

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
of **The New Dawn**
TRULY INDEPENDENT
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024	L\$189.4286/US\$1.00	L\$191.3044/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 14 NO. 15 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00



Protests marred Boakai's first 20 days

-Amidst resignation from his newly confirmed defense minister





Flogged by Ivorian fans

-Liberian border security suffers attack



Pay with MoMo!
Dial ***156*3#**

GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN



Continental News

Marathon record holder Kiptum dies in car accident

The men's marathon world record holder, Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum, 24, has died in a road accident in his home country.

He was killed alongside his

offering condolences to his family. Also paying tribute, Kenya's President William Ruto described Kiptum as an extraordinary sportsman who had left a mark on the world. His father Samson

hospital for treatment. Just last week, Kiptum's team announced that he would attempt to run the marathon in under two hours in Rotterdam in April - a feat that has never been achieved in open competition. The rise to fame for the father-of-two had been rapid - he only competed in his first full marathon in 2022. He made an instant impact as he ran the then fourth fastest time on record (2:01:53) to win the Valencia Marathon before setting a course record of 2:01:25 at the London Marathon in April 2023.

Six months later, in just his third marathon, Kiptum took 34 seconds off the world record time in Chicago in his final race.

He had already honed a distinct tactical approach that saw him run with the pack for 30km before upping the pace and going out on his own for the remainder of the race.

Kiptum entered his first major competition in 2018, running in borrowed shoes because he could not afford a pair of his own. He was among a new crop of Kenyan athletes who began their careers on the road, breaking away from the past tradition of athletes starting on the track before switching to longer distances. Kiptum told the BBC last year that his unusual choice was simply determined by a lack of resources. "I had no money to travel to track sessions," he explained. BBC

'We feel betrayed' - why anger has engulfed Senegal

Senegal appears to be having an identity crisis - its citizens are proud of the fact that it is considered one of West Africa's most stable democracies, and many are outraged that this reputation is now on the line.

"We feel betrayed by Macky Sall," say a group of imams meeting in a mosque in the capital, Dakar, about the political crisis that hit the country a week ago when MPs backed President Sall's decision to delay this month's presidential election until December.

"The president must review this. It's unacceptable," explains Ismael Ndiaye, the general secretary of Senegal's League of Imams.

"It never happened before. Senegal never had a presidential election delayed. We feel betrayed. We feel misunderstood."

Islam is the predominant religion in Senegal - and comments such as these from influential Muslim leaders, who have mediated to resolve previous political crises, carry huge weight. Their blunt words reflect the wave of anger

hollow to his critics given his stance before his election in 2012, when he strongly objected to then-President Abdoulaye Wade seeking a third term.

"A president cannot extend his term of office. It's not possible," Mr Sall, who once served as Mr Wade's prime minister, said during the 2011 election campaign.

"He can't extend his term by even one day, otherwise the country will be plunged into chaos because the people would not recognise his legitimacy and there would no longer be authority in the country." There have been violent protests across Senegal over the past week, leaving three people dead.

The first casualty was a student at the Gaston Berger University who was killed during clashes with police in the northern city of Saint-Louis, while the second victim was reportedly shot in Dakar's Pikine suburb and a 19-year-old was pronounced dead on Saturday, according to hospital sources in the southern city of Ziguinchor, an opposition stronghold.

Debris remains strewn across the streets of the capital after stand-offs with the security forces, who fired tear gas to disperse protesters.



Kelvin Kiptum broke Eliud Kipchoge's world record in Chicago last October

coach, Rwanda's Gervais Hakizimana, in a car on a road in western Kenya on Sunday.

Kiptum made a breakthrough in 2023 as a rival to compatriot Eliud Kipchoge - one of the greatest marathon runners.

Kiptum bettered Kipchoge's record, clocking the 26.2 miles (42km) in two hours and 35 seconds in Chicago last October.

The two athletes had been named in Kenya's provisional marathon team for the Paris Olympics later this year.

Kipchoge said on X that the man who broke his record was a rising star who had "a whole life" ahead of him to achieve "incredible greatness",

Cheruiyot was distraught.

"Kiptum was my only child, now he's left me," he told Kenya's Citizen TV. "I don't know what to say, I see his children will be looking to me and my child is gone... Now, who will help us raise his kids?" The road accident happened at about 23:00 local time (20:00 GMT) on Sunday.

Giving details of the crash, police said Kiptum was driving and had "lost control [of the vehicle] and veered off-road entering into a ditch on his left side".

"He drove in the ditch for about 60 metres before hitting a big tree," a police statement said.

Kiptum and Hakizimana died at the site of a collision. A third person - a young woman - was seriously injured and taken to

Ivory Coast football fans flock to see victory parade

Thousands of football fans wearing orange and white have flooded the streets of Abidjan to see the Ivory Coast team parade the Africa Cup of Nations trophy they won on Sunday. The hosts defeated Nigeria 2-1 to win Afcon for a third time, prompting huge celebrations across the country.

Cecilia, who was born in Ivory Coast but now lives in the US, told the BBC she had travelled home for the final.

"That's the best decision of my life," she said. Ivory Coast were unlikely winners. They lost two group games and fired their manager mid-tournament. Emerse Fae, a youth-team manager, took over for his first job leading a senior team.

Four games later, he was lifting a trophy. Juliette Youan told the BBC: "Emerse Fae is a hero of Ivory Coast."

"We are so proud to

celebrate our hero. Vive Emerse! Emerse is the best coach," she

added. Ms Youan and her friends made special T-shirts to commemorate Fae for leading the country to victory. The parade began at Hôtel Palmier and the crowd built slowly from around midday, becoming more boisterous as the parade's scheduled start time approached.

As numbers grew, so did the noise, with horns blaring and

chants breaking out, accompanied by dancing.

At around 15:00 GMT, the first players suddenly appeared on the flatbed truck that would take them on their journey through Abidjan to the over 30,000 capacity Félix Houphouët Boigny stadium for a trophy presentation.

The banners on the truck announced the Elephants as "Champions of Africa 2023" and



Fans dance in the street as they celebrate the Elephants' third Afcon win



gripping the country as protesters take to the streets. President Sall has justified his move, saying time is needed to resolve a dispute over who is eligible to stand as a presidential candidate after several opposition contenders were barred.

But those on the streets see the postponement as a way for Mr Sall to cling on to power beyond the end of his second term on 2 April.

In his first interview since the announcement, President Sall denied that was his intention. "I am absolutely seeking for nothing except to leave a country in peace and stability," he told the Associated Press over the weekend.

"I don't want to leave behind a country that will immediately plunge into major difficulties." These words ring

Many of the four million inhabitants of the city are upset by the turn of events. We met Fanta Diallo as she ventured out to buy provisions for what seem like uncertain times ahead. "I am hurt and ashamed," she told the BBC. "This is not normal. We are not in a monarchy. I came to town today so I could buy everything I need."

Adamadou Baye, who was out in central Dakar on Saturday with his friend Aminata Issete, agreed. "We need to demonstrate peacefully for what we believe is right, but we absolutely need to do something. I am personally very, very upset," he told the BBC.

Ms Issete was a little shy about being interviewed at first and then became very animated.

"We are exhausted, we are upset and deeply disappointed. What is wrong with our country? What is wrong with that man?" she asked about the 62-year-old president. BBC

EDITORIAL

Commerce Minister Amin Modad, a player and referee

It is highly incomprehensible that the chairman emeritus of the ruling Unity Party Amin Modad, who owns and operates chain of businesses here, including hotels is President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's pick for Minister of Commerce and Industry. This choice of the President raises serious transparency and accountability question about his government, particularly departure from business as usual.

How could a man, who is an active player in the sector be the one to supervise and regulate himself and his competitors! It is not just conflict of interest, but pure nepotism that President Boakai and the Unity Party say they came to eradicate.

We think the President would do not just himself, but the country well by revisiting this appointment for the sake of fair play, accountability and transparency.

It is very disappointing to the Liberian people for a party that sat in opposition and preached equity for six years would come to power and begin to do the very things that it talked against. This is not the kind of leadership style Liberians expect from the 'rescue mission.'

Look at what is obtaining in the security sector that has forced the new Minister of Defense, Retired Major General Prince C. Johnson, III, to resign. Trampling on the rights of the men and women in arms is a great disservice to the state, as we saw in the case involving former Minister Brownie Samukai.

Minister Johnson, III did the right thing by immediately tendering in his resignation, for this is the first time in recent history for celebration of Armed Forces Day to be forcibly cancelled on account of dissatisfaction of soldiers, as expressed thru their wives.

We do not know what awaits our nation's commerce with a player appointed to referee actors and competitors. Will there be fair play or transparency? These are but few of the questions lingering in the public, as Minister Modad goes to work daily.

It is important that the government cultivate and maintain a fair but highly competitive business environment to attract direct foreign investments that have eluded the economy in the past six years.

This can only be achieved with the kind of policies that would be put in place to stimulate the economy and attract more investors for healthy competition and growth.

