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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024	LS189.5467/US\$1.00	LS191.3423/US\$1.00

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

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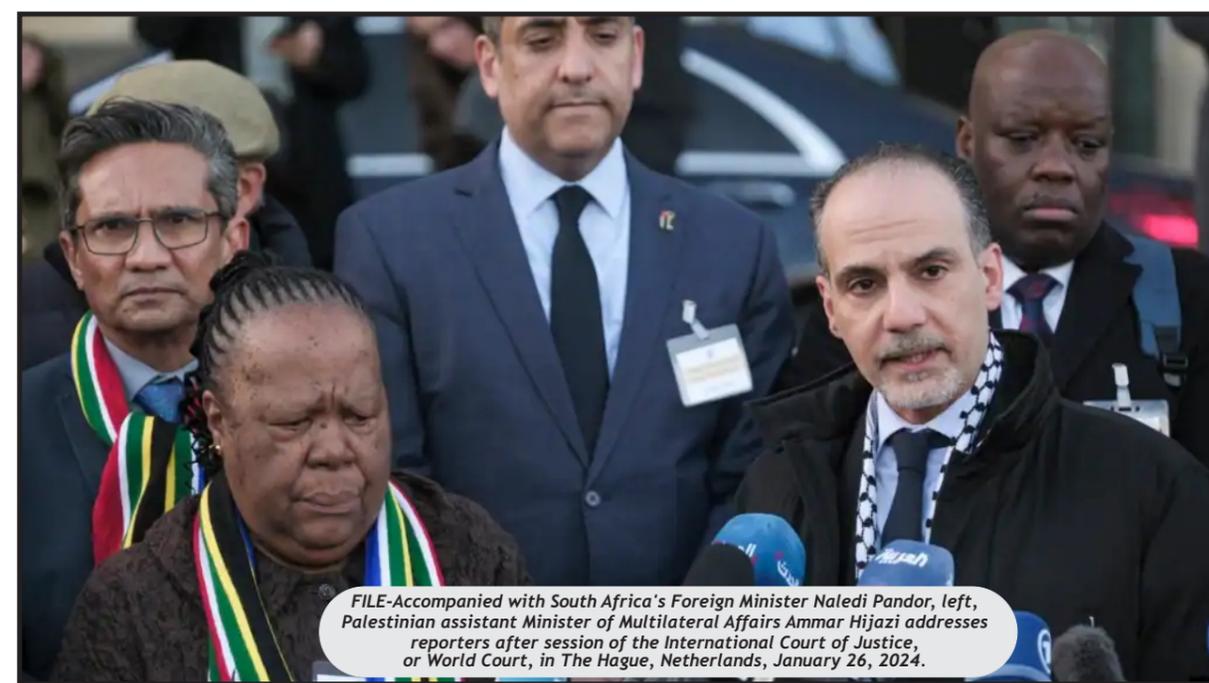
Continental News

South Africa Asks World Court to Stop Expected Israeli Attack on Rafah

South Africa urged the UN's top court Tuesday to place more legal pressure on Israel to halt a threatened offensive against the densely crowded Gaza city operation against Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's 2.4 million people have sought shelter from the bombardment.

Court's Order of 26 January 2024," the South African presidency argued. "South Africa trusts this matter will receive the necessary urgency in light of the daily death toll in Gaza." The court late Tuesday

For South Africa, this is enough to ask the ICJ to revisit its



FILE-Accompanied with South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, left, Palestinian assistant Minister of Multilateral Affairs Ammar Hijazi addresses reporters after session of the International Court of Justice, or World Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, January 26, 2024.

of Rafah. Pretoria has already made a complaint against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, alleging that its assault on Gaza amounts to a breach of the Genocide Convention.

The court has yet to rule on the underlying issue, but on January 26 it ordered Israel to ensure in the interim that it takes action to protect Palestinian civilians from further harm and to allow in humanitarian aid.

Israel's campaign has continued, however, and its forces are preparing an

provisional measures and issue a sterner order.

"There has since been a significant development in the situation in Gaza requiring the Court's urgent attention," South Africa said in its updated request.

It said it was "gravely concerned that the unprecedented military offensive against Rafah, as announced by the State of Israel, has already led to and will result in further large scale killing, harm and destruction."

"This would be in serious and irreparable breach both of the Genocide Convention and of the

posted South Africa's request for updated measures on its account on X, formerly Twitter, with officials confirming it had been received.

Set up after World War II to rule in disputes between countries, the ICJ could make another ruling on emergency measures based on its own findings. It was now up to the ICJ judges' discretion to take action in the light of the request—based on the circumstances and the emergency nature of the situation, law officials said. VOA

Kenya Police Recapture Suspect in US Murder Case

Kenyan police on Wednesday said they have recaptured a man whose escape from custody made headlines following his arrest on suspicion of murdering his girlfriend in the United States.

Kevin Kang'ethe was detained pending extradition to the United States over the death of Margaret Mbitu, whose body was found in an airport car park last year but slipped out of a police station last week.

"We have re-arrested the suspect and he is now in custody," Nairobi police chief Adamson Bungei said.

The police chief said Kang'ethe was hiding out at a

The escape had left police red-faced, with Bungei describing the events at the time as "embarrassing."

U.S. and Kenyan authorities had launched a manhunt after Mbitu was found stabbed to death in a car park at Boston's Logan airport in November.

An arrest warrant was issued for Kang'ethe after he fled the United States for his native Kenya, where he was arrested in late January.

Police said the suspect, who media reports variously said was aged 40 or 41, had been removed from his cell on Wednesday last week for a meeting with his lawyer, when he ran away.

At the time of the escape, the station commander was chairing a



Kevin Kang'ethe, a murder suspect who was awaiting extradition to the United States, appears at the Milimani law court in Nairobi, Kenya, on February 14, 2024.

relative's home on the outskirts of Nairobi, where he was found late Tuesday after a days-long manhunt.

"He will now be taken to court to face charges of escaping from lawful custody as he awaits extradition," Bungei said.

meeting with anti-crime personnel in her office, it said, adding that officers gave chase but were unable to catch Kang'ethe.

Four police officers, two relatives and the lawyer were arrested in connection with his escape and remain in custody. VOA

Nigeria Plans Commodity Board to Tamp Down Rising Price of Food

Nigeria is planning to set up a national commodity board to regulate the price of grains and other items, as rising food costs stoke double-digit inflation in a country where smallholder farmers dominate production.

Nigeria's annual inflation hit a nearly three-decade high of 28.92% in December as food prices surged, adding to a worsening cost of living crisis. Inflation data for January is due on Thursday. Vice President Kashim Shettima said on Tuesday that the National Commodity Board would maintain a strategic food reserve that could be used to reduce volatility and stabilise prices and tackle escalating food inflation in Africa's most populous nation.

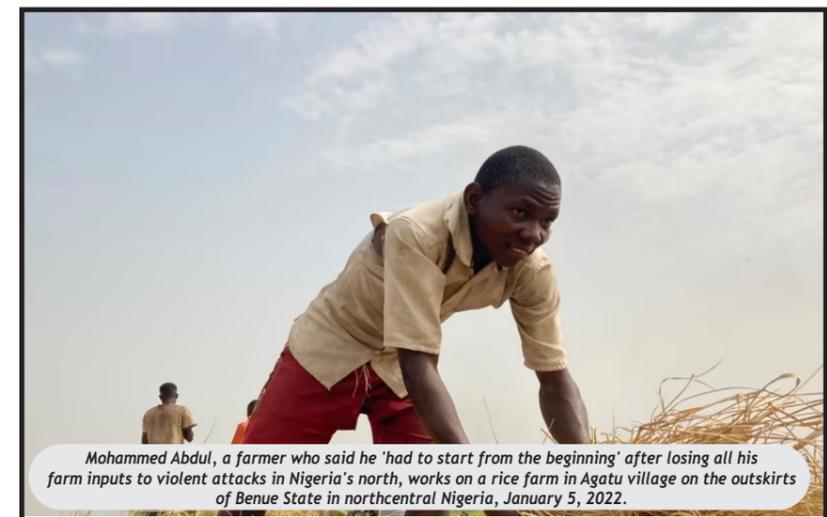
Food inflation, which accounts for the bulk of Nigeria's inflation basket, rose to 33.93% in December from 32.84% a month earlier, with higher prices across a broad

range of items including bread, fish, meat, fruit and eggs.

