droits humains et de défenseurs qui se battent à nos côtés pour obtenir justice pour tous." Le président Joseph Boakai a entendu les appels du peuple libérien. Lors d'un récent discours, il a promis de mettre en place une équipe pour analyser la nécessité de créer une Cour de crimes de guerre : "Vos appels à la justice ne sont pas ignorés. Je suis à vos côtés dans votre quête de vérité et de responsabilité. Nous travaillerons ensemble pour établir une Cour de crimes de guerre qui permettra de rendre justice aux victimes des crimes odieux commis pendant la guerre."

Starts from page 8 La ministre adjointe désignée

ministère de la Justice, libérienne en conseil psycho-social a également reconnu le soutien indéfectible de M. Boakai aux initiatives visant à résoudre les problèmes sociaux urgents qui affectent la jeunesse du Libéria.

Reconnaissant la nature multidimensionnelle du défi, elle a souligné la nécessité d'une approche collective et intersectorielle pour s'attaquer à ce problème enraciné qui a eu un impact négatif sur la vie de nombreux jeunes.

Dans une interview exclusive après le programme de sensibilisation, Mme Tokpah a exprimé sa gratitude au président Boakai pour l'honneur que lui confère son rôle de ministre adjointe désignée.

Elle a promis un engagement indéfectible envers la vision du président et à travailler dans le meilleur intérêt de la nation.

En outre, l'experte

libérienne en conseil psycho-social a également reconnu le soutien indéfectible de M. Boakai aux initiatives visant à résoudre les problèmes sociaux urgents qui affectent la jeunesse du Libéria.

En tant qu'experte en conseil psycho-social, Mme Tokpah plaide constamment pour un effort collectif dans la lutte contre les drogues illicites.

L'année dernière, elle a appelé de vive voix à une enquête rapide sur la prolifération de substances illicites, qui a conduit à la saisie de stupéfiants d'une valeur stupéfiante de 100 millions de dollars américains à Topoe Village.

Cet incident a servi de catalyseur à son engagement continu à sensibiliser et à provoquer un changement dans la lutte contre le trafic et l'abus de drogues.

Starts from page 8 Sept Sénateurs Libériens se soumettent

L'ancien ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, maintenant sénateur du comté de Margibi, a appelé tous les membres du Sénat libérien à subir un test de dépistage de drogues.

"Je veux dire que nous le ferons tous de la même manière qu'avec la déclaration de biens, mais vous voyez, la déclaration de biens n'est pas

automatique", a-t-il déclaré.

"Les gens doivent s'assurer de trouver tous leurs biens et engager des comptables qui peuvent le faire en tenant compte de vos valeurs. Ce n'est donc pas quelque chose où dès que vous arrivez aujourd'hui, vous déclarez, cela prend du temps", a souligné le sénateur McGill.

Sortie du Mali de la Cédéao: le point sur les conséquences économiques et humaines

Le Mali a annoncé dimanche 4 février sa sortie de la Communauté économique des États d'Afrique de l'ouest (Cédéao), conjointement avec le Niger et le Burkina Faso. Que sait-on et quelles sont les interrogations qui demeurent ?

Les ressortissants de ces trois pays, simples citoyens ou opérateurs économiques, expriment leurs craintes sur les conséquences d'un tel retrait. Les autorités nationales ont donc apporté de premiers éléments pour tenter de les rassurer. Avec notamment la confirmation, par le ministre malien des Affaires étrangères Abdoulaye Diop, du maintien dans l'UEMOA.

Le retrait du Mali, du Niger et du Burkina, bien qu'annoncé comme immédiat, doit prendre un an, selon les textes communautaires. Une durée durant laquelle les trois pays doivent respecter leurs obligations vis-à-vis de la Cédéao, mais qui leur permettra également de se préparer pour la suite.

La principale richesse du Mali, c'est l'or, qui représente un quart de ses ressources fiscales et plus de 75% de ses

exportations. À destination de l'Afrique du Sud, de l'Australie et de la Suisse. Aucun impact à prévoir donc pour les finances de l'État malien de ce côté.