We are raising these concerns not on account that we have anything specific against Minister Amin Modad, but that compromise and selfish interests would be thrown out of the window so that the right things are done for the general good of the country, which needs serious economic viability.

**Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!**

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah: Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan
and Viral V. Acharya

The Danger of Forgetting the 2023 Banking Crisis

CHICAGO - Almost a year after the mini banking crisis in the United States, it is worth revisiting the episode. Was it just a tempest in a teacup? Was there really a systemic threat, or was it just a problem with a few banks? Should the interventions by the US Federal Reserve and Treasury worry or comfort us?

Recall that three mid-size US banks suddenly failed around March 2023. The most prominent was Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), which became the second-largest bank failure in US history (after Washington Mutual in 2008). Roughly 90% of the deposits at SVB were uninsured, and uninsured deposits are prone to runs. Making matters worse, SVB had invested significant sums in long-term bonds, the market value of which fell as interest rates rose. When SVB sold some of these holdings to raise funds, the unrealized losses embedded in its bond portfolio started coming to light. A failed equity offering then triggered a classic bank run.

It is convenient to think that these issues were confined to just a few rogue banks. But the problem was systemic.

When the Fed engages in quantitative easing (QE), it buys bonds from financial institutions. Typically, those sellers then deposit the money in their bank, and this results in a large increase in uninsured deposits in the banking system. On the banks' asset side, there is a corresponding increase in central-bank reserves. This is stable, since reserves are the most liquid asset on the planet and can be used to satisfy any impatient depositors who come for their money. Unfortunately, a number of smaller banks (with less than \$50 billion in assets) moved away from this stable position as QE continued.

Historically, smaller US banks financed themselves conservatively, with uninsured demandable deposits accounting for only around 10% of their liabilities. Yet by the time the Fed was done with its pandemic-era QE, these banks' uninsured demandable deposits exceeded 30% of liabilities. Though that level was still far below SVB's, these institutions clearly had drunk from the same firehose.

Smaller banks were also more conservative about liquidity in the past. At the outset of QE in late 2008, banks with less than \$50 billion in assets had reserves (and other assets that could be used to borrow reserves) that exceeded the uninsured demandable deposits they had issued. By early 2023, however, they had issued runnable claims (in aggregate) that were one and a half times the size of their liquid assets. Instead of holding liquid reserves, their assets were now more weighted toward long-term securities and term lending, including a significant share of commercial real-estate (CRE) loans.

Thus, as the Fed raised interest rates, the economic value of these banks' assets fell sharply. Some of the fall was hidden by accounting sleight of hand, but SVB's sudden demise caused investors to scrutinize banks' balance sheets more carefully. What they saw did not instill confidence. The KBW Nasdaq Bank Index duly fell by over 25%, and deposits started flowing out of a large number of banks, many of which lacked the liquidity to accommodate the sudden outflows. The risk of contagious runs across smaller banks was real, as was the possibility of the problem spreading more widely.

Importantly, as private money flowed to large banks, very little flowed to small and medium-

size institutions. That is why the authorities had to come to the rescue. Soon after SVB's demise, the Treasury signaled that no uninsured depositor in small banks would suffer losses in any further bank collapses.

The Fed opened a generous new facility that lent money for up to one year to banks against the par or face value of the securities they held on their balance sheets, without adjusting for the erosion in the value of these securities from higher interest rates. And the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) - effectively an arm of the US government - increased their lending to stressed banks, with their total advances to the banking system having already tripled between March 2022 and March 2023 amid the Fed's policy tightening. Borrowing by small and medium-size banks from these official sources skyrocketed.

The Treasury essentially took bank runs off the table, while the Fed provided banks the funds to accommodate the continuing - though no longer panicked - depositor outflows. A potential banking crisis was converted into a slow-burning problem for banks as they recognized and absorbed the losses on their balance sheets.

Just recently, New York Community Bancorp, which bought parts of one of the banks that failed in 2023, reminded us that this process is still underway when it announced large losses. With the Russell microcap index of small companies significantly underperforming the S&P 100 index of the largest companies since March 2023, it appears that smaller banks' troubles have weighed on their traditional clients: small and medium-size firms.

Where does that leave us? Although the situation could have been much worse if the Treasury and the Fed had not stepped in, the seeming ease with which the panic was arrested allowed public attention to move on. Apart from die-hard libertarians, no one seems to care much about the extent of the intervention that was needed to rescue the smaller banks, nor has there been any broad inquiry into the circumstances that led to the vulnerabilities.

As a result, several questions remain unanswered. To what extent were the seeds of the 2023 banking stress sown by the pandemic-induced monetary stimulus and lax supervision of what banks did with the money? Did advances by the FHLBanks delay failed banks' efforts to raise capital? Are banks that relied on official backstops after SVB's failure keeping afloat distressed CRE borrowers, and therefore merely postponing an eventual reckoning?

It is not good for capitalism when those who knowingly take risks - bankers and uninsured depositors, in this case - pay no price when a risk materializes. Despite sweeping banking reforms over the past 15 years, the authorities have once again shown that they are willing to bail out market players if enough of them have taken the same risk. "Too big to fail" was bad enough, but now we have "too many to fail." The mini-crisis of March 2023 was much more than a footnote in banking history. We cannot afford to bury it.

Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *Monetary Policy and Its Unintended Consequences* (The MIT Press, 2023). Viral V. Acharya, a former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Economics at New York University's Stern School of Business.

OPEN LETTER

TO SENATORS ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

Dear Senators:

During the Confirmation Hearing of Mr. Roland L. Giddings, Minister - Designate for the Minister of Public Works (MPW) position, I was surprised by the concerns expressed by some senators on "roads," especially the senators from the Southeastern section of Liberia.

Mr. Roland L. Giddings does not meet the basic engineering requirements (knowledge, skills, and experience) to lead an engineering institution like MPW to plan and develop Liberia's road network.

Some Liberians are trying to spin the Revised Executive Law - Title 12 - Liberian Code of Laws. Chapter 27 of the Law on Ministry of Public Works clearly states the duties of the Minister of the Ministry of Public Works and his principal assistant, the Deputy Minister.

The Minister's duty:

a) To design, construct, improve, and maintain, directly or by contract, all highways, streets, roads, bridges, and storm sewers.

The portion of the law being spun is the phrase "by contract" by supporters of Mr. Giddings. I want those spinning this phrase to stop. The purpose of contracting to function to an outside entity is when your entity cannot execute a task. Will Mr. Giddings be contracting all engineering tasks since he lacks the tools to provide the leadership?



Some are arguing that his principal deputy is there to assist him. Let's understand the role of the Deputy Minister. The law says, "Deputy Minister of Public Works who shall be the principal assistant to the Minister of Public Works and shall perform such specific duties as may be delegated to him by the Minister of Public Works. The law states, "such specific duties as may be delegated to him."

The principal assistant has his duties to perform. He is only to help with specific duties as may be delegated. Is the thought going around that the proposed Minister, who does not understand engineering, should contract his engineering responsibilities or delegate them to his assistant? If so, WHY should such an individual be in the position in the first place? Why doesn't the principal assistant occupy the position, then?

What value will such a candidate add to an engineering institution responsible for developing our road network? I say non. Does the candidate understand what it takes to decide for a country needing well-engineered roads to improve its economic activities?

A road network is like our body's circulatory system. When your body's circulatory system has obstructions, it leads to stroke, death, or other deformations. Liberia's road network has many obstructions that are killing our economic activities. I do not need to explain the pains of traveling around Liberia. Simple engineering problems are causing us to lose money and spend sleepless nights or weeks in remote parts of the road network. If you are traveling with perishable goods, they will spoil, and the traders will become the losers.

When questioned about his ability to lead the ministry, Mr. Roland L. Giddings bragged about Spoon Talk on February 1, 2024, about his achievements. He said NON-ENGINEERS have performed better as ministers than engineers in the past eighteen (18) years, from former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration to former President George Weah's. Mr. Giddings did not provide any evidence to support his statement. I want to know what makes him feel he can provide the planning from inception to completion on road projects better than experienced engineers.

I have been in Liberia for these administrations. I have not seen or heard about any project under the leadership of the late Minister Willie Knuckles, Minister Lusine Dunzo, Minister Kofi Woods, Minister Gyude Moore, the late Minister Mabuto Nyepan, and Minister Ruth Coker Collins where they planned, developed, engineered, and constructed any road network (roads and bridges) under their leadership at the Ministry of Public Works using our funds in collaboration engineers and contractors to achieve it. They have yet to achieve it. The lack of these ministers to achieve these developments is one of the prime reasons our economy is suffering or suffocating and about to die if it had life as humans (animals).

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has followed the same processes as his predecessors by recommending individuals who will not add value to our road network. The process continues to kill our economy. Instead of creating opportunities for Liberians to grow and develop their economy, they empower foreign entities; these entities import their staff, leaving Liberian engineers undeveloped and unemployed as they struggle.