Shettima said the government will revitalise food supply in the short-term through measures such as the distribution of fertiliser and grain to farmers and households, to counter the effect of removing a costly but popular fuel subsidy. President Bola Tinubu last May embarked on Nigeria's boldest reforms in decades by scrapping the fuel

subsidy and devaluing the currency to try to revive economic growth. But growth is yet to pick up while inflation has worsened. Widespread kidnapping and banditry in farming areas has also pushed up food prices.

Shettima said the government will engage its "security architecture" to protect both farms and farmers, so they can return and work without fear of attack. VOA



Mohammed Abdul, a farmer who said he 'had to start from the beginning' after losing all his farm inputs to violent attacks in Nigeria's north, works on a rice farm in Agatu village on the outskirts of Benue State in northcentral Nigeria, January 5, 2022.

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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.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah: Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

COMMENTARY

By Colin Coleman

A Marshall Plan for Africa

NEW YORK - Africa could be the largest source of global economic growth over the next half-century. But during the same period, the continent could also trigger the next great European war.

Goldman Sachs projects that Africa's GDP will grow from roughly \$3 trillion today to \$44 trillion in 2075, with its share of global GDP rising from 3% to 11%. This increase would make the continent one of the world's main growth engines, surpassed only by India, which is predicted to add \$46 trillion in GDP over the same period. To put this in perspective, between 2030 and 2075, Goldman Sachs' model predicts that Chinese GDP will rise by \$8.5 trillion less, and the United States' GDP by \$16.5 trillion less, than Africa's.

In fact, by 2075, Nigeria is forecast to become the world's fifth-largest economy, with a GDP of \$13 trillion, and Egypt the seventh-largest, with a GDP of more than \$10 trillion. Meanwhile, Ethiopia is expected to rank 17th, while South Africa remains around 25th, with GDPs of more than \$6 trillion and \$3 trillion, respectively.

At the same time, Africa's population is set to rise from 1.4 billion today to 3.3 billion in 2075, accounting for 32% of the world population, up from 18% today, according to the United Nations' 2022 World Population Prospects report.

Two conclusions can be drawn from all this. First, by 2075, nearly one-third of the world's population will have to share 11% of global GDP. While this represents an improvement on the current situation, it implies that African countries will still struggle to feed, clothe, and provide income to all their inhabitants, likely triggering an explosion of migration to Europe.

Second, a small section of African society will benefit disproportionately from this period of wealth creation, while large segments of the population will most likely remain in poverty, implying a rise in inequality and an increasing risk of social unrest.

To be sure, Africa's demographic dividend represents an immense opportunity for investors, especially in technology, consumer, clean-energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and fintech industries. But the risk of a humanitarian disaster grows with each passing day, as more people contend with poverty, joblessness, and violent conflict.

The continent is, in fact, a ticking time bomb. Global post-pandemic economic conditions, including the rising cost of capital, surging inflation, and interest-rate hikes, have hit African countries hard, closing capital markets to most African issuers. The defaults of Zambia, Ghana, and, most recently, Ethiopia are warning signs of a sovereign-debt crisis, offset by Côte d'Ivoire's successful bond issue in January and Kenya's recent, albeit expensive, bond issue.

Equally worrying are spiking yields and the wall of debt coming due in countries like Kenya and Angola. As a result, these countries have been forced to cut public spending to the bone and raise taxes, worsening social and business conditions.

Moreover, exchange-rate fluctuations, which contributed to the dramatic collapse of Nigeria's naira, have tightened financial conditions, reduced the supply of dollars, and made it

difficult for corporates to service foreign-currency debts and repatriate their dollar revenues. As humanitarian and sovereign-debt crises build, and business conditions deteriorate, multiparty democracy on the continent has begun to break down, reflected in the recent string of military coups in West and Central Africa.

The current situation has already fueled a sharp rise in migration. Last September, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported that more than 2,500 people had died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe in the first nine months of 2023, with many more perishing before they reached the coast. During that same period, 130,000 migrants, many departing from Tunisia or Libya, landed in Italy.

These numbers will increase sharply if Africa's population growth is not coupled with improving economic conditions. Worryingly, the International Monetary Fund's current forecasts suggest GDP growth of around 4% in Sub-Saharan Africa for the next two years - well below long-term trends. The current influx of mass migration to European countries such as Italy, Spain, and Greece may be only the beginning.

The impact of African migration on European countries' domestic politics can already be seen in the increasing popularity of right-wing, anti-immigration parties across the continent. The political tremors that massive African migration would trigger throughout Europe in the coming decades could even lead to the rise of fascism. To avert this nightmare scenario, policymakers must act now.

Sending asylum-seekers back to the continent - as envisioned by the United Kingdom's controversial deportation deal with Rwanda - won't stop migration (and, importantly, does not comply with human-rights standards). The only answer is to fix the structural problems that plague Africa. That means supporting various homegrown African initiatives, including the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, innovative infrastructure-financing tools, and peace and security missions.

The international community should consider implementing a comprehensive Marshall Plan for Africa, led by the G20. By mobilizing large-scale financing, boosting trade, investing in capacity-building initiatives, and providing military and security support, the G20 could collaborate with the African Union and leading African countries to accelerate economic growth, promote human development, and ensure social stability on the continent.

For such a plan to work, the United States, European countries, and China must come together to design, negotiate, and implement this initiative. A joint effort is needed to deliver structural transformation, as the best intentions of individual countries will not be enough to tackle Africa's economic, social, and political problems. Failing that, the continent's problems will eventually ignite a global conflagration that burns brightest in Europe.

A G20-led Marshall Plan for Africa could help produce sustainable solutions to the continent's biggest challenges. When combined with homegrown initiatives and the nearly \$1 trillion annual GDP growth that Goldman Sachs forecasts, it could provide the incentive required to mobilize the massive private-sector investment the continent needs.

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OP-ED

By Adekeye Adebajo

West Africa's Brexit Moment Could Fuel Regional Turmoil

PRETORIA - On January 28, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso announced their withdrawal from the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from which all three had been suspended following the military coups that overthrew their democratically elected governments. This represents the greatest crisis the bloc has faced since its establishment in 1975.

The three military juntas, which announced a new defense pact in September, accused ECOWAS of being "under the influence" of foreign powers and - citing the bloc's failure to support their war against al-Qaeda and the Islamic State - posing a "threat to its member states and people." All three governments also complained about ECOWAS's "irrational and unacceptable" economic sanctions against them.

Over the past few years, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso have been fighting foreign-backed jihadists across the tri-border area, where militants have killed more than 20,000 people and displaced an additional 4.2 million while taking control of vast territories. Now, the withdrawal of these three landlocked Sahelian countries from ECOWAS threatens to disrupt trade and mobility even further, undermine democratic governments, and erode Nigeria's credibility as a regional power.

To mitigate this crisis, regional leaders must confront five key challenges. First, the resurgence of military rule across West Africa represents a failure of democratic governance that can be attributed to endemic corruption and electoral manipulation by authoritarian rulers. Both problems have been compounded by the lasting impact of colonialism and ongoing interference by self-interested foreign powers.

Second, former colonial powers have hindered West African integration. France, in particular, has exerted enormous influence over the region through its control of francophone economic institutions and the CFA franc, the common currency it created for its colonies in 1945. Although French troops were expelled from Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso by 2023 amid fierce anti-French protests, the United States still has 1,100 troops and a drone base in Niger, while 1,000 Russian Wagner Group mercenaries are currently fighting jihadists alongside the Malian military.

Third, it is important to remember that ECOWAS was established to foster economic integration and development, not to address security threats or defend democratic institutions. Nevertheless, despite its limited resources, it has managed to reinvent itself as a peacekeeping force in an unstable, debt-ridden region. While ECOWAS has been highly effective in facilitating the free movement of the bloc's 440 million people, intra-regional trade has been impeded by member states' failure to industrialize and diversify their predominantly mono-crop economies.

The fourth obstacle to regional integration is the blatant disregard for ECOWAS's rules by its own elected leaders, leading to what West African civil-society groups have characterized as a series of civilian coups d'état. Moreover, the suppression of dissent and manipulation of independent institutions have provided military leaders in countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea with an opportunity to present themselves as the only ones capable of ousting unpopular French-backed leaders.

Senegalese President Macky Sall exemplifies this phenomenon. Despite his earlier declaration that he would not seek a third term, Sall recently postponed the presidential election that was scheduled for February 25 for 10 months. Earlier this year, Senegal's Constitutional Council disqualified the popular opposition leader Ousmane Sonko after he was sentenced to two years in prison on trumped-up charges of "corrupting the youth."