Le maintien dans l'UEMOA limite les dégâts

Ensuite, le Mali quitte la Cédéao mais pas l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA). Or, cette organisation offre à ses huit membres les mêmes facilités que la Cédéao pour la libre circulation des personnes et de leurs biens, mais aussi pour celle des marchandises, exemptées de droits de douanes. Aucun changement donc pour les relations avec la Côte d'Ivoire ou le Sénégal par exemple, principales destinations des marchandises maliennes en Afrique de l'ouest, et dont les ports sont utilisés par les entrepreneurs maliens.

Les Maliens installés dans les pays membres de l'Uemoa ne devraient pas non plus voir leurs conditions de résidence modifiées, tant que le Mali demeure membre de l'espace monétaire - même chose pour le Niger et le Burkina.

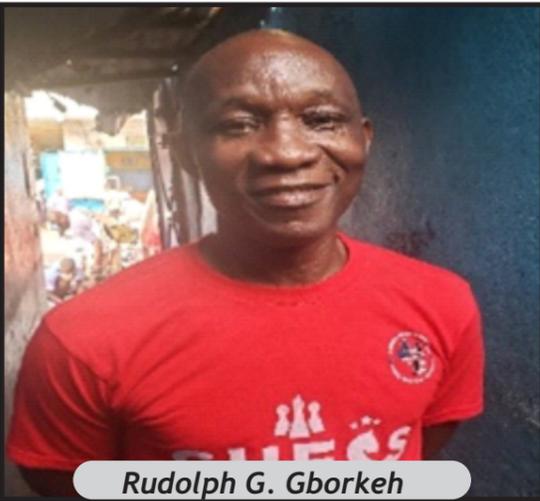
Si le Mali exporte peu dans la sous-région.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Who is telling the truth?

By Naneka Hoffman

Former President George Weah said he left US\$40 million in the government consolidated account, but President Joseph Boakai says actual money met in the account is \$25 million, not \$40 million. The NEW DAWN randomly asked ordinary citizens who they think is telling the truth. Is it former President Weah or current President Boakai? Read their comments below.



Rudolph G. Gborkeh

"I have a strong opinion of what former President Weah said; it holds water because former President Weah is one of the few Liberian politicians, who doesn't lie in politics. It may be recalled that during the heat of elections in 2005, people said former President Weah was a high school graduate, even myself, but Mr. Weah went on air and he said 'I am a non-high school

graduate; I was in the 10th Grade when I had the opportunity to go to Cameroon and seeing the condition of my people, so I had to go and make money for my people. During the 2017 election, people said he talked to former President Taylor; again we all defended it that former President Weah didn't talk because we believe that if he had talked to former President Taylor at that time it could have deducted his votes. So, he came up and said yes, I talked to former President Taylor, so what is the difference to Liberians. The Central Bank Governor appeared before the House and from documents he has shown, if you add all the money on that document, you will come to the conclusion that indeed, US\$40.2 million was left at the Bank in the government's daily account, so former President Weah is on course when he says it."

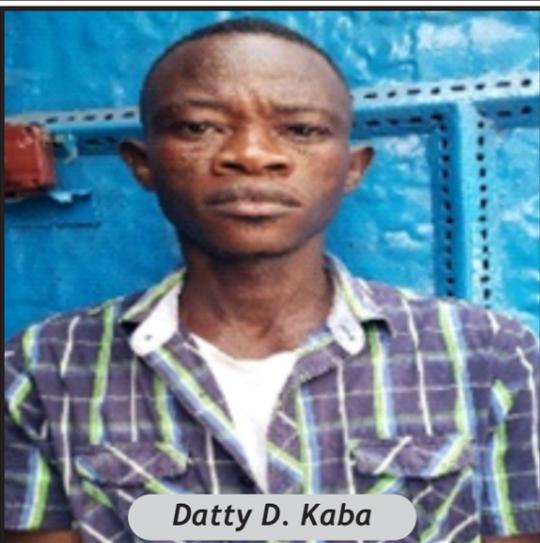
"You know the both leaders are confusing us; former President Weah said he left \$40 million and current President Boakai said that the money that former President Weah left is \$25 million, so the statement was confusing. It made citizens confused; no one knows who is talking the truth or the fact. So, the House of Representatives summoned the Executive Governor of the Central Bank and his deputy and they appeared at the House, so they were asked to make the clarity about the money. But I can remember yesterday, it was the Deputy Central Bank Governor who spoke when they questioned him to make clarity about the money. When he was asked actually, he didn't answer the question; firstly, he said that the both leaders, they never gave them