Let's take an overview of Mr. Roland L. Giddings's involvement in our infrastructure development as he told it on Spoon Talk and Class Reloaded:

The Mount Coffee Hydro Electric Dam. According to him, he was a Decision Maker in its planning, designing, and construction. Liberians are suffering today for electricity because of their bad decisions. I know this because I had discussions with Mr. Joseph Myers, Managing Director, and Mr. Dustan Maculley, who works on the project. We disagreed on the strategy being implemented. Spoon Talk of February 7, 2024, two (2) panelists (Mr. Gbarpoluboy Mamey and Mr. Samuel Jackson) provided their take on the Mount Coffee headache and why Liberians are suffering today for electricity.

The RIA Reconstruction and Smythe Road projects are two (2) road projects he has claimed leadership. He made East International (EAST), whose involvement in the two projects has raised many eyebrows. He promoted EAST, but now he wants to distance himself from it by calling for an audit. The residences along Smythe Road between Conex (formerly Total) Gas Station and the S. D. A. School are experiencing severe flooding during the rainy season because of bad pavement engineering decisions.

During his confirmation hearing, he did not respond to Lofa County Senator Momo Cyrus's question but bluffed his way with the senator. He used the same tactics on Spoon Talk on February 1, 2024, when three panelists (Madam Glendy, Mr. Alex Cuffy, and Mr. Samuel Jackson) asked about their road concerns. He bluffed his way through it instead of addressing their questions.

The individuals posing the questions lack highway engineering knowledge to know if he addressed them. They roll on to the next item, not to show their unfamiliarity with the topic.

Mr. Roland L. Giddings has worked in offices or has been in meetings where engineers were discussing issues. He believes he is fit to act as an engineer. You can experience this bad practice around Monrovia. For example, a nurse working in a surgical theatre with surgeons for many years feels he has the knowledge, skills, and know-how to perform surgery. In the neighborhood, he opens a clinic and is called a doctor. He starts performing surgeries. A critical patient comes in, and he decides to perform surgery. The patient dies. The nurse gets away with murder because of the system we have developed.

I watched all his presentations that I could find. Mr. Giddings did not, or he needs to articulate his vision for developing Liberia's Road network. Highway engineering is a huge capital investment. The right strategy and plans should jumpstart our economy's rebirth. Our economy has been dying from 2006 to the present because of poor strategy. Our civil works are in the hands of others who are reaping the benefits and taking it to where they came from, and Liberia has yet to grow. I do not see from Mr. Giddings's discussion of his plans how our economy will boom from all these multimillion-dollar investments in civil works being planned. I see nothing changing.

Monrovia has sanitary and storm sewer problems. Some will argue it is Water and Sewer responsibilities. It would help if you read the law creating the Ministry of Public Works. You will better understand the requirements of the head of the ministry. President Boakai stated during the campaign that you cannot give a man's job to a kid in reference to former President Weah. But he is repeating the same where.

Our National road network must be improved to connect all fifteen (15) counties all year round. Because of their lack of experience, Liberians are suffering to get around.

My advice to the Liberian Senate is to reject this candidate. You are not going to get any value for our infrastructure. He will be a "yes sir" ministry to our foreign donors who are coming to help and reap what they bring, leaving us with the spoils.

I hope the Liberian Senators do not follow what Lofa County Senator Momo Cyrus displayed during the confirmation hearing of Mr. Giddings when he openly declared his vote for Mr. Giddings when his colleagues on the committee had not deliberated on the candidate. Is this business as usual, Senator Cyrus?



ALIGN THE EDUCATION SECTOR PLAN WITH THE GIRLS' EDUCATION

Written by Aisha Cooper Bruce, Gender and Advocacy Consultant

For a copy of the FULL Policy Brief please click the link below:
<https://bit.ly/EOLPolicybrief>

Summary Overview

The **National Policy on Girls' Education (NPGE 2021 – 2026)** aims to provide adequate access to affordable and quality education and promote gender equity and equality through the educational system. However, low budgetary allocation, gaps in technical capacity, and inadequate coordination, among other issues, have hindered national efforts in prioritizing girls' education in Liberia.

The **Education Sector Plan (ESP, 2023-2026)** provides a sector-wide strategy for implementing the National Education Act of 2011, corresponding policies, frameworks, and programs, streamlined using a system-based approach. The ESP referenced the NPGE as the national policy for addressing girls' education in Liberia.

This **Policy Brief** provides a comparison analysis of the provisions for girls' education as per the ESP and the linkages to the NPGE. The rollout of Education Sector Plan (ESP) can prioritize improving girl-learning outcomes, retention, and completion by supporting of the effective implementation of the National Policy on Girls Education. Our advocacy focus is to ensure that the indicators and outcomes within the National Policy on Girls Education (2021-2026) are aligned with and supported by the Education Sector Plan (2023-2026), to provide clear gender transformative targets and strategies for policy actors, funders, and practitioners.

OUR AIM is to ensure that the indicators and outcomes within the National Policy on Girls Education (2021-2026) are aligned with and supported by the Education Sector Plan (2023-2026), to provide clear gender transformative targets and strategies for policy actors, funders, and practitioners.

Challenges in Ensuring Gender Equity and Equality in Education (Details in Full Policy Brief)

POLICY POINTS

Policy Focus: Align the Education Sector Plan to the National Policy on Girls Education to ensure a Gender Transformative Education Sector

- CONSOLIDATE:** Map out corresponding strategies to develop a comprehensive gender transformative implementation plan
- COORDINATE:** Set up a multi-sectoral taskforce of national and international partners to guide the execution of a gender-transformative interventions in a holistic and coordinated manner.
- EVALUATE:** Support the Planning, Research and Development at MoE to set a comprehensive MEL e-platform and tools for tracking girls' education indicators in Liberia.

See page full brief for more details.

- The ESP doesn't capture clearly whether the total investment in Girls' Education over multi-years will reach the 5% MoE annual budget minimum threshold as mandated by the NPGE.
- As per the ESP, the projected funding gap without external funding is large, totaling USD 325.5 million over the plan period and representing 34 per cent of the total plan cost.

CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

Gender disparities and imbalances in girls' education are common throughout Liberia. With:

- the availability of legal frameworks and structures to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and other related efforts,
- Improved collaboration and partnership among state and non-state actors in promoting gender equality and mainstreaming in Liberia and
- Increased national dialogues and strategic planning for gender mainstreaming and integration efforts,

the government and its partners can effectively work towards a gender transformative Education Sector Plan in (Liberia) that will adequately support the effective implementation of the NPGE, through the following recommendations:

- CONSOLIDATE: Map out corresponding strategies to develop a comprehensive gender transformative implementation plan.** The plan will identify the key strategies for promoting girls' education as outlined in both documents and develop gender transformative outcomes that will produce joint results for the ESP and NPGE. This plan will help to consolidate the financial and technical resources to meet joint targets. The implementation will focus on consolidating the finaical resources available in reaching the girls education financing target of least 5% of the Ministry of Education budget. The strategies will consider the perspective of diverse education stakeholders.
- COORDINATE: Set up a multi-sectoral taskforce of national and international partners to guide the execution of gender-transformative interventions in a holistic and coordinated manner.** There is a strategy in the ESP to develop an inter-sectoral task team to research the gendered root causes for the lack of access and early dropout, such as poverty, lack of parental guidance, cultural practices, SRGBV, school distances or location, and the quality of the learning environment and develop strategies to address these challenges. This taskforce should also be mandated to review and advise on policies and programming, to ensure the collective efforts of education officials and stakeholders are more gender transformative.
- EVALUATE: Support the Planning, Research and Development department at MoE to set a comprehensive MEL e-platform and tools for tracking girls' education in Liberia.** The government can ensure its commitment to research and develop in education by approving the National Education Sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy. Education partners can lend their technical and financial support in developing and managing a comprehensive M&E Tool and system for Girls Education. Tracking of the 16 indicators listed in the NPGE can be supported by the development of a database framework for girls' education. This database will translate into tools like the Girls' Education Report Card which will inform decision-making and adequate financing for Girls' Education. This will also be crucial in increasing targeted and cross-sector investments for inclusive and sustainable gender mainstreaming and integration efforts.

Educate HER is managed by Helping Our people Excel (HOPE) and Paramount Young Women's Initiative (PAYOWI) Funded by Oxfam IBIS through the Global Partnership for Education, Education Out Loud project.

Funded by Oxfam IBIS through the Global Partnership for Education, Education Out Loud project.