Lastly, domestic instability in Nigeria poses significant political and economic challenges. Accounting for nearly 70% of the region's GDP and half of its population, Nigeria has historically been the driving force behind ECOWAS. For decades, the country has leveraged its oil wealth to finance and lead the bloc, which is headquartered in Abuja. In the 1990s, Nigeria provided 80% of the troops and 90% of the funding to support ECOWAS's military efforts to end the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

But Nigeria, currently struggling to quell a 15-year Islamist insurgency in its northeastern states, has become a major source of regional instability. With a national debt of \$113 billion, an unemployment rate of more than 33%, and a corrupt political elite, the country's profound crisis has called into question its ability to lead ECOWAS.

As chair of the subregional bloc, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's ill-advised and impractical threat to oust Niger's junta has backfired spectacularly and undoubtedly contributed to the decision by Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso to withdraw from the bloc. Moreover, attempted military coups have reportedly been thwarted in Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, and Sierra Leone, suggesting that countries like Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana, and even Nigeria might also be at risk in the future.

To contain the spread of authoritarianism, ECOWAS countries must uphold their democratic principles by imposing sanctions on autocratic rulers. In cases where military regimes cannot be removed through sanctions, the bloc's leaders should adopt a pragmatic approach and negotiate 2-3-year democratic transitions. This is particularly crucial for the Sahel, where armed militants control large swaths of territory.

ECOWAS must also redouble its efforts to boost socioeconomic development and devise effective security and defense policies. The United Nations and other external donors should commit significant funds to peace-building and poverty-reduction programs, and provide the necessary logistics and financing to expand the bloc's military capabilities.

To be sure, restoring stability to West Africa will not be easy. But by confronting these challenges head-on, ECOWAS leaders could end the scourge of military coups and foster effective regional integration. Failure to do so will put the bloc's very existence at risk, potentially plunging the region into even more violence and coups.

OPINION

By Daniel Gros

Central Banks' 2% Inflation Target Is Not the Finish Line

B RUSSELS/MILAN - Sentiment in financial markets has undergone a sharp reversal in early 2024. After more than a year of aggressive interest-rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, talk has turned to the question of when - not if - central banks will lower rates. After all, inflation in the United States and the eurozone has fallen almost as quickly as it rose, and is now near central banks' 2% target.

To determine whether inflation has, in fact, been vanquished, we must first understand why it increased in the first place. The explanation might seem obvious. Everybody "knows" that inflation surged in 2022-23 due to external factors, especially supply-chain disruptions and energy-price increases caused largely by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war. But even a cursory glance at the data reveals flaws in this explanation.

The energy and supply shocks to which inflation is often attributed were short-lived. Crude-oil prices fell back to pre-Ukraine war levels after just a few months, and the supply shortages that characterized the immediate post-pandemic era disappeared over the course of 2023. If these shocks were all that was going on, prices would have increased sharply, then quickly declined, with negative inflation rates taking hold.

But that is not what happened. While prices for energy and some of the goods that were in short supply in 2022 have fallen, most other prices have continued to increase. Notably, the twin shocks should barely have affected the prices of services because services require mostly labor inputs and thus depend primarily on wages, not energy prices. And yet, services prices have been rising steadily.

When energy prices increase, central bankers face a conundrum. The consumer price index can remain stable only if other prices - mostly for services - fall. But there is a consensus among economists and central bankers that lowering wages is very difficult. This downward wage rigidity underpins the argument that central banks should not be held accountable for inflation caused by rising energy prices.

Recent developments challenge this logic. In the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, services prices increased by about 2-3% per year in the US, but the prices of durable goods, on average, fell a little each year, resulting in an average inflation rate of around 2.5%. This combination of stable-but-moderate services inflation and slightly falling goods prices persisted through multiple oil-price spikes, such as in 2008 and 2013. It is thus unlikely that the recent surge in the prices of services - which rose by 7% in 2022-23 - was driven simply by an oil-price shock.

To be sure, energy prices might explain a large share of overall inflation in the eurozone. Natural-gas prices in Europe soared in 2022. Though they have since fallen, they remain more than twice their level a year before the Ukraine war. This raises costs not only for heating, but also for many industrial processes, food production, and services like accommodation.

So, the energy-price shock probably had a stronger and longer-lasting effect on the prices of many components of the consumption basket, especially food and some services, in Europe. Nonetheless, energy prices have declined - and services prices have not fallen with them. Less than a quarter of the eurozone's six-percentage-point "disinflation" over the last year is due to services. Meanwhile, in the US, services inflation is running at roughly 5%.

The question, then, is why energy and goods prices have followed the traditional trajectory - first up, then down - but the services sector has remained plagued by inflationary pressures. One convincing explanation lies in what economists call rational inattention: when inflation is low, and has been stable for a long time, rational agents do not feel they have to think much about prices. As a result, wages and the prices of goods other than energy might remain steady, even as energy prices fluctuate modestly - as was the case until 2019.

This equilibrium breaks down when the price of energy or some other critical input increases sharply. The surge in energy prices in 2022 - together with the major geopolitical event that triggered it - made people pay attention. When some highly visible prices, such as those of used cars, shot up by almost 50% in a matter of few months, owing to a combination of surging post-pandemic demand and supply-chain disruptions, inflation moved to the forefront of economic agents' minds.

When firms and workers pay close attention to inflation, they adjust their own price and wage demands more frequently. This explains why inflation spread from energy and cars to the entire economy. Central banks, especially the ECB, were slow in 2022 to recognize this regime shift and that they could no longer rely on the benign experience of the last decade when other major shifts in oil prices had a limited impact on inflation.

Simply reaching the 2% target for a few months will not be sufficient to achieve what central banks should really be aiming for: an economy in which workers and producers forget about inflation.

So, the challenge central bankers face is not so much bringing inflation from 3% to 2% - the "last mile" of the disinflation race - but keeping it there for so long that people stop worrying that prices will rise again tomorrow. Far from being the finish line, the 2% target marks the start of a new marathon.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

To manage the Liberian people's expectations: Boakai must cut the cost of governance

By S.karweaye

In June of 2010, the two Washington-based financial institutions - the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) announced a total debt relief of US\$4.6 billion under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. By September 2010, the Liberian government was able to conclude a deal that led to the pardoning of \$1.2bn (£764m) worth of debts owed to the Paris Club and the country became virtually debt-free externally. This resulted in very strong fundamentals for the country's financial status which was demonstrated by a respectable credit rating for the country and for the first time after the two civil wars, a significant appreciation in the value of the Liberian dollar against major international currencies.

From just over \$71 million in 2006 when the Ellen Sirleaf administration assumed power, they were able to increase the country's foreign reserves to \$442 million by 2010 when the Paris Club debt was canceled off and it was this enhanced liquidity that enabled them to negotiate with the Paris Club of creditors from a position of strength and get significant concessions on the debt. The robust foreign reserves also played a major role in stabilizing the value of Liberia during that period as well.

One begins to wonder how the government then was able to build up our foreign reserves so significantly at a period when rubber, iron ore, gold, etc prices averaged and our export capacity was much lower than what we have today. The simple answer is that the government then was able to keep the cost of governance relatively low between 2006 to 2010 and rather than fritter away the increased revenues from our exports chose to save by building up our foreign reserves. It was this prudent management of resources and the presence of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) that created an atmosphere that enabled the economy to thrive during that period and this contributed significantly to Liberia's economy's continued strong recovery.

Sadly, from a situation where Liberia was virtually debt-free in external debts after we exited Paris Club in 2010, our stock of public debt has grown rapidly to an all-time high of over US\$2.21 billion. We now find ourselves in a situation where we are now using up to \$100 million of government revenue to service existing debts while the government has to resort to taking more loans for the basic task of running the government.

The other tragic part of the increased loan portfolio is that most of the loans were taken to finance recurrent expenditure with very little capital expenditure or even investments to show for these loans so there is no hope of increased economic activity or revenues being generated to help offset these loans.

Virtually everything was used to finance consumption despite claims by the Weah administration that they invested heavily in infrastructure. The reality is that the handful of infrastructure projects they embarked on don't come anywhere close to justifying the additional US\$1.33 billion in debt incurred by the immediate past administration.

A lot of people begin to ask how these debts affect us individually as they assume that the burden is on the government alone. The reality is that it is these debts that are responsible for the high inflation rates in the country. The major cause of inflation in the country is due to the falling value of the Liberian dollar which continues to fall as a result of the government's fiscal irresponsibility.

To finance the bloated cost of governance, the government has been taking the shortcut of borrowing more money and getting the central bank to print more money to finance their consumption. This increased money being pushed into circulation to finance consumption without a corresponding increase in the level of goods and services being produced in the country is what is directly responsible for the constant fall in the value of the Liberian dollar and the high inflation rate that we are all being subjected to today.