Siaffa Kromah

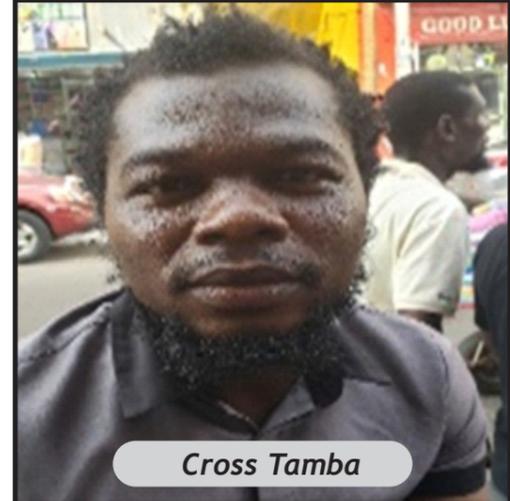
the figure, so some lawmakers raised concern, saying oh, but you are the Central Bank Governor, it is you everybody is waiting on to clarify who is saying the fact - the both leaders and he was actually confused. He didn't even mention about anything; he had to ask the transitional team; due to that, other lawmakers said but then since you are struggling to answer the direct question, go and consult the transitional team so that next week Monday you can come back; for now, we don't know who is saying the fact or who's saying the truth until we can wait next week Monday."

"I think the statement between the both leaders are confusing the citizens. As for me, I think they need to stop it and call the Central Bank Governor and the transitional team to give the Liberian people the real figure and stop making the public confuse. And I think we all need to wait for the Central Bank and transitional team to give us the final figure and let the both leaders stop confusing the public."



Datty D. Kaba

"The first thing, the both leaders are confusing us; if the man who served and raised the money said I left \$40 million and the man who came in, who has not served say no, who has not raised \$40 million, so the State is confused. The next entity we wait for is the Central Bank and the Central Bank Governor was summoned to give more clarity on the both statements. Realistically, the Central Bank Governor was also sober because the Central Bank Governor was making the proverb that the Finance Minister, was the one who gave former President Weah the figure and the transition team is the one that also gave President Boakai the figure, but the original team was calling him to give a clarity because they are almost like Susu mama of the country, how much in your possession the Susu mama must tell us. We know very well that George Weah knows how much he raised; I know some people will say it is political, but George Weah knows how much he raised. President Joseph Boakai doesn't know how much for President George Weah raised. Former President George Weah raised \$40 million; President Joseph Boakai, who has not raised money before said no; it isn't \$40 million. I know George Weah very well, he will not respond to that because Mr. Weah said the rescue is here; he believes in their wisdom and we know they will do the right thing, but we're just saying before you come out as a



Cross Tamba

President, you should have real information to what you are about to put out, because you are the President of the Republic, so we are still looking up to the Central Bank. For me, I think that President Boakai was more political than being administrative. He was more political, thinking that he was denigrating George Weah. In their campaign message, former President George Weah never did well for the Liberian people, so to come back and tell the people that former President Weah left \$40 million in the Central Bank is like George Weah scored goal, so they don't want for George Weah to score the goal."

"For me, I think that there is fundamental issue, regarding the transition team. The information was not really delivered to both former President Weah and President Boakai because in former President Weah's farewell speech, he said

that he is leaving \$40 million in the Central Bank with 200 million in our international reserve. President Boakai in his speech dismissed \$40 million argument to \$20.1 million and the Central Bank Governor was at the House to provide clarity on some of those figures and he said he didn't give the President an official statistics that informed the President's decision, so the problem lies with the transitional team. The information didn't go as it should; that is the problem, so we can't blame the both leaders because we saw that same drama in 2017 and 2018 after the inauguration. Now we're seeing the same drama again both of them are becoming so dramatic."