SUMMARY: the ESP with the NPGE January 2024 Educate HER Coalition
 FOR A COPY OF THE FULL POLICY BRIEF: <https://bit.ly/EOLPolicybrief>

SUMMARY: the ESP with the NPGE January 2024 Educate HER Coalition
 FOR A COPY OF THE FULL POLICY BRIEF: <https://bit.ly/EOLPolicybrief>

Comparative Analysis of the Education Sector Plan and the National Policy on Girls' Education

The full analysis, including sections on: Framing, Vision, Policy Goal, Gender strategy, Initiatives to address Social and Cultural Barriers, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Measurement, Education Financing are detailed in the FULL Policy Brief

Alignment	Points
Alignment	1. The ESP references the NPGE as the national policy for addressing girls' education in Liberia.
	2. Both policy documents reference the Education Reform Act 2011 and the following goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 2: promoting equal access to education opportunities for all, without discrimination; Goal 5) promoting and protecting human rights with respect to access and opportunities for quality education; Goal (7) promoting gender equity and equality throughout the educational system)
	3. Both policy documents contribute to the achievement of SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG5: Gender Equality by ensuring implementations of national policy frameworks that are supportive of the rights of all children by increasing access to quality education and promoting gender equity and equality in Liberia's education system.
	4. Both documents highlight the Ministry's commitment to the fundamental principles of equity, gender equality and inclusion, and the social justice goals of reducing disparities wrought by gender, disability, and geographical location.
	5. There are many similarities and overlapping in documents in addressing cultural barriers and gender-sensitive programming.
	6. Both documents call for the development of a MEL system to track indicators for promoting girls 'education
	7. The timeframes for the implementation the ESP and the NPGE are well-aligned for joint actions (ESP:2023-2026), (NPGE: 2021 – 2026)
Gaps	Points
Gaps	1. The ESP strategies to address social-cultural demand-side barriers to girls' education are considered cross-cutting interventions. Therefore, they are broad and may not attract the needed attention and support.
	2. The NPEG (16 indicators) are not clearly highlighted in the ESP as mandated by the National Girls Education Strategy. Hence, the plan only provides surface-level data through M&E reporting documents like the Annual School Census Report.
	3. There is no mention of the Girls Education Report Card in the ESP's monitoring framework and how this dataset will inform changes and intervention designs within the ESP.
	4. The NPGE does not have an implementation plan or a set budget, therefore the strategies have not been translated into measurable actions.
	5. There are many areas in the ESP where gender outcomes are implied but are not clearly spelled out or adequately accounted for in the planned activities. (i.e. gender indicators like the number of males vs. the number of females were captured, but no intentional interventions to affect those indicators)

EDUCATE HER'S CURRENT COMMITMENT

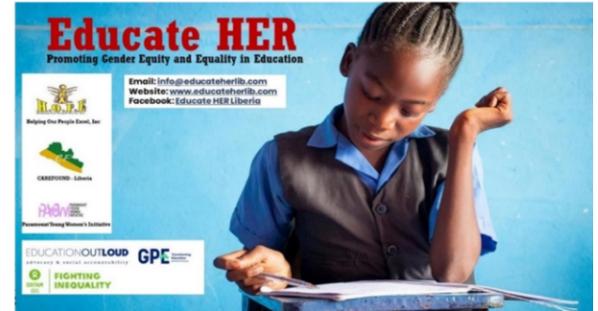
Since 2022, Educate HER has worked closely with the Department of Planning, Research, and Development to conduct quarterly data collection and analysis on girls' education. We are committed to expanding that partnership to provide tangible supports that are in line with section 3.1 of the ESP and section 7 of the NPGE. With financial support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) Education Out Loud, through Oxfam IBIS, we will partner with MoE to develop, and manage the National Girls Education Dashboard. This dashboard is for stakeholders to access (gender-) disaggregated data needed to inform school policies and gender-specific programming and accelerate the National Policy on Girls' Education implementation. Educate HER intends to make sure data related to girls' education in Liberia is collected in line with the Girls' Education Policy, up to date, and publicly available for education stakeholders to review for program planning, education financing, and policy review.

ABOUT THE EDUCATE HER COALITION

The Educate HER Coalition strives to maintain already established relationships with the key stakeholders and build new relationships, where necessary. This coalition consists of approximately 30 civil society organizations, women's rights groups, media institutions, and allies committed to gender programming and advocacy in the education sector. To join the Educate HER coalition, please contact us at: info@educateherlib.com

- Visit our website: <https://educateherlib.com/documentresource> to download the electronic copy of this document and the publications listed below:
- EDUCATE HER: Increasing Financial Investment for Gender Equality and Equity in Education Budget Policy
 - National Budget Cycles & Decision-Making Processes for The National Policy on Girls' Education
 - Promoting Gender Equality and Equity in Education Taking Collective Action to Ensure Girls' Attendance, Retention, and Completion (GARC) In Schools in Liberia
 - Mapping of National Education Policy and Decision-Making Forums & Platforms
 - County Action Plans to Promote Girls Education

Educate HER
 c/o Helping Our People Excel (HOPE), Inc.
 Tubman Boulevard/Sophie's Junction, Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia
 Email: info@educateherlib.com
 Website: www.educateherlib.com
 Facebook: [Educate HER Liberia](https://www.facebook.com/EducateHERLiberia)
 Education Out Loud | OC2: CSOs working at national level



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Boakai's ARREST policy in line with China's development ideology

CDC resists audit of Weah administration

-Says Chinese Ambassador
By Lincoln G. Peters

The Chinese Embassy near Monrovia says President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's ARREST Policy agenda is in line with Chinese President Xi Jinping's

cooperation between the two countries. President Boakai's "ARREST" policy agenda calls for [the] execution of various projects," said Amb. YIN. He added that the Boakai ARREST policy also calls for vigorously promoting agriculture,

results. According to him, such cooperation is the symbol of China-Liberia friendship and has laid a solid foundation for further consolidating China-Liberia friendship and enhancing bilateral relations. "Liberia is an important participant in and contributor to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative, and other cooperation mechanisms, and will take full advantage of the development opportunities provided by China to realize its development goals," he said.

The Chinese envoy narrated that in the future, China and Liberia have huge potential and prospects in strengthening the docking of development strategies, promoting the sharing of development opportunities, and working together to achieve national modernization.

"China is always adhering to its African policy of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith. China keeps providing African countries with practical help and support to the best of its ability," said Amb. YIN.

Employing the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as a platform, he said China has

expanding and improving the road network, revitalizing the education system, and improving health conditions to uplift people's livelihood.

"And the agenda is highly in line with President Xi Jinping's "people-centered" development ideology," Amb. YIN stated.

Over the decades, Amb. YIN said China and Liberia have carried out a series of practical cooperation in technology, education, and development and have achieved fruitful

By Lewis S. Teh

The former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) says it takes serious exception to President Boakai's recent instruction to the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to conduct a comprehensive audit of the Weah administration, instead, urging former officials here not to subject themselves to any form of auditing.

"We want to call on all former officials of the CDC government not to subject themselves to any form of kangaroo audit by Mr. Boakai and his likes", the CDC reacts.

President Boakai gave the mandate a week ago, specifically directing that the audit starts with three key institutions of government, including the Central Bank of Liberia, the Executive Protective Services and the National Security Agency, respectively.

But the former ruling party through its National Youth League made the call in a press

about the state of the country's financial standing at the Central Bank of Liberia is far from reality, based on documentary records, and re-emphasized the need to audit the CBL and other agencies.

But reacting to the President's pronouncement on behalf of the CDC, former Assistant Minister of Agriculture for Extension, Alvin C. Wesseh, said they are aware that the attempt by President Boakai to audit the former regime is to witch-hunt past officials of the Weah administration with an aim to falsely indict them and eventually get rid of the CDC.

"While we welcome the call for audit, we also want to admonish Mr. Boakai to be holistic in spanning the auditing period from 2006-2017, and from 2018-2023 if only he is genuine in the fight against corruption", Wesseh argues.

The former Assistant Minister and current Vice Chair for Operation for the CDC Youth League says if President Boakai is sincere about the corruption fight, he should start with existing audit reports from 2011-2017, rather



Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Yin Chengwu Meets with H.E. Mr. Boakai

people-centered development ideology policy. The Chinese Envoy delivered a brief statement over the weekend during the celebration of the Reception of the Chinese Lunar New Year and Assuming Duty as Chinese Ambassador to Liberia.

Amb. YIN Chengwu stated that the Chinese government will continue to support the people of Liberia with practical development.

"Practical foundation of mutually beneficial

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

House convenes emergency meeting to address AFL spouses' protest

The House of Representatives held an emergency leadership meeting on Monday, 12 February 2024 to address a persistent protest by the spouses of officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). The meeting was convened to collaboratively work with the Executive Branch to find a resolution to the concerns raised by the AFL spouses.

A release from the House Press and Public Affairs says the House recognizes the importance of a swift and comprehensive response to the grievances presented by the AFL spouses.

he House noted that as the elected representatives of the Liberian people, it is committed to fostering dialogue and finding effective solutions that address the concerns of all stakeholders involved.

The leadership of the House acknowledged the significance of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the sacrifices made by its

members in safeguarding the nation's security.

Understanding the challenges faced by the AFL spouses, the House argued that it is dedicated to working in the best interest of all Liberians and ensuring that the issues at hand are resolved in a fair and just manner.