Given the current terrible state of our economy after Weah exited power, one would

have assumed that the current administration who, by their admission, stated that they inherited a very bad and heavily indebted economy would not continue on the path of financial recklessness of the previous administration and be more prudent with the management of our country. We await the draft budget that was returned to the Boakai administration for realignment and hope the 2024 budget will be presented to the National Legislature won't be mostly to finance consumption and the excesses of those who now hold the reins of power.

If the current administration is serious about fixing the economy and managing our expectations, the first step they ought to take is to make drastic cuts in the cost of governance. In the past administration, most recurrent expenditure budgets were heavily padded but Boakai's administration can afford to cut it by up to 50% without affecting service delivery by the government. This is apart from the fact that there are a lot of redundancies in the public service that add up to increase the cost of governance unnecessarily. We can easily reduce the expenditure budget for the current year without affecting service delivery. The savings can then be used to reduce our deficit/debt burden, build roads, and schools, improve the health of the economy, etc.

Of course, several other things need to be done to revamp our economy and manage our expectations which

I will focus on in subsequent articles but for now, the starting point to revamping our economy and managing Liberians' expectations should be to make drastic cuts in the cost of governance, reduce the deficit, stop borrowing, and strengthen the economic fundamentals of the country to lay a strong foundation for the needed investments that are required to turn around the economy of the country.



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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MCC and LNP clear makeshift structures

By Lewis S. Teh

The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) with the backing of the Liberia National Police (LNP) has begun clearing makeshift structures erected along major streets in Monrovia by street vendors.

the city limit of Monrovia. Street vendors have also been decisively removed as part of the ongoing exercise to give the city a facelift. Accordingly, the MCC and LNP collaborative project aims to decongest traffic in Monrovia and give the city a facelift.

government shall remove stalls that hinder pedestrian and vehicular movements along major streets.

It continues that the city government shall ensure that property owners comply with requirements of cleaning and painting their properties along major streets.

"Objective five of the ARREST framework and in line with the city ordinance authorizes the City Government of Monrovia to enforce the removal of all lamentable signboards, billboards, and broken-down vehicles from the sidewalks," the MCC said.

The ARREST policy also provides for the enforcement of city ordinances on street selling/hawking and ensures that marketers sell their products only at designated sites. The MCC-LNP cleanup initiative will be more vigorous in the coming days in its approach to have a clean, green, and safe environment.

The City Government has assured the public that it would be as consistent as possible with its mandate to discourage street selling which undercuts the beautification of the city and creates unnecessary traffic congestion.



The MCC and LNP embarked on a robust joint cleanup and demolition of makeshift structures exercise in Monrovia on Wednesday, 14 February 2024.

The exercise is targeting the major streets of the Capital including Randall, Benson, Ashmun Streets, and Waterside, among others. It is expected to take place contemporaneously within

The demolition and clearing operation according to the MCC aligns with Objective # 5 of the national ARREST manifesto which focuses on sanitation.

MCC officials have revealed that Objective #5 of the National ARREST manifesto states that the city government shall enforce the city ordinance on the removal of makeshift structures.

It adds that city the city

ECOWAS-UNDP Technical Consultation Initiates Efforts To Develop West Africa Resilience Strategy

Abuja, Nigeria 13th February 2024 - The ECOWAS Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has launched a three-day regional workshop aimed at developing the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa. Held at the NAF Conference Centre in Abuja, this event represents a significant step in addressing the region's challenges and promoting resilience and sustainable development.

Despite West Africa's abundant natural resources, sustainable exploitation and equitable distribution of benefits to communities remain challenging. The region, contributing only 1.8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, faces increasing temperatures and extreme weather events, exacerbated by inadequate development and governance,

resilience strategy that is efficient and effective. This will guide anticipatory actions to support the use of qualitative and quantitative data for risk-informed decision-making. It is imperative for the region to leverage its rich natural and human capital for smart investments to meet up with its future aspirations.

Discussions during the workshop will cover six thematic areas: good governance, peace, and security; macroeconomic resilience; sustainable livelihoods; social protection and resilience; gender and social inclusion; and climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Mr. Blessed Chirimuta, Deputy Representative of UNDP Nigeria, highlighted the significance of partnerships for sustainable development and resilience-building: "The ability to prevent, resist, absorb, adapt, respond, and recover positively from various risks is essential for sustainable development, peace, security, human rights, and well-being for



Clergy blames Liberia's backwardness on failure to learn from the past

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberian clergy has attributed the country's backwardness to the failure of past and current government officials to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors.

The Assistant Pastor of Victory Life Church, Mac Garlo gave the caution while delivering a sermon recently at his Church edifice on the Bushorld Island.

Victory Life Church is located across St. Paul Bridge, adjacent to the New Community Clinic in Montserrado County Electoral District #17.

Pastor Garlo wondered why governments continue to fail in providing necessities for their citizens.

He named good roads, security, education,

healthcare, and electricity as age-old problems that have yet to be addressed by governments over the years.

He spoke on the theme "Your Mentality Powers Success," from Proverbs 23:7 & and Proverbs 4:23. He urged officials of the current administration to orient their mentality and work positively

for the betterment of the country and its people.

Pastor Garlo indicated that for too long Liberians have suffered a lack of access to basic life necessities, noting that it's time to end the long-suffering and enslavement.

He however vowed to remain robust on current officials of government failure to correct the wrongs of their predecessors.



and security-related issues.

In her opening remarks, H.E. Professor Fatou Sow Sarr, Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs at the ECOWAS Commission, highlighted West Africa's vulnerability to hazards and disasters, including climate change impacts, conflict, poverty, and disease outbreaks, stressing the importance of disaster risk reduction in post-disaster recovery and development.

"This workshop marks a substantial advancement in our efforts to enhance resilience in West Africa. Through collaboration with UNDP and our stakeholders, we can formulate robust strategies to tackle the multifaceted challenges facing our regions," she said, expressing gratitude to partners and donors for their support, and reaffirming ECOWAS' commitment to strengthening resilience in West Africa.

Honorable Alhaji Mustapha Habib Ahmed, Director General, National Emergency Management Agency of Nigeria (NEMA), stressed the need for West Africa to develop a regional

all."

"Our partnership with ECOWAS and the support of Sweden and Denmark are critical in our mission to enhance resilience in West Africa. Together, we must leverage our expertise and resources to pave the way for a more resilient and prosperous future for all," emphasized Mr. Chirimuta.

Under the Sahel Resilience and Climate Security Projects, funded by the Swedish and Danish governments respectively, the consultation brings together key stakeholders from West Africa, including the ECOWAS Commission and its directorates, Member States, as well as regional, continental, and international organizations, including the United Nations.

This technical consultation signifies a crucial moment in strengthening West Africa's resilience amid significant demographic, social, economic, environmental, and political transformations. With the region's population expected to exceed 900 million by 2050 including over 64% under 25 years old, innovative approaches are needed to address the evolving needs and the future of youthful communities.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nimba District#5 yearns for safe-drinking water

By Thomas Domah
/Nimba County

Over fifty out of 73 towns in Nimba County district#5 have been without safe-

during elections period politicians know their importance go to them for votes, but after the polls, they don't have time for them.

Annie Dennis and Emmanuel

transactions, including food and trading in neighboring Ivory Coast, because of lack of access. Meanwhile, several aggrieved citizens of BUU-YAO have vowed not to support Representative Samuel Kogar's quest to contest in the pending senatorial by-election in April.

According to them, Rep. Kogar just participated in the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Representative Elections that saw him elected for a third term. Their decision not to support Kogar's decision to contest for the senate is being welcomed by the people of district#6, who in a recent mass meeting rejected their district Representative Dorwohn Twain Gleekla's declaration of intention to vie for the senate.

The district#6 citizens went on various community radio stations in the county rejected the re-election of Gleekla during the 2023 polls but the Unity Party thru the rescue ticket of President Joseph Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah Koung alongside Senator Prince Johnson intervened and appealed to them to vote for his reelection.

When contacted, Representative Samuel Kogar of district#5 and Representative Gleekla of district#6 threatened to take issues with our correspondent if he brings them to public disrepute.



drinking water for the past 10 years.

Citizens of the area lament that their only source of getting water are nearby creeks, a situation that continue to affect them.

According to Amelia Jackson and Erica Samuel, due to the lack of safe-drinking water, most of them including kids suffer stomach problems, including water borne disease.