Mohammed A. Dukuly

"From a technical aspect as a student of financial management and economics, it is simple when you give the asset it comes with the issue of liability which elementary accounting says there must be an owner's equity so now, he was able to give an asset of 40 million with respect, what the liability associated with which we could believe in what he is saying. So with us the former President made more of his politics than a statement of reality that has to do with giving people a clearer picture of what it looks like. So, when the current President Boakai, of course which we believe and trust in something in his state of the nation address which people are not seeing, and many people want to run away to say Central Bank is the decider. President Boakai used a particular word - encumber which gives us a meaning in terms of a difference, as spoken which has to do with 19.5 million dollars difference, so why people will leave out that word. He says as we are collecting the balance sheet of the Central Bank, what the former President is saying similarly on said day. This is an encumber. It tells us that there is 19.5 million dollars difference for which we can say is 20.5 million dollars that now we can say is sure. And if you read the Central Bank reports, the Central Bank isn't telling you that President Joseph N. Boakai lied. They also have that there exists huge liability that was left so in actual sense, for the ordinary man, it could be wrong with



Leoroy Archie Ponpon

respect to former President George Weah is saying the truth. From a technical perspective, George Weah has said nothing; he has just been able to be non-political more then read a statement and economical and technical on this matter, which the current President Joseph N. Boakai did to give us the clearer picture that yes, something exists in respect to the liability and there is a problem the country is in deep stress and so we have got challenge. So, in respect to the Central Bank reporting at the Legislature isn't anyway negate the fact that the country isn't in deep stress. What the Central Bank did, they have confirmed President Boakai that the country is in deep stress."

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Washington should help Boakai

Kailondo optimistic about Boakai's regime

Intro: A senior fellow of George Weah, a former the American Enterprise football (soccer) star who Institute (AEI) Dr. became president in 2018. Michael Rubin has hailed Upon assuming office, he broke President Joseph N. Boakai his promise to establish the war barley three weeks into his and economic crimes court,

long an advocate of the court, to be minister of State for Presidential Affairs. Boakai's appointment of Jonathan Massaquoi to be Justice Minister suggests promises to tackle corruption are not empty. Boakai has also established an office to coordinate the court's establishment and has approached international technocrats to stand it up. That Boakai also included the pledge in his inauguration speech also suggests his seriousness, as everyone from ordinary Liberians to foreign diplomats can now hold him to his pledge.

Boakai also may pursue prosecution of Hassan Bility and Alain Werner, both of whom apparently engaged in shakedowns and corrupted human rights investigations by soliciting false testimony. Liberians deserve justice, not foreigners seeking to profit from their misery. Liberian senators are already preparing hearings to investigate Bility and Werner's schemes. Rumors that Boakai might appoint Cummings to be either foreign minister or Liberia's ambassador to the United States are welcome and would make Liberia a diplomatic powerhouse.

US support for Liberia is not charity; rather, it is wise strategy. Too many in Washington seek to punish African countries when they do wrong, but the State Department does not do enough to support leaders making the right choices. The United States also needs a partnership that can serve as a model for Africa. Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of Congo show Africans what it means to be Chinese allies. Those who want a French partnership can look at Chad, and those more inclined to the Russian model have Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic as examples of what that means.

To partner with Boakai and invest heavily in Liberia would show Africans across the continent that the United States stands for democracy, transparency, and the prosperity not of the country's leaders but of its entire population. It is time to restore Liberia to be among the top tier of US allies in Africa and invest in the country accordingly.

A stalwart of the ruling Unity Party, businessman Cllr. George Kailondo, urges Liberians to exercise patience, noting that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai is very competent to move Liberia to a higher level and improve the living standard of the people.

Cllr. Kailondo underscores that President Boakai is a man of wisdom who will make decisions, but it is a matter of time, so the President should be given time, as he continues with nomination of people in his government.

George Kailondo is a household name in Liberia, not for anything else but business and entrepreneurship. He is also very a strong supporter of the Unity Party since 2017 to present.

petroleum and maritime sectors. Besides, Kailondon is a seasoned lawyer with extensive years of experience. He owns a chain of businesses, including hotel, petroleum importation and distribution, law firm, among others, providing employment for more than 100 Liberians.

However, because of his ardent support for the UP particularly during the 2017 election, his property in Congo Town was nearly demolished and he was prevented from developing the area for five years.

Despite being in the private sector for years, Cllr. Kailondon is a competent and qualified Liberian that has expressed interest in entering government to serve his country.

His expertise could be utilized in the petroleum and maritime sectors or any other area that



Dr. Michael Rubin

administration calling on the United States Government to help him succeed.