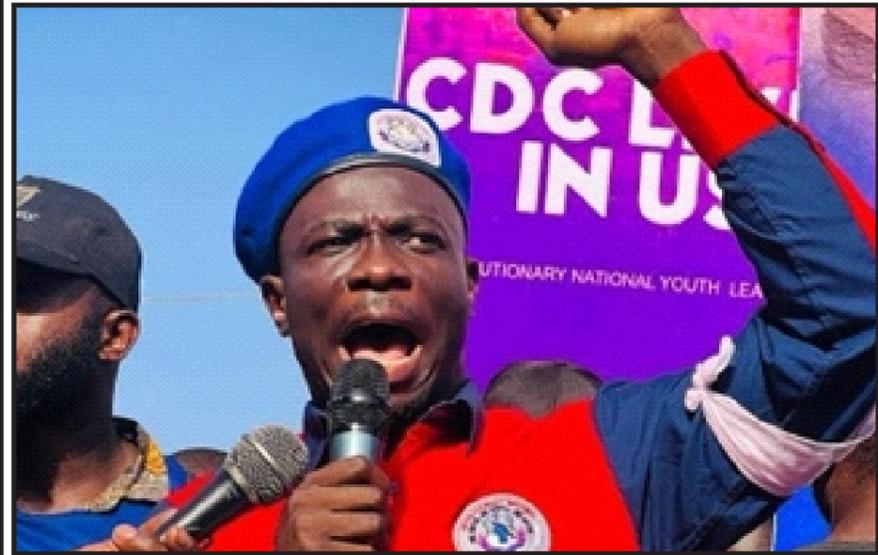
The House also emphasized its commitment to upholding the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability.

The emergency leadership

meeting reflects the sense of urgency and responsibility with which the House approaches the current situation, and it underscores the importance of collaboration between the legislative and executive branches of the government, the release explained.

It further stressed the need for calm and restraint from all parties involved, urging them to engage constructively in the ongoing dialogue process in the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



conference held during the weekend at its headquarters in Oldest Congo Town, Monrovia.

President Boakai in a communication dated February 7, 2024, to the Auditor General of Liberia, instructed that the audit covers the period between 2018 and 2023, and that findings be reported in three months.

The audit period spans the six-year stewardship of the Weah administration.

It marks the beginning of a holistic audit of government ministries and agencies in keeping with the President's commitment to fighting corruption as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in the governance of the country.

President Boakai at different public engagements, most notably, the campaign period, the inaugural address and the annual message committed and recommitted to ensuring that a comprehensive audit of the previous government is done.

During his Annual Message, the President announced that what his predecessor reported

than calling for additional audits.

He wonders why the President hasn't commissioned an audit into the US\$ \$650,000 intended for the inauguration and the US\$350,000 intended for district celebration, adding that it's often said that "one who preaches equity must come with clean hands."

He underscores that Mr. Boakai needs to understand that the CDC will resist any form of intimidation and political witch-haunt.

Meanwhile, the CDC says they are concerned about protests by soldiers' wives against the recent confirmation of defense minister-designate, Prince C. Johnson, III.

News coming in last evening said President Boakai has accepted the resignation of Minister Johnson.

"We call on Mr. Boakai and the senate not to be insensitive to the plights of these women", he says, adding that the continuous strike actions by these women have created inconveniences for people traveling along the Robertfield highway, something he notes has the proclivity to undermine peace and stability of the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

BIL to graduate over eighty financial experts

By Lincoln G. Peters
The Banking Institute of Liberia Incorporated (BIL) is poised to graduate over eighty

Since its founding, the institution has continued to provide professional training and empowerment for bankers in banking and finance, internal audit and control, procurement and supply chain management, digital banking, and making, compliance and risk management, leading and credit administration, and human resources.

The financial and banking expert disclosed that they are poised to graduate both their first and second cycle on 16 February 2024 covering both the professional and enterprise programs.

"When we launched our program, sometime last year, we had like forty individuals that expressed interest. However, we launched the second application and today we have a total of over eighty individuals who went through our training," he explained.

According to him, capacity building plays a pivotal role in providing adequate service delivery and performance which will lead to transparency, accountability, and public trust in the financial sectors. Mr. Tugbeh added that to have an institution where staffers are not capacitated leads to poor performance, mismanagement, and waste in the financial sector.

"To bridge this gap, and ensure continued and efficient service delivery and capacity building counts at all levels."

BIL also provides small business development for small business entrepreneurs through its enterprise program which focuses on small business development and management and micro-finance management. Speaking in an interview with this paper over the weekend, Mr. P. Sayon Tugbeh, head of Human Resources and Administration, and the current acting head of the secretariat at BIL, said that they are committed to empowering and educating Liberians wanting to enter the financial sectors.



finance experts to improve effective and efficient service delivery in the Liberian financial and banking sector. The institution will unleash its first and second-cycle graduates on 16 February 2024 at the Monrovia Christian Fellowship in Monrovia following intensive months of professional and enterprise training development program. BIL was founded by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to provide training and empowerment for those in and aspiring to enter the financial and banking sectors.

Stakeholders brainstorm on sustainable fisheries

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Liberia's fisheries sector currently plays a very significant role towards the economic growth of the country, as it contributes approximately 12 percent towards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The entity said, the sector is a dynamic industry that offers employment opportunities for over 33,000 individuals including fishers, fishmongers and processors staying along coastal communities.

However, despite the contribution, the fisheries sector still faces the threat of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) which undermines the livelihood of fishers and the food security of many Liberian

the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) and the APM Terminal, Liberia National Police as well as leaders from the Co management Associations (CMAs), fishermen and fish mongers and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the close of the workshop on behalf of the FAO Country Ad Interim Representative, Bintia Stephen Tchicaya, the National Project Coordinator and Partnership Specialist at FAO, Emmanuel Kapee said that fisheries sector of Liberia is important because of its current role in strengthening the food security of Liberians.

According to him, the sector contributes to food security by ensuring about 65% of the national protein needs of Liberians.

He also mentioned that fisheries serve as a significant source of employment and livelihood of many people in fishing communities as



Fisheries stakeholders at the conclusion of a one day workshop held in Marshall, Margibi County.

citizens as well as revenue generation for the country.

As part of an effort to reduce IUU fishing in the territorial waters of Liberia, fisheries stakeholders over the weekend concluded a 3-day workshop in Marshall, Margibi County.

The workshop aimed to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Term of Reference (TOR) geared toward bringing stakeholders together for the effective implementation of the PSMA.

PSMA is a global legal instrument that aims to prevent or eliminate IUU fishing by restricting vessels engaged in such activities for using ports and landing their catches.

Liberia has since signed the PSMA legal instrument but its implementation remains weak.

The workshop was organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA).

It brought together participants from some government line ministries and agencies, including Maritime, Ministry of Defense, National Port Authority, Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of Commerce,

well as represents an opportunity of revenue generation for the country.

"IUU fishing poses a significant threat to the marine ecosystems and undermines national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably.

This situation according to Kapee shows that fighting IUU fishing must be a national priority that requires a collective involvement of all", he said.

Kapee mentioned that he strongly believes that the workshop is part of his institution's lasting solution in reducing IUU fishing.

"We have come not only to review and reinforce the Inter-agency Corporation but to revise and update mechanisms that can quickly be adopted to ensure that Liberia is the best position to fight IUU fishing in a unified way," he said.

He mentioned that FAO remains steadfast in its commitment to combating IUU fishing globally.

"We stand ready to support and strengthen the government of Liberia's efforts in this vital endeavour," he said.

However, Kapee stressed the need to unite efforts in mobilizing resources to combat IUU fishing effectively.

"We must safely guide our marine

Representative Williams donates ambulance to Pleebo Health Center

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Newly inducted Maryland County Electoral District #2 Representative Mr. Anthony F. Williams has donated a new ambulance and 200 gallons of fuel to the Pleebo Health Center. The donation ceremony was held on Monday, 12 February 2024, and brought together Chiefs, Elders, District Officials, Rural Women, and Health Authorities within the district.

Delivering the ambulance, Representative Williams said the donation of the ambulance was his way of giving back to the district, knowing the passion and quality he has attached to the district and its people.

He maintained that the district deserves more of the opportunities because, over time, the health center and its authorities have been calling for help.

The Maryland lawmaker has lauded the people of Pleebo Sodoken district for the overwhelming victory they gave him in the just-ended rerun election in old Sodoken town.

"Let me say to my people today, I am who I am and I have what I have because of you. You made me and so I owe

a lot to you. This is one of the many contributions I want to make to the people of Pleebo district," said Representative Williams.

He acknowledged the passion and dedication of Pleebo citizens in their pursuit of a better future.

Williams also challenged all to channel their energies into productive discussions and peaceful actions, emphasizing that together, they can achieve their aspirations and bring about positive change. The Maryland County District #2 lawmaker reaffirmed his commitment to the development earmarked for Pleebo.

"The well-being and progress of the district remains a top priority. Rest assured, the earmarked development projects will continue as

planned, and the people of Pleebo will see positive changes that will improve their quality of life," he stated.

In response, Mr. Garrison N. Sayor, Pleebo Health Center Administrator expressed heartfelt gratitude for the Representative's support.

He highlighted the positive impact of the donation, adding that the ambulance will respond effectively to medical emergencies and transport patients to specialized care facilities when needed. For his part, Solomon S. Hne, Acting City mayor of Pleebo, on behalf of the local government thanked Representative Williams for the gesture.

According to him the donation of the ambulance will serve as a relief to the healthcare and assist community members.