They note that it's only

Menlor told our Nimba County correspondent that the district has great sons and daughters, including Senator Prince Johnson, who has just begun another nine year-term after serving previous two terms, now becoming the longest serving senator in recent history moving to 27 years without any significant impact on their lives.

The NEW DAWN gathered that citizens of BUU-YAO, electoral district#5, do all their

730 unrecognized employees on MoS payroll

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Ministry of State but people's time, energy and the positions they serve in contribute to the overall efficiency of the ministry and the resources of Liberia are used effectively," she added.

Due to the over 730 extra employees, Atty. Togba said the ministry spends over US\$2.7 million annually only on salary.

She expressed the determination of the Senior Management Team to tackle those challenges upon her confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

"We believe that once we address these issues at the ministry that hosts the seat of the presidency, it's easy for other ministries to mirror similar patterns or similar administrative decisions that are taken by the ministry," Atty. Togba said.

At the same time, Atty. Togba said that during their assessment, almost all the systems were apparently nonexistent or not working.

She cited the lack of a procurement arm of the ministry while there exists a procurement unit which has not worked over the last six years.

According to her, staffers at the ministry were individually doing their own procurements, while the institution also did not have an office space or a department responsible for the audit unit despite the presence of internal auditors.

She said this made it impossible for transactions to be audited.

The Deputy Minister of State for Administration designate further revealed that assets of the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs cannot be accounted for while the new management recently inherited a single vehicle.

She termed the situation as a huge challenge with accountability and transparency.

"And as a DMA-designate of the Ministry of State, I can commit to you the Senate Executive Committee that we are committed to setting up a system that will just bring accountability back to the presidency of the Ministry of State," she pledged.

She promised to ensure that those who are under the employ of the ministry are

effective and efficient in leading the overall success of the Rescue Agenda.

As one of the ways of addressing some of the problems, Atty. Togba said that rightsizing could be considered because the ministry is heavily overstuffed.

According to her, retaining a total of over 1,000 staff at a single government entity as the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs in the absence of rightsizing would mean each staff would have to be placed in his or her specific position and do exactly according to that position.

Also speaking in the joint public confirmation hearing, the Minister of State Without Portfolio-designate at the Ministry of State, Mamaka Bility vowed to promote the agenda of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Madam Bility bragged about her many years of experience working in the office of Amb. Boakai while he was Liberia's Vice President for at least six years.

She said the job is not strange to her, and promised to keep the presidency effective for the Liberian people.

NAPDOL decries low budgetary support

By Lincoln G. Peters

Lawyers who represent poor people accused of committing serious crime across the country are warning that the public defenders program in Liberia will face difficulties in providing adequate legal representation, if low budgetary allotment is not addressed. The right of legal counsel to those accused of crimes in Liberia is a right enshrined in the 1986 Constitution, but one that could be threatened by inadequate budgeting and logistical support. Article 21 ©, (f), (h) and (i) guarantee that anyone facing criminal charges has right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and legal counsel. In its 2009 decision establishing the National

legal representations On Friday, February 9, 2024, the National Association of Public Defenders of Liberia (NAPDOL) convened at its Sixth Annual Convention on the Ground Floor of the Temple of Justice, Monrovia, Liberia under the Theme: Lawyers and Clients Relationship: The Case of Indigent Clients. The convention was attended by Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, who delivered a special statement on behalf of the Full Bench of the Supreme Court. The convention was also attended by executives and members of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA). In 2015, Cllr. Juah graduated from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia with a Bachelor of Law degree (LL. B). Also, in 2003, he graduated from the Cuttington University College (now Cuttington University), Suacoco, Bong County, with a degree of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in accounting. Besides, he holds several professional and specialized certificates from various reputable institutions including the International Law Institute, Washington, DC, United States of America.

Cllr. Juah in his opening remarks welcomed Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, executives and members of the LNBA, including invitees and delegates respectively.

He said the convening of the Association was in consonance with Article 23, Sub-Section 3 of the Constitution of NAPDOL which provides amongst other things, that the association shall convene every year to receive reports from the leadership about its fiscal as well as deliberate on its growth and development. He recounted that the milestones of NAPDOL are attributed to the Office of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court because it is the office that gave birth to the association in 2009.

International human rights instruments recognize that when a person's fundamental rights to life and liberty are put at risk by the State, that person has a right to legal assistance to ensure that the State properly fulfills its obligations imposed by law, without violating the rights of the individual in the process. As a result, the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders adopted in 1990, the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers with its principle that "All persons are entitled to call upon the assistance of a lawyer of their choice to protect and establish their rights and to defend them in all stages of criminal proceedings."



Cllr. Bestman Darward Juah

Français

Atelier élargi des parties prenantes de la GEF à Monrovia : discussions sur l'environnement et les défis régionaux

L'Agence de protection de l'environnement (EPA) et le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) ont lancé mardi 13

Selon lui, l'atelier réunira des représentants de la société civile, du secrétariat du FEM et des agences du FEM. Les thèmes principaux sont la biodiversité, la désertification, le

partager leurs enseignements et expériences en matière de développement et de mise en œuvre des projets du FEM et de leur intégration dans les cadres politiques nationaux.

Il a ajouté que l'événement vise également à encourager la coordination entre les fonctionnaires nationaux et à permettre une meilleure compréhension entre les membres des parties prenantes.

L'atelier élargi des parties prenantes est un événement annuel organisé par le secrétariat du FEM. Il réunit des représentants de chaque pays, le point focal politique du FEM, le point focal opérationnel du FEM, trois des quatre points focaux nationaux des conventions (Convention sur la diversité biologique, Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification, Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques et Convention de Stockholm). Des représentants des organisations de la société civile participent également à l'atelier. Pour sa part, le ministre de l'Agriculture J. Alexander Nuetah a applaudi le FEM pour ses contributions à l'amélioration de l'environnement naturel, à la promotion et à la protection de la biodiversité, à la lutte contre

février 2024 à Monrovia un atelier de quatre jours destiné aux parties prenantes.

Le directeur exécutif de l'EPA, le professeur Wilson K. Tarpeh, a déclaré que cet atelier s'inscrit dans le cadre du programme d'appui aux pays du FEM, et regroupe des participants du Bénin, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Ghana, du Libéria, du Nigeria, de la Sierra Leone, de la Guinée et du Togo

changement climatique et les conventions sur les produits chimiques afin de discuter des avantages environnementaux à l'échelle mondiale.

Il a souligné que cet événement offre aux acteurs nationaux du FEM l'occasion de rencontrer leurs homologues des autres pays de la région, le personnel du secrétariat du FEM, les agences du FEM et d'autres partenaires du FEM afin de

Le président Boakai nomme Me Kruah au poste de ministre du Travail

Moins d'un mois après l'avoir nommé ministre de la Justice, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a de nouveau désigné Me Cooper Kruah à un poste ministériel, cette fois-ci au ministère du Travail. Cette nomination fait suite à des allégations qui avaient empêché sa confirmation au poste de ministre de la Justice.

Le mardi 13 février 2024, la présidence a annoncé que le président Boakai avait nommé Me Cooper Kruah au poste de ministre du Travail. Le 26 janvier 2024, il l'avait nommé ministre de la Justice. Cependant, le candidat désigné ne s'est jamais présenté à l'audience de confirmation du Sénat en raison d'accusations persistantes portées contre lui par diverses personnes et relayées par les médias.

Me Kruah a nié tout acte répréhensible et a déclaré qu'il avait été victime de chantage dans une affaire impliquant M. Edgar Sidney de la Mano River Rehabilitation and Development Corporation (MARDCO).

Lui et son Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR), un parti politique précédemment dirigé par le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Yormie Johnson, ont soutenu la candidature du président Boakai à la présidence. Il a perdu son poste de ministre des Postes sous le président George Manneh Weah après avoir assisté à l'annonce officielle par le candidat Boakai du sénateur Jeremiah Koug de Nimba comme colistier.

Me Kruah faisait partie du premier groupe de candidats

nommés par le président Boakai. Cependant, il a continué à clarifier les allégations portées contre lui par certaines personnes.

Par ailleurs, le mardi 13 février 2024, le président Boakai a procédé à d'autres nominations au sein du gouvernement. Ces nominations ont touché la Police nationale libérienne (LNP), le ministère des Postes et télécommunications (MPT), le ministère des Mines et de l'énergie (MME), le ministère des Affaires étrangères

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Éditorial

Le Libéria se lance sur une trajectoire démocratique irréversible

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

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Atelier élargi des parties

le changement climatique et à la réponse à d'autres problèmes environnementaux au Libéria et dans la région, notamment par le biais du programme de petites subventions, du Fonds pour les pays les moins avancés et de l'allocation STAR.