In his latest article dated February 5, Dr. Rubin also hailed President Boakai for his stance on establishing the war and economic crimes court, while hoping that he could also pursue prosecution of Hassan Bility and Alain Werner, both of whom apparently engaged in shakedowns and corrupted human rights investigations by soliciting false testimony. -See full article below:

By Michael Rubin

The ties between the United States and Liberia run deep. In 1819, Congress appropriated money to found the country as a refuge for freed slaves to return from America to Africa, a project many northern abolitionists supported. Three years later, the returnees founded Monrovia, named after James Monroe and one of only two world capitals named after a US president. Ties remained strong over subsequent centuries. Henry Ford revolutionized the automobile that in turn changed the American landscape. All would be for naught, though, had it not been for the Firestone rubber plantations in Liberia to provide tires.

In the late 1980s, Liberia descended into a series of civil wars that lasted until 2003. Its recovery has been shaky, and Liberian democracy remains fragile. The country almost reverted to state failure under

choosing instead to hire those who might have been subject to it. Rather than seek to grow the economy, Weah instead sought to loot it. President Joe Biden gives African leaders much slack, but even the White House grew tired of the blatancy of Weah's mismanagement if not criminality to the point where they spoke openly of his corruption and gave him the rogue regime treatment. Weah appeared to thumb his nose at Washington, and even opened the door to the Russia-backed Wagner Group to establish itself in the country.

Weah sought re-election but, with Washington distracted by the Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Hamas wars, sought to fix the outcome. He got away with it in the first round but by blatantly disenfranchising those who voted for challenger Alexander Cummings, Jr., a former Coca Cola executive, he woke the international community up to his fraud. Liberians had enough and with the world watching, he lost the second and final round to Joseph Boakai.

Many Liberians did not expect much from the 79-year-old Boakai. A former vice president, they saw him as sleepy and a placeholder. He has already proved them wrong. Boakai has laid the groundwork for establishing the long-delayed war and economic crimes court. He nominated Sylvester Grigsby, friendly with Washington and



Cllr. George Kailondo

He is a petroleum importer and has worked at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company for many years with a very good knowledge of both the

President Boakai may deems necessary, as the President avails qualified Liberians the opportunity to serve the country.

Starts from back page **We need a trauma and burnt**

running here and there to the ER and focusing on the burned patients. Had we built or converted a building to a trauma unit which will have a burn unit, it will solve this problem within the health sector." She added. She also named infrastructure, education, motivation as well as monitoring and evaluation as hallmarks of her leadership for medical practitioners mainly assigned in rural parts of the country.

At the same time, Dr. Louise M. Kpoto emphasized that if confirmed, the Senate will not

get the expected results from the health sector if needed budgetary support is not provided, saying "Give me the necessary support and you'll get the health sector that you want."

Dr. Kpoto has also told the Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Health that if confirmed, her administration will work tirelessly to ensure the sector is second to none. Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Health through its Chair, Senator Dabah Vapilah is expected to report to the plenary of the august body in coming days on outcome of the hearing.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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We need a trauma and burnt unit in Liberia

- Health Minister-designate

By Ethel A Tweh
Liberia's Minister of Health-designate, Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, has envisioned the establishment



Dr. Louise M. Kpoto

the major trauma center. Appearing before the Senate Committee on Health chaired by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Dabah Vapilah

of a trauma unit to reduce burden on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in catering to burnt and accident patients, if confirmed.

The major trauma center is supported by a number of trauma units. Trauma units are important in providing immediate life-saving services to patients who,

limitation. Dr. Kpoto stressed the need to construct a trauma unit besides the JFK hospital to adequately address and focus on victims of fire incidents, as in the case of the Totota situation as well as to accumulate severe and major motor accident cases, among others.

"If we have to build, it may take time but can we just look at a particular building to convert it to a trauma unit. I'm not only looking at the burned patients, the motorcyclists accidents, there are accidents that will come from the keh-keh or the tricycle, so the JFK doesn't have that capacity to absorb all those kinds of cases and besides the capacity of absorbing those cases, you need trained health workers," she stressed.

The Health Minister-designate further emphasized the need to have more trained health workers in infectious control to operate the trauma unit as she envisages if confirmed by the senate.

"There is more concentration at the ER at the JFK and during my visit there, most of the doctors were

on Monday, February 5, 2024 for confirmation hearing, Dr. Kpoto said the country's largest health center is overwhelmed with many cases.

Giving her emergency plans to the Health Committee, she recalled the gas tanker explosion in Totota, Bong County which claimed lives of over 60 citizens, noting how challenging it was to the major

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