Français

Le président Boakai déclare ses avoirs et exhorte à la transparence

Moins d'un mois après son entrée en fonction, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a déclaré ses avoirs devant la Commission anti-

avoirs, il souhaite montrer l'exemple et encourager les autres dirigeants à faire de même.

"En tant que dirigeants, nous devons montrer l'exemple," a

conscients de ce que je mets sur la table," a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Boakai a exhorté ses fonctionnaires à respecter les normes éthiques les plus élevées et à rendre des comptes au peuple. "Nous devons rendre des comptes au peuple que nous servons," a-t-il affirmé.

Le contenu de la déclaration d'avoirs de M. Boakai n'a pas encore été rendu public. La LACC est responsable de la vérification et de la publication des déclarations de tous les fonctionnaires du gouvernement.

Le président Boakai a également effectué un test anti-drogue avec son vice-président, Jeremiah Koung. Cette action vise à souligner son engagement à lutter contre la toxicomanie, qu'il a déclarée urgence sanitaire nationale.

Les actions du président Boakai ont été saluées par les citoyens libériens qui espèrent un changement positif dans la gouvernance du pays.

En déclarant ses avoirs et en s'engageant à lutter contre la corruption et la toxicomanie, le président Boakai envoie un message fort au peuple libérien. Il montre qu'il est déterminé à diriger le pays avec intégrité et responsabilité.

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.



Pres. Boakai

corruption du Liberia (LACC). Cette action s'inscrit dans le cadre de son engagement à lutter contre la corruption et à promouvoir la bonne gouvernance.

M. Boakai a succédé à l'ancien footballeur George Weah, dont le régime était entaché d'allégations de corruption. En déclarant ses

déclaré le président Boakai. "Malgré les défis auxquels notre pays est confronté, nous devons donner le ton pour que les autres suivent."

Il a également souligné l'importance de l'honnêteté et de la responsabilité dans la gestion des affaires publiques. "Afin qu'ils puissent me juger à l'avenir, j'ai donc divulgué mes avoirs pour m'assurer qu'ils sont

Lutte contre la désinformation et le terrorisme : le Ministre Johnson appelle à l'action collective

Lors du colloque du 67e anniversaire des Forces armées du Liberia (AFL), le ministre de la Défense, le major général à la retraite Prince C. Johnson III, a identifié la "désinformation" comme l'un des principaux ennemis de la démocratie libérienne.

Il a souligné que la démocratie ne pourra progresser que si les Libériens, y compris les autorités nationales et les journalistes, s'engagent à stopper la propagation de fausses informations sur internet, facteur crucial pour la paix dans le pays.

Lors de son intervention sur le thème "L'engagement des forces armées pour une démocratie durable dans le monde contemporain", le ministre Johnson a déclaré que l'expansion du terrorisme en Afrique et la propagation de fausses informations sont quelques-uns des obstacles au processus démocratique national, nécessitant un effort collectif pour les résoudre.

Il a rappelé que le Liberia n'est pas le seul pays

confronté à ces défis, devenus des problèmes mondiaux, soulignant l'urgence d'une intervention.

"Tout ce que nous devons faire, c'est travailler ensemble pour arrêter la propagation de fausses informations. De nos jours, certaines personnes se répandent en calomnies sans chercher la moindre information. Cela doit cesser!"

Il a averti qu'il est temps pour le Liberia de prendre des mesures radicales non seulement pour identifier ces ennemis, mais aussi pour les dénoncer et les blâmer

publiquement.

"Si nous commençons à dénoncer et à blâmer publiquement ces personnes, y compris les politiciens proches du pouvoir qui disent des choses fausses, et à identifier les journalistes qui mentent et ne leur donnons pas de visibilité en les invitant à leurs émissions, je vous assure que nous stopperons la propagation de fausses informations. Si, au contraire, nous continuons à leur

▶ CONT'D page 9



Prince C. Johnson III

Français

Starts from page 8 **Lutte contre la désinformation**

accorder du crédit, notre démocratie ne progressera pas.”

Il a insisté sur la nécessité pour le Liberia d'accélérer ses efforts pour faire face à cette menace de plus en plus grande, tout en luttant contre la montée de la "désinformation", facteur crucial pour l'avenir de la démocratie du pays, même si une telle tâche s'avère difficile.

Dans son discours principal, M. Eddie D. Jarwolo, directeur exécutif de Naymote Partners for Democracy Development, a souligné la nécessité de donner la priorité au bien-être des soldats, élément vital pour protéger et maintenir la démocratie.

M. Jarwolo a déclaré aux participants que les courageux hommes et femmes des Forces armées du Liberia sont chargés de protéger et de défendre les intérêts de l'État, et qu'ils doivent donc être bien traités.

Il a exprimé sa profonde gratitude et son appréciation pour les sacrifices consentis par ceux qui ont consacré leur vie à la défense des libertés civiles et politiques du pays.

“Aujourd'hui, réfléchissons au parcours remarquable qui a transformé nos forces armées en gardiennes formidables de la paix et de la sécurité telles qu'elles sont aujourd'hui”, a déclaré M. Jarwolo, soulignant que le personnel militaire, passé et présent, a fait preuve d'un engagement, d'un courage et d'une résilience sans faille face à l'adversité, notamment pendant les périodes d'élection et de

campagne. M. Jarwolo a ajouté que la nouvelle image de marque de l'AFL, surnommée “la force du bien”, a répondu à l'appel du devoir en quittant leurs maisons et leurs familles confortables pour être en première ligne, veillant à la sécurité et à la prospérité de la nation.

“Cette célébration n'est pas seulement l'occasion de reconnaître la bravoure de nos forces armées, mais aussi d'exprimer notre gratitude aux familles qui restent fortes à l'arrière-front, aux conjoints, aux familles et aux enfants qui ont enduré les difficultés.”

Le président de l'Université du Liberia (UL), le professeur Dr. Julius J. S. Nelson, Jr., a appelé à un changement de mentalité comme élément cardinal du maintien de la démocratie du pays, ajoutant que les facteurs qui entravent la croissance de la démocratie libérienne sont les Libériens eux-mêmes, qui sont directement des ennemis du processus.

“Maintenir la démocratie ne relève pas seulement de l'AFL, mais de tous les Libériens, ceux des communautés, les citoyens, les dirigeants et tous ceux qui travaillent à soutenir notre démocratie”, a déclaré le Dr Nelson.

Il a exprimé l'espoir que les dirigeants de l'armée libérienne travailleront avec les dirigeants des branches exécutive, législative et judiciaire pour garantir que les prestations et les services sociaux des hommes et des femmes des Forces armées du Liberia soient protégés.

Incendie dans le Grand Bassa : la résidence du Chef de Zone de Gunnigar Town détruite

Un incendie a ravagé mercredi 7 février 2024, en fin d'après-midi, la résidence de M. Isaac Gunnigar, chef de zone de la communauté de Gunnigar Town dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Des témoins oculaires ont rapporté avoir vu une épaisse fumée noire s'échappant de l'arrière de la maison, avant que les flammes ne la consomment entièrement.

L'origine exacte du sinistre reste inconnue, mais aucune victime ni blessé n'est à déplorer. En revanche, plusieurs familles se retrouvent sans abri suite à cet incendie dévastateur.

M. Isaac Gunnigar, propriétaire de la maison et

chef de la communauté, s'est dit profondément choqué et consterné par la tragédie. Il a confié aux journalistes que la maison de sept chambres était louée à sept locataires, chacun occupant une pièce.

Touché par la perte subie par ses locataires, M. Gunnigar a notamment évoqué le cas des étudiants qui ont perdu des documents scolaires et autres biens essentiels dans l'incendie.

Alors que l'enquête sur la cause du sinistre se poursuit, M. Gunnigar a lancé un appel à l'aide financière pour reconstruire sa maison, devenue inhabitable suite à l'incendie.

Audit des salaires des employés à la Chambre des Représentants



Le Président de la Chambre des Représentants, J. Fonati Koffa, a mandaté la Commission des Règles, de l'Ordre et de l'Administration de mener un audit de la masse salariale de tous les employés travaillant au sein de la Chambre. L'objectif principal de cet audit est d'identifier et de rectifier toute anomalie dans les salaires, notamment d'éliminer les “salaires fantômes” du système de paie de la Chambre.

“Cet audit vise à garantir une utilisation judicieuse et conforme aux procédures établies des ressources financières allouées à la Chambre”, a déclaré M. Koffa.

La Commission des Règles, de l'Ordre et de

l'Administration supervisera le processus d'audit, passant en revue les dossiers de paie de tous les employés de la Chambre et rendant compte à la plénière dans un délai d'un mois.

M. Koffa a souligné l'importance de cette initiative pour préserver l'intégrité de la Chambre et assurer une utilisation responsable des fonds publics.

“Nous nous engageons à maintenir les normes les plus élevées de gouvernance et de responsabilité au sein de la Chambre”, a-t-il déclaré.