Il a déclaré que le gouvernement libérien est particulièrement reconnaissant pour les ressources investies par le FEM au Libéria au fil des ans et se félicite de l'approbation récente d'une subvention de préparation de projet de 200 000 dollars US pour la préparation d'une proposition de 10 millions de dollars visant à renforcer la résilience agricole au Libéria.

Le ministre Nuetah a déclaré que ces investissements ont un impact sur les populations et communautés vulnérables du Libéria, de plus en plus touchées par le changement climatique et d'autres problèmes environnementaux, mais que davantage doit être fait. Il a également souligné le rôle important que joue le Libéria en tant que point chaud de biodiversité et puits de carbone, ce qui représente un défi économique pour le pays.

Il a souligné la nécessité d'accroître les investissements

dans les moyens de subsistance fondés sur la nature, la restauration des paysages dégradés et la lutte contre le changement climatique et la biodiversité au sein des communautés à travers le pays.

Il a noté que l'atelier élargi des parties prenantes qui se tient au Libéria est l'occasion de discuter et d'examiner les nouvelles politiques et procédures relatives au cycle actuel du FEM, d'encourager et de renforcer la coordination entre les partenaires du FEM, d'échanger des leçons, des connaissances et des expériences sur les projets du FEM, et d'analyser différents aspects du travail du FEM.

Il a souligné que ces conversations sont nécessaires pour améliorer la compréhension des stratégies et des politiques du FEM et pour aider le gouvernement et les autres parties prenantes à prendre des décisions éclairées en matière de participation et de coordination aux différentes initiatives du FEM afin d'en tirer le maximum de bénéfices. Le ministre de l'Agriculture a souligné que le gouvernement libérien est intéressé à explorer les moyens de continuer à tirer parti des expériences et des possibilités d'engagement avec le FEM afin d'accroître les avantages pour la population libérienne.

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Le président Boakai nomme

(MOFA), le ministère des Transports (MOT) et le ministère de la Justice (MOJ).

Elles ont également concerné le ministère du Travail (MOL), le Registre des entreprises du Libéria (LBR), l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA), l'Autorité de l'aviation civile du Libéria (LCAA), l'Agence de sécurité nationale (NSA), l'Agence de la fonction publique (CSA), la Société nationale pétrolière du Libéria (NOCAL) et l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA).

Selon la présidence, les personnes nommées sont M. William K. Mulbah, inspecteur général adjoint pour l'administration, Police nationale libérienne (LNP) ; Atty. J. Nelson Freeman, inspecteur général adjoint de la LNP pour les opérations ; M. Simeon Frank, inspecteur général adjoint de la LNP pour les services criminels ; et Mme Sadatu L.M. Reeves, inspectrice générale adjointe pour la formation et le développement des effectifs.

Le président Boakai a nommé Me Oswald Tweh, ministre de la Justice ; M. Wilmot Paye, ministre des Mines et de l'énergie (MME) ; M. Augustine S. Karpeh, vice-ministre des Postes, ministère

des Postes et télécommunications (MPT) ; et Mme Charlene Taylor, sous-ministre des Affaires afro-asiatiques, ministère des Affaires étrangères (MOFA).

Parmi les autres nommés figurent M. Rudolph Gbee Natt, vice-ministre des routes et des chemins de fer, ministère des transports (MOT) ; Mme Patience B. Randall, registraire générale, Registre des entreprises du Libéria (LBR) ; M. Sayweh Tunny Copper, commissaire adjoint, unité commerciale, Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA) ; et M. Julius D. Dennis, directeur général, Autorité de l'aviation civile du Libéria (LCAA).

On retrouve également sur la liste des responsables nommés M. Patrick Doe, directeur adjoint pour l'administration, Agence de sécurité nationale (NSA) ; Darlington A.P Smith, directeur général adjoint des ressources humaines, Agence de la fonction publique (CSA) ; M. M. Boakai Jaleiba, vice-président pour l'administration, Société nationale pétrolière du Libéria (NOCAL) ; et M. Al Hasan Fadiga, directeur adjoint des opérations, Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA).

Ces nominations, lorsqu'elles sont applicables, doivent être confirmées par le Sénat libérien.

Le CENTAL applaudit le Président Boakai pour sa déclaration de patrimoine



Pres. Boakai

Le Centre pour la transparence et la responsabilité au Liberia (CENTAL) a salué les mesures positives prises par le Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai pour promouvoir la transparence au sein du gouvernement. Le CENTAL a particulièrement félicité le président Boakai pour la déclaration de son patrimoine et de ses passifs auprès de la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC).

Le jeudi 8 février 2024, le président Boakai a déclaré son patrimoine conformément au Code de conduite des fonctionnaires publics, qui oblige tous les fonctionnaires à déclarer leurs biens dès leur entrée en fonction. Cette décision fait suite à une lettre ouverte adressée au président Boakai par le CENTAL le 28 janvier 2024. Dans cette lettre, le CENTAL s'est joint à de nombreuses voix pour demander au président Boakai de montrer l'exemple en déclarant et publiant rapidement son patrimoine, ses revenus et ses passifs.

Dans un communiqué publié à Monrovia, le directeur exécutif du CENTAL, Anderson D. Miamen, a déclaré que la décision du président Boakai de déclarer son patrimoine et les nombreuses déclarations publiques contre la corruption faites depuis son accession à la présidence du Libéria sont des mesures positives pour promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilité au sein du gouvernement.

Toutefois, M. Miamen a encouragé le président Boakai à aller plus loin et à publier ces déclarations. Le chef du CENTAL a souligné que, bien que la loi n'exige pas la publication de la déclaration, le président ferait un pas important vers la responsabilité publique en publiant ses actifs.

Selon M. Miamen, le secret dans la déclaration de patrimoine à la LACC ne sert aucun intérêt public utile, car le public ne peut pas participer au processus de vérification des actifs. Le CENTAL a également salué la décision courageuse du président Boakai de charger la Commission générale d'audit (GAC) de procéder à un audit complet de trois institutions gouvernementales clés. Il s'agit de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), de l'Agence nationale de sécurité (NSA) et du Service de protection exécutive (EPS). "Nous espérons que l'audit de ces institutions sera le début d'une série d'autres audits. Nous souhaitons que des audits soient effectués de manière plus globale, couvrant toutes les institutions chargées de fonds publics, et que les rapports et recommandations soient mis en œuvre rapidement et dans leur intégralité", indique le communiqué.

Les garde-côtes libériens sauvent deux navires chinois



Suite à une opération de recherche et de sauvetage de deux jours, les garde-côtes libériens (LCG) ont réussi à secourir, le 11 février 2024, deux navires chinois disparus qui se dirigeaient vers Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié le 13 février 2024 à Monrovia, le ministère de la Défense a identifié les navires comme étant le Hai Da 05 et le Hai Da 06.

Le 8 février 2024, l'ambassade de Chine a informé le quartier général des forces armées du Libéria (AFL) de la disparition de deux navires chinois ayant quitté le port franc de Monrovia le 6 février 2024 et se dirigeant vers le port de Buchanan. Suite à cette information, les LCG ont lancé une opération de recherche et de sauvetage le 10 février 2024, vers 6 heures du matin.

Le ministère a précisé que l'équipe de sauvetage était composée de quatre marins et de deux patrouilleurs rapides.

Les recherches ont couvert une zone de plus de 9 miles

nautiques en mer et de 35 miles nautiques le long de la côte, correspondant au dernier emplacement connu des navires disparus.

Le 11 février 2024, l'équipe a poursuivi ses efforts intensifs et tactiques, étendant la zone de recherche à plus de 12 miles nautiques en mer jusqu'à ce que le Hao Yun 01, qui participait à l'opération, repère les deux navires disparus dans la zone de Fati Town et en informe immédiatement les LCG.

Dès réception de cette information, l'équipe de recherche et de sauvetage des LCG s'est immédiatement rendue sur place et a secouru les deux navires chinois disparus.

Les navires ont été retrouvés à la dérive, partiellement chavirés, avec un seul membre d'équipage à bord chacun.

Les navires secourus sont actuellement ancrés au port de Buchanan sous la surveillance étroite des LCG.

L'officier subalterne 1 (PO1) Coks, Richard Fred Pratt, l'officier subalterne 2 (PO2) Mulbah, Korboi B., le PO2 Tumbay, Joseph et le marin (SN) Combaque, Timothy ont mené à bien l'opération de recherche et de sauvetage.

Le ministère de la Défense a souligné que les LCG ont une fois de plus démontré leur capacité à mener des opérations de recherche et de sauvetage critiques qui garantissent la sécurité et respectent les réglementations maritimes internationales.

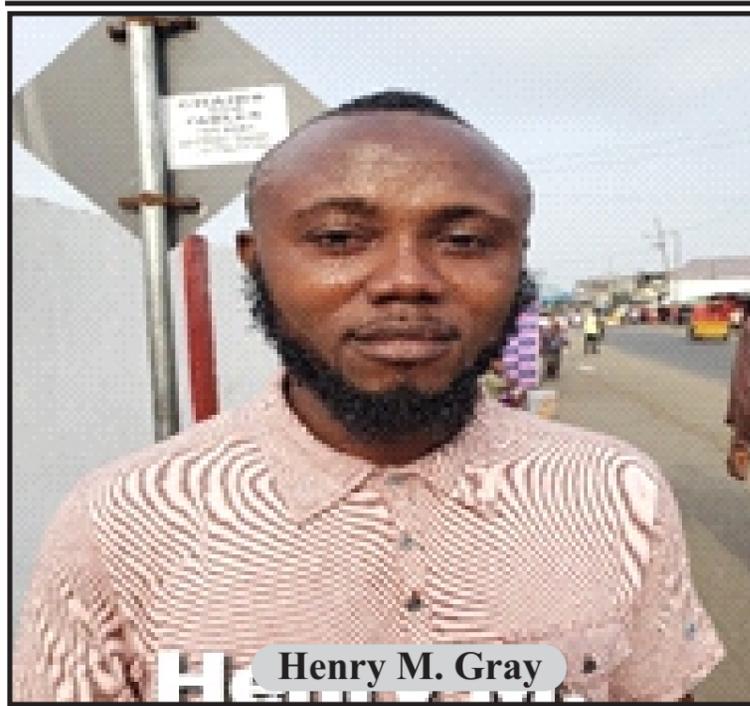
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Politics

By Naneka Hoffman

As President Boakai forms his government, The NEW DAWN randomly asked some ordinary citizens what they think the President should do to sail smoothly. Read their suggestions as compiled below.



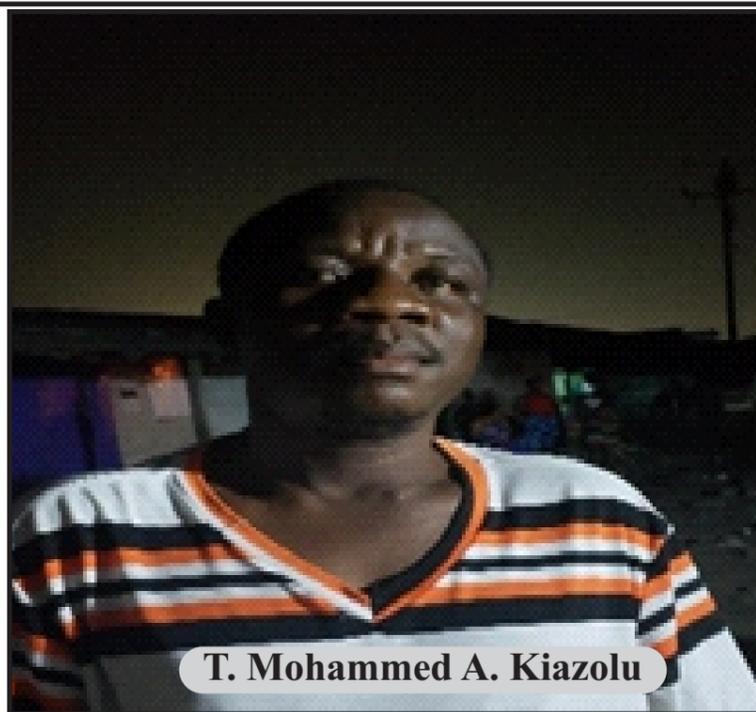
Henry M. Gray

President Boakai should appoint competent people within his leadership because those competent people will be the ones to engage all of his efforts and dreams that he spoke about. Up to now I yet to see the 100 days' deliverables and up to now feeder roads or county roads are still deplorable. What the Minister of Public Work is doing about all of these things? Is the Ministry of Public Work ready now to do the work? What is his footprint because his footprint will be the cause to say yes! President Boakai is working. So the Boakai government to be successful without protest, is to see how best civil servants' salary is paid on time, if possible stipends should be added as part of his 90 days' deliverable."

"I think for should pay President Boakai attention to the government to go civil service. We on smoothly, he getting information should pay that this gone attention to civil January civil servants' salary servants didn't take because what made pay. The only way Joseph Boakai to Boakai can go for a come to power was decade is to look at the civil servants, civil servants' salary. And also,

Ministry of Public Work ready now to do the work? What is his footprint because his footprint will be the cause to say yes! President Boakai is working. So the Boakai government to be successful without protest, is to see how best civil servants' salary is paid on time, if possible stipends should be added as part of his 90 days' deliverable."

"There are several things that President Boakai should do to make his government smooth. One of the key things that are affecting the country is corruption; let him make sure his appointees work in line with the Liberian people demand. The Liberian people have been fighting for good leadership, so those appointed along with the President should be able to produce responsible leadership. Now, you look at education, health, food and light, these are the major things affecting the common people, so if President Boakai can ensure that rice price is reduced, Liberians will be happy. As he promised that if Liberians can produce their own rice, that will significantly reduce price of their staple food, and people

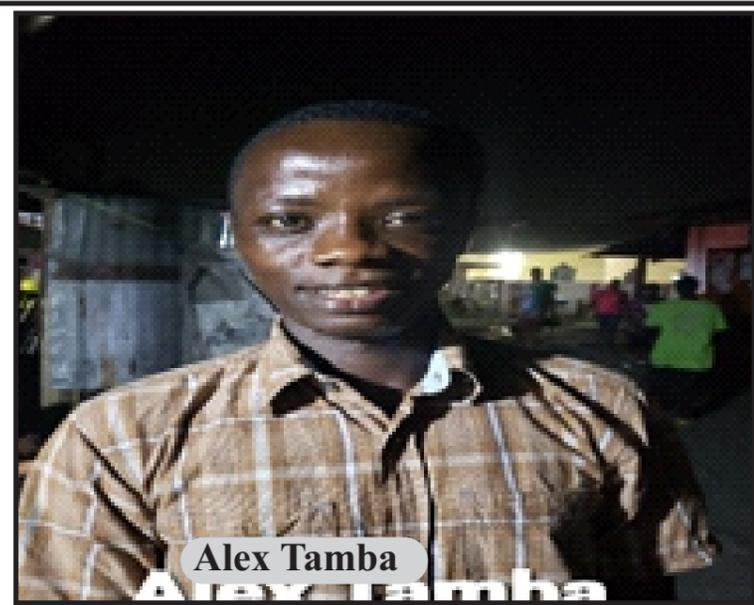


T. Mohammed A. Kiazolu

will hail him. be able to afford to Education, many go to hospital and parents can't afford. they are not dying, If he can make the government will education such that not only be going everyone will be able smoothly but it will to enter any school of be one of the their choice that will historical be good. Let the governments that people go to hospital, Liberians will when the common continue to people are sick and can reference."

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"I think the first thing President Boakai should do to make his government smooth is that let him pay attention to civil servants' salary. Second thing is audit, the audit of the past government because you can't take over as a new government then you don't audit anyone. You just sit as new government without auditing. Thirdly education, education is very important. If you look at Liberia's problems, you will believe that education is our main problem. Let him pay attention to education. Lastly, the Freeport of Monrovia, let the President pays attention to it because that is where goods come from to enter in the country and taxes are too high on goods. Also let the government pays attention to the



Alex Tamba

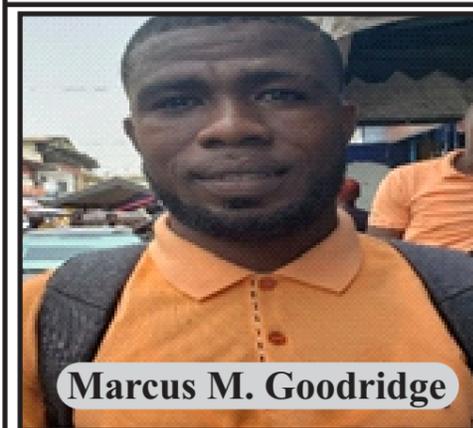
security sector and the Justice System. Let the President work with the new Justice Minister so things can be better because investors coming in the country look at the Justice system. When they have problems where they should go and get justice. The President should pay attention to these key issues."