“Cet audit est une mesure proactive pour remédier à d'éventuelles irrégularités et rationaliser notre système de paie. Nous nous efforçons de créer un environnement de confiance et de responsabilité au service du

public”, a ajouté M. Koffa. L'audit sera approfondi et complet, impliquant un examen des dossiers des employés et leur comparaison avec les registres de présence et d'autres documents pertinents. L'objectif est de détecter toute anomalie, y compris les cas de “salaires fantômes” ou de paiements non autorisés.

Le Président a appelé à la coopération totale de tous les employés de la Chambre pendant l'audit, les assurant que cette démarche vise à améliorer l'efficacité globale et la responsabilité des opérations de la Chambre.



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

L'avocat libérien des droits de l'homme, Me Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a exhorté le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à créer un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques.

Me Gongloe, qui a soutenu la candidature du président Boakai lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle, a déclaré que “ce qui était mal hier l'est encore aujourd'hui”. Il a rappelé au président Boakai sa promesse de mettre en place un tel tribunal et a souligné l'importance de rendre justice aux victimes des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques.

Me Gongloe a averti que si le Libéria ne met pas fin à son cycle de violence et d'impunité, les générations futures

pourraient se venger. Il a également appelé le président Boakai à s'attaquer aux problèmes de corruption et de violations des droits de l'homme qui gangrènent le pays. L'appel de Me Gongloe intervient alors que le Libéria s'apprête à commémorer le 20e anniversaire de la fin de la guerre civile.

De nombreuses voix s'élèvent pour demander que justice soit rendue aux victimes des atrocités commises pendant la guerre.

Le président Boakai a jusqu'à présent exprimé son soutien à la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques, mais il n'a pas encore pris de mesures concrètes pour le mettre en place.

La question de savoir si le Libéria doit ou non créer un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques est controversée.

Certains affirment que cela est nécessaire pour garantir la justice et la réconciliation, tandis que d'autres craignent que cela ne ravive les tensions et ne divise le pays.

Le président Boakai devra prendre une décision difficile dans les mois à venir.

Read the NewDawn everyday

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from back page

NEC announces by-elections

Liberia health professionals launch website

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Health Professionals Board of Liberia has officially launched a website, containing new guidelines for all health practitioners to renew their licenses.

explained that the project is an outcome of an assessment done on the various health worker boards to attain information on the health sector.

The senior coordinator noted that the assessment was marred by challenges as there

we found out that it was only the Liberia Board of Nursing and Liberia Board of midwifery that had a functional website," Madam Fahnbulleh revealed.

She further said, "We worked all through looking at the old guidelines and looking at the ones from other countries taking in their best practices."

Madam Fahnbulleh said that the website contains information to allow health professionals to apply for operational lessons that would enable said person to practice as a health practitioner. According to her, all the regulatory health boards have agreed that as of April 2025, anyone wanting to renew their license must have completed some form of Continuous Professional Development (CFD) before their license is renewed.

At the same time, Last Mile Health, a partner in the Liberia health sector has pledged to support the website to ensure that its intended purpose is achieved. "We will continue to support till the intended purpose of the website is achieved. This is not only good for you but also [for] those of our staff who are also working as health practitioners," Last Mile Health assured.

was little or no information on the various boards because only the Liberia Board of Nursing and the Liberia Board of Midwifery had a functional website.

"We started up wanting to review and revive the national guidelines for CPD that was developed in 2017."

"We did a capacity assessment to find out where the different boards were, and



The initiative was launched with support from the United States Agencies for International Development (USAID) and other development partners on Friday, 9 February 2024.

The senior coordinator of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of the Bridge-U Liberia project, Sharley S. Fahnbulleh

will be published subsequently.

She notes that statistically, Nimba County is the second largest county in terms of voting population, so the Commission is organizing polls for 307,254 registered voters at 262 precincts, comprising 736 polling places.

She says it requires 3,846 polling staff to man the polls in Nimba while in District #1, Grand Gedeh County, there are 20,407 registered voters and 11 precincts, comprising 46 polling places, which requires 243 polling staff.

She explains that the Commission is currently involved in a number of post-2023 electoral activities including the

process of documenting lessons learned from the 2023 General Elections and legal reform. It is expected that the documented lessons learned will inform the electoral reform agenda and the development of a new six-year strategic plan (July 2024-June 2030). Personnel of the Commission have also begun professional development activities, including Train the Facilitators' Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Election (BRIDGE) training.

The NEC reiterates commitment to conducting all electoral activities in a credible manner, the pending Senatorial and Representative By-elections being no exception. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 11

Protests marred Boakai's

The Role and Responsibility of the AFL."

The Presidential Proclamation had informed Liberians that the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Liberia, Madam Christine Umutoni would have served as Guest Speaker.

But days later, the Executive Mansion issued a statement indicating that there would be no formal program in observance of the Armed Forces Day at the Barclay Training Center (BTC) on Monday.

The Mansion said President Boakai was due to lead a delegation to the Edward B. Kesselly Barracks.

President Boakai had met at his Rehab Office with spouses of personnel of the AFL to hear their grievances.

During that meeting, the Mansion said the women highlighted challenges they are experiencing at the Edward Beyan Kesselly Barracks in Schieffelin.

These include retirement benefits, low salary, corruption,

lack of adequate insurance, education, poor housing, lack of electricity, social services, and their general welfare.

They stated that these challenges have lingered on too long enough without redress as the military leadership have remained indifferent.

But President Boakai, the Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, reassured the women that their grievances would be thoroughly investigated with a view to finding redress where possible.

That said, the president promised to constitute a committee to probe into the matter and provide report in a week time.

In the interim, the Executive Mansion said the Liberia Electricity Corporation has restored electricity at the EBK Barrack, upon the orders of President Boakai.

The President has also declared the Linda Thomas Greenfield School at the EBK Barracks tuition free.

Starts from page 7

Stakeholders brainstorm

resources for the current and the future generation to benefit fully from the economic potential of the fisheries sector," he mentioned.

For her part, the Program Officer-Green Team Delegation of the European Union to Liberia, Maria WINNUBST challenged local fisheries stakeholders to seriously take the fight against IUU fishing.

"All of you have a role to play to safely guide your waters to make fishermen to sustain their incomes. I understand that Liberia is one of the countries with the biggest fish stock in the region," he said.

According to her, all stakeholders have a crucial

role to play in order to safe guide the lives of fishermen.

She called on authorities of the fisheries sector to make sure that the fisheries management plan is working effectively.

"I want to encourage you to work together to safely guide the lives of fishermen and their children. You must take the PSMA seriously to make your country one of the best in the region," she emphasized.

The Deputy Director for Technical Services at NaFAA, William Y. Boah said that though Liberia has signed an agreement to end IUU fishing yet much still needs to be done.

"It requires all stakeholders to work together collectively. This draft MOU is meant to bring us together to find a way for a

sustainable fisheries sector. There is a need for us to fight together to manage the resources of our waters," he said.

He said that the regional fisheries committee of West Africa was helping to manage fisheries sustainably and they are looking for the potential to support stakeholders from members' countries.

He commended the European Union for its numerous support to the fisheries sector of Liberia.

Meanwhile, the workshop participants have agreed to further review the proposed documents and later derived a conclusion toward their approach in implementing the PSMA. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

House convenes emergency meeting

spirit of unity and national harmony. The House said it remains optimistic that through open communication and a collaborative approach, a resolution that serves the best interests of

the AFL spouses and the nation as a whole can be achieved. The House of Representatives said it will continue to update the public on the progress made in

addressing the concerns raised by the AFL spouses and it remains committed to ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Liberia. -Press release

Advertise with us!

Starts from page 6

Boakai's ARREST policy

launched and implemented a series of policies on China-Africa cooperation, vigorously raising the level of practical cooperation with African countries.

Last year at the China-Africa Leaders Dialogue co-chaired by President Xi Jinping and President Ramaphosa of South Africa, Amb. YIN recalled that President Xi Jinping put forward three new initiatives for cooperation programs with Africa.

He named them as the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, injecting new momentum into Africa's integration and modernization. Also, at the third Belt and Road

International Cooperation Summit Forum held in Beijing, Amb. YIN said President Xi Jinping further announced China's eight major steps to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. For his part, Liberian Vice President Mr. Jeremiah K. Koung extolled the Chinese Ambassador and the People's Republic of China for their developmental commitment to the ARREST agenda of President Boakai. "Ambassador we thank you for your cooperation. The Liberian government appreciates the working relationship with China," said Vice President Koung.

He stated that as President Boakai said, Liberia is going to partner with the government of China, and expressed hope that both countries can benefit from this relationship.

Protests marred Boakai's first 20 days

By Othello B. Garblah and Lincoln Peters

Persistent protests by spouses of officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have marred President Joseph N. Boakai's first 20 days in office forcing

General Daniel Ziankan and his chief architect, the modern pharaoh of our time in person of Major General Price Charles Johnson," the women said.

The women had earlier called on the Senate Defense Committee not to confirm Rtd

The protesting AFL officers' spouses cooked and slept in the streets at the Coast Guard and Star Bases and under the Bong Mines Bridge on Bushrod Island.