"President Boakai made us to understand that he was living on loan on every platform that he appeared. For investors to come in the country, he needs to be sincere on anything he says. The President told Liberians that he was the poorest person in the country, living on loans, some of us were even feeling sad for him. He should try to attract foreign investors and increase civil servants' salary because he says he comes with experience."



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic Zlatan

some time, and we think he should put money there such as the Liberia Water Sewer Corporation, and bring those necessary tools that are needed. President Boakai should pay attention to civil servants because during the election, 90 % of the civil service supported him. So I am sure one of the key things they expect from him is to increase salary. If not increasing it but at least it should be something that is reasonable that when they go home, they will be able to share with someone. He should also strengthen the TVET program at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. With stable water, electricity and increment of salary, we can assure Boakai that the country will be peaceful."



Marcus M. Goodridge

"What I think in my mind is that looking at the situation of those veterans that he started appointing, I consider them to be veterans because they had worked in the space before, so they already have experience. There are few sectors that have been dormant for

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China Union under spotlight

730 unrecognized employees on MoS payroll

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives is expected to investigate Chinese mining firm, China Union, for alleged failure to live up to Mineral Development Agreement.

The House's decision

conduct a Social Impact Assessment, develop a Social Action Plan, implement a Skills and Technology Development Plan, and renovate all existing roads in the concession areas, including renovating, extending and building the Kakata to Heindi Road.

He continues that since the effective date of the MDA, the Concessionaire has conducted operations within the concession area including Bong Mines which falls within his district. January 19, 2024, marked the 15th anniversary of the MDA.

But he notes that regrettably, the terms of the MDA have not been respected and the Kakata to Heindi Road remains uncompleted; St. Paul flows without a Hydro Power Plant, and the medical facility and scholarships among other issues remain a mirage, least to mention, the employment quota and conditions of Liberians per the MDA have not been respected and for ten years from now, the MDA will mark its 25th year which should end the terms of the agreement. He says as Liberia begins to turn a new chapter through accountability and adequate representation, it is high time to ensure that all corporate deals specifically those ratified by the National Legislature are adequately monitored and implemented for the benefits of the people and the state. Fahnbulleh is calling on the plenary to invite China Union to provide an update on the implementation of the MDA and its plan for the remaining 10 years of the MDA. The House has mandated its committees on Investment & Concession, Mine & Energy, Contract Monopolies, Judiciary, Good Governance and Labor to probe China Union Mining Company Limited and China Union Investment.

“The Concessionaire, in keeping with the MDA is also responsible for providing an annual social contribution of US\$3.5 million to communities within the concession area, providing a general education funding of US\$250,000.00 annually for scholarships, and operation of a Mining and Geology Institute at the University of Liberia.

Also, the MDA provides for the employment of 70% Liberians within the ten most senior positions within the Concessionaire in ten years. Under the MDA, the Concessionaire is expected to generate 230MW of electricity with 130MW being produced from a Hydro-Power Plan on the St. Paul River near Heindi.

In addition to these, the Concessionaire is expected to operate and maintain an up-to-standard health facility within the concession area as well as pay a land rental fee of US\$100,000.00 in the first ten years and US\$250,000.00 per year for the next fifteen years”, he says.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

By Ethel A. Tweh

The names of over 730 unrecognized employees have been discovered on a supplementary payroll at the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, a presidential nominee has disclosed.

Deputy Minister of State for Presidential Affairs for Administration-designate, Atty. Cornelia Kruah Togba reported the figure following the conduct

Senator James Biney. The Deputy Minister for Administration-designate told the Senate Committee that the supplementary payroll was privately managed by the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning and State for Presidential Affairs under the former Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government.

She explained that despite such a huge financial burden on the ministry, the institution also has 385 employees recognized by the Civil Service Agency as legitimate staff plus.

But she was blunt that the over 730 unrecognized employees had pushed the total staff to over 1,000.

She said the Senior Management Team of the Ministry of State is currently working with the Civil Service Agency (CSA) and the Governance Commission to do a total assessment of the institution.

She said the plan is to ensure that staffers there work effectively and efficiently, and resources of the country are used.

“We are currently working with the CSA and the Governance Commission to do a total assessment of the ministry so that we ensure that we do not just have employees at the



Deputy Minister Atty. Cornelia Kruah Togba

of an assessment.

Atty. Togba appeared at the Liberian Senate on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 for her confirmation hearing before the Committee on Executive chaired by Maryland County

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

followed a communication sent to plenary by Bong County Electoral District # 7 Representative, Foday Fahnbulleh.

The move comes amidst report of strike action by over 80 employees of the Chinese mining company over what they described as bad labor practice. Meanwhile, according to Rep. Fahnbulleh, China Union (Hong Kong) Mining Company Limited and China Union Investment (Liberia Bong Mines Company Limited since entering into a Mineral Development Agreement on January 19, 2009, as a result of a general solicitation for bid proposals for the exploration and mining of iron ore issued by the Government of Liberia on January 23, 2008 in a document called the Bong Range Tender, has refused to live up to its social corporate responsibilities.

He explains the MDA, among other things, provides for the Concessionaire to

Lift ban on unprocessed rubber

Starts from back page

Willing Seller, Willing Buyer -A Way Forward for Sustainable Economic Growth."

The gathering brought together over 150 participants from Saclepea and other parts of the country, including smallholder rubber farmers,

brokers, truckers, explain to them the importance of a free market system that as other interest groups anchors on the basis with very keen interest in WILLING SELLER, WILLING BUYER.

The purpose of the forum was to bring together actors and

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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SURVEY NOTICE

February 8, 2024

This is to inform the general public that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyor has been requested by the Heirs of The Late Joseph Massaquoi to conduct a resurvey of one (1) lot of land lying and situated at Red Light, Paynesville, Montserrado Count, Liberia.

The said survey will commence on Thursday the 16th day of February 2024 at the hour of 10:30 am. Therefore, all adjoining property owners and interested parties are asked to be present at the site of the survey with their deeds, diagrams, technical representatives or any relevant document to verify or substantiate their claims

This announcement should claim the attention of the following person(s):

1. Klubo Lawuha
2. Louise Star Building Materials
3. Augustin Zayzay
4. John G. Flomo
5. Edward B. Trinity, Administrator of the Trinity Estate
6. Community Leader
7. Police Commander

Signed:
Kempson S. Murrary, Sr.
Registered Land Surveyor
Cell#: 08865114399/0777750002

Contours, Limited

February 13, 2024

Survey Notice

The general public is hereby informed that by the directive the heirs of the late Edwin J. Cooper Sr., the undersigned licensed surveyor is duly authorized to conduct a detailed and perimeter resurvey of one (1.0) lot of land on Friday, 16th February 2024 beginnings at 1:00 PM.

The parcel of land is lying and situated in Block-20, off 20th Street before Warner Avenue, Sinkor, Monrovia, RL

Therefore, all adjoining property owners, and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant documents to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Mr. Christian Richard
2. Madam Abba and Abigail Krangress
3. All those have adjoining lot in the area

Signed:
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Cell No. 0886-740-519

Cc. Liberia National Police (LNP)

Tecno House, Bye Pass
Monrovia, Liberia
+231 555 266 609
+231 770 266 609
contoursltd@gmail.com

Lift ban on unprocessed rubber

-rubber actors urge Boakai

By Lincoln G. Peters

Mr. James W. Sayekea, head of secretariat and chairman, described Executive Order No. 124 on the exportation of unprocessed rubber as a well-designed wicked and evil plan

"We therefore, unanimously call on President Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., to lift the ban on the exportation of unprocessed rubber. Furthermore, the Forum also seeks to demonstrate the negative impacts of Executive Order No. 124 on poor Liberian rubber farmers and other actors of the rubber sector of Liberia", it points out.

The Consortium explains that when processors decide not to buy rubber from Liberian farmers, the Government of Liberia dose not intervene, leaving farmers at the mercy of the processors.

It further notes that the Government of Liberia over the years has undermined the growth of Liberian farmers.

Meanwhile, CORSAL on February 10, 2024, held a one-day forum with actors in Saclepea, Nimba County.

The forum was held under the theme: "Promoting Free Market System On the Basis Of

The Consortium of Rubber Sector Actors of Liberia (CORSAL) at a one-day forum held with rubber actors in Nimba



County has called on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., to lift the ban on exportation of unprocessed rubber from Liberia.

The consortium in a statement issued here Wednesday, February 14, 2024 under the signature of

by former President George Weah.

It notes that the executive order is intended to strangulate Liberian rubber farmers and all other actors in the sector at the advantage of foreign investments.

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