During their sustained protest, they set roadblocks and demanded the immediate resignation of former Defense Minister Prince C. Johnson, III. They were seen cleaning fish, while some were seen fetching water among others.

The protesters assembled in the street with cooking pots, buckets, and several cooking utensils and spent time cooking on the streets of Monrovia.

They sat on the main road and prepared their meals while the protest continued. They also slept on the streets at the Bong Mines Bridge along with their kids.

The protesting spouses of AFL officers were dressed in dominant black while others wore their husbands' military outfits.

The protesters barricaded the main road leading to the commercial hub of Duala, New Kru Town, Caldwell, and Brewerville, among others.

The action caused serious traffic congestion, leaving commuters to use the community routes to get to their destinations.

Speaking in an interview with journalists, the women accused retired Major General Johnson of not initiating sound retirement policy and benefits for soldiers.

They accused General Johnson of allegedly not remitting all of the monies and benefits of AFL soldiers on UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

They alleged that the two officials under their leadership, did not put into place a sound retirement policy, and soldiers and their families live in poor housing facilities.

The Armed Forces Day Event

In a release issued by the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday, February 7, it said the Commander-In-Chief by Proclamation declared Sunday, February 11, 2024, as "Armed Forces Day." The Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 12, 2024, throughout the Republic as a National Holiday.

The Proclamation further directed all military and paramilitary organizations within the Republic to organize and execute appropriate programs including parades and other ceremonies in recognition of the Day.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the day was planned to be celebrated at the Barclay Training Center (BTC) under the theme: "The Armed Forces Support to Democracy:

Flogged by Ivorian fans

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

An officer of the Liberia Immigration Service assigned at the Loguatu border with neighboring Ivory Coast has been flogged by group of men believed to be Ivoirians and Liberian citizens. The incident occurred on Saturday night between the hours of 12 and 1 A.M. after Ivory Coast defeated Nigeria in the final match of the 2024 African Cup of Nations Tournament in Abidjan.

The aggression was in response to Liberian border guards' alleged refusal to allow jubilating crowds from Liberia cross into Ivory Coast during night hours to join their counterparts (Ivoirians) to celebrate the victory against the Super Eagles of Nigeria in the Afcon final.

Eyewitness told the NEW DAWN Nimba correspondent of the huge presence of people believed to be citizens of the two sisterly countries who attacked the Liberian security

the ringleader of the mob David Kiamue, alongside with huge number of people believed to be both Ivoirians and Liberians allegedly attacked Officer Williams Buddy, deputy anti-human trafficking commander assigned at the Luogatu border and forced their way into Ivory Coast for the celebration.

The Saturday night incident at the border brings to two, such violence that has occurred there in less than a month.

Few days ago, group of Ivoirians forcibly crossed into Liberia to celebrate their country's victory against South Africa.

Since the incident, there has been no response from the Ivoirians authorities.

Immigration Officer Williams Buddy, is currently receiving medication at a local hospital on the Liberian side of the border, following the flogging.

Suspect David Kiamue, ringleader of the violence is being investigated by the Liberian Joint Security assigned at the Loguatu border.

Citizens, who live near the border have expressed disappointment and frustrations over what they term



his newly confirmed Defense Minister retired Maj. Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III., to resign.

The protest also affected the Armed Forces Day celebration, with the President and Commander-In-Chief announcing earlier that there would be no formal program as was previously announced in a Foreign Ministry Proclamation issued on Wednesday, 7 January.

Retired Maj. Gen. Johnson, III, who tendered his resignation on Monday, February 12, 2024, as Liberians observed the nation's 67th Armed Forces Day, served as Chief of Staff of the AFL from 2018 to 2024 under the George Wean administration.

The spouses of officers of the AFL took to the streets on Saturday, the eve of Armed Forces Day erecting roadblocks on major highways while demanding that President Boakai dismiss the former Army Chief for his alleged inhumane treatment of servicemen.

It follows days of protests by the officers' spouses from military barracks around the country accusing the former Chief of Staff of bad labor practices, and concerns over wages, benefits, and poor living conditions in the military barracks.

"We have come here today as the voices of those gallant men who by laws: the constitution, the Defense Acts, the Geneva Conventions and rendering them as duck fowl organization who cannot voice out their pains, frustrations, deprivations, marginalization, untold poverty wilfully, deliberately placed upon us and our children by the former Défense Minister retired

Maj. Gen. Johnson, III over their concerns, but the former went ahead to confirm him.

Accepting his resignation

The Executive Mansion announced Gen. Johnson's resignation Monday afternoon, 12 February 2024 while some major highways across Monrovia and parts of Liberia were being held hostage by the protesting women.

Since his nomination to head the Ministry of National Defense, AFL Officers' spouses began raising contentions against the retired Army Chief of Staff for various underlying issues not previously known in the public.

There were concerns about wages and benefits, and poor living conditions in the military barracks, among others.

It became clear that the protesters, though not military personnel, did not want their spouses to work with former Minister Johnson.

However, the Liberian Senate confirmed him, probably provoking the widespread protest that led to the roadblocks for days.

The Executive Mansion says in his resignation letter, Minister Johnson outlined his reasons for his action.

The Executive Mansion noted that Gen. Johnson indicated that his action was due to the current political and civil disturbances occasioned by the protest of women believed to be wives of servicemen, he has decided to resign and preserve the peace and security of the State.

The Executive Mansion said President Boakai has expressed gratitude to Minister Johnson for his invaluable service to the country and described him as a patriot.

AFL spouses cooked and slept on major roads



at the Loguatu border continuous bad treatments state between 12:00 and 1:00 in the morning, demanding that they be allowed to enter Ivory Coast to form part of the victory celebration, but their request was denied on grounds that the borders officially closes at 6 pm daily, which means that no one is allowed to cross either side after this time.

This paper also gathered that following this explanation from Liberian security officers,

security are receiving from both Liberians and Ivoirians residing around the Luogatu border. Meanwhile, the NEW DAWN also gathered that goods are being smuggled into Liberia thru porous border points.

Few days ago, it was reported that palm oil and other produce from Liberia crossed into Ivory Coast illegally without payment of customs. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

NEC announces by-elections for April 23rd

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The National Elections Commission (NEC) announces 23rd, 2024 as the date for Senatorial By-

Presidential ticket of President Joseph N. Boakai, Sr. during the 14 November 2023 Presidential Run-off Election.

She says similarly, on 2nd February 2024, the House of Representatives notified the

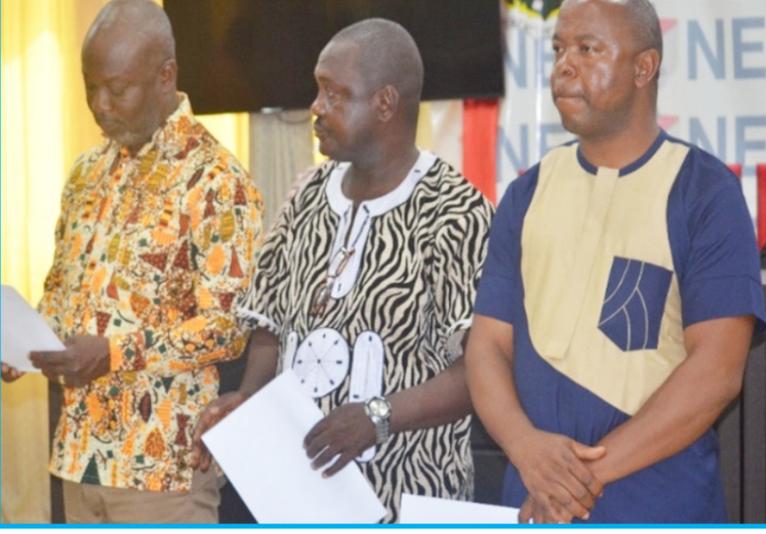
Commission to conduct by-elections in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties respectively to fill the vacant seats in consonance with Article 37 of the Constitution of Liberia which states that "In the event of vacancy in the Legislature caused by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall within 30 days inform the Elections Commission thereof. The Elections Commission shall not later than 90 days thereafter cause a by-election to be held.

Madam Lansanah explains that following receipt of the notifications, the Commission immediately began initial planning activities to conduct these by-elections.

However, she adds that in so doing, the budget for the by-elections has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Board of Commissioners.

She reveals that the timeline has been developed in which the Commission plans to conduct both by-elections on 23 April 2024.

Chairperson Lansanah details that the Writ of Elections has been issued to the concerned election magistrates, and the key dates



election in Nimba and Representative By-election in District #1, Grand Gedeh County, respectively.

NEC chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah says the Commission was officially notified on 1st February 2024 by the Liberian Senate of the existence of a vacancy in the senate after the election of Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung as Vice President of the Republic of Liberia on the

Commission of a vacancy due to the passing of Representative-elect, Erol Madison Gwion, of District #1, Grand Gedeh County after he was elected on 10 October 2023.

The NEC Boss notes that in both communications, the Senate and House of Representatives emphasized that the letters notifying the Commission about the two vacancies constituted "sufficient authority" of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Pay with MoMo!

Dial *156*3#

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

© 0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 © 0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia