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Cloud hangs over Boakai's Ghana trip

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UP wants NEC to revoke Rep. Goshua's certificate

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Continental News

French migration row engulfs island in Indian Ocean

A speck of France in the Indian Ocean has become the latest battleground over the laws on immigration.

A French possession since 1841, the tiny island of Mayotte is now a département or county of the Republic which means, in theory, that

by the government. Crucially the end of "birthplace citizenship" would apply only to the island of Mayotte - not to France as a whole.

But therein lies the rub. For different reasons, both the left and right of French politics see the reform as problematic.

The left says it is a breach of

du sol is an important marker, confirming France's status as a beacon of humanist values. In fact, strictly speaking, the droit du sol is not an automatic right in France, as it is for example in the US where a birth certificate is enough to get a passport. A child born in France to foreign parents needs to apply for citizenship in his or her teens, and then prove continuous presence. However, the point still stands. Birth on the territory opens the way to membership of the nation. But events in Mayotte show how in modern times pressures of demographic change and mass migration are leading governments to question what had until recently been matters of consensus.

Mayotte is currently prey to a wave of civil disobedience born of local fear of being overwhelmed by outsiders.

Lying 70km (43.5 miles) from one of the poorest countries in Africa - the Comoros islands - Mayotte has a "small boat" problem that makes the UK's, over the Channel from France, seem puny by comparison.

Hundreds of people arrive every week in boats from the Comoros, in addition to whom there are now increasing numbers of asylum seekers from the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

In the island's hospitals more than 10,000 babies are being born every year - the majority to mothers from the Comoros. BBC

South African troops killed in DR Congo attack

South African troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo have suffered their first fatalities since their recent deployment to quell a rebellion. Two soldiers were killed and three were injured after a mortar bomb landed in their base on Wednesday. The attack has led to South African opposition politicians calling for the withdrawal of troops from DR Congo.

The troops are part of a regional force helping DR Congo's military as it confronts a series of armed groups. The most prominent group is the M23, which has taken up positions on the major routes leading into Goma, the main city in the east of DR Congo.

The M23's advance has resulted in tens of thousands being forced from their homes - adding to the nearly seven million who have fled because of multiple conflicts in the east. But the South African army has not linked Wednesday's attack to the M23.

attack against one of its members would be met with "immediate collective action", and its troops would help DR Congo's military in "fighting" armed groups.

This view is more in tune with Mr Tshisekedi's - he wants a partner who will tackle the rebels head on. Mr Tshisekedi booted out the EAF, accusing it of being ineffective and refusing to go on the offensive against the M23.

He has also ordered a UN force, which has been in the country for around 25 years, to leave by the end of 2024 after levelling similar accusations against it. South Africa is the regional superpower, and will form the backbone of the force.

Mr Tshisekedi is hoping that it will repeat the success it had during a previous deployment. That was more than a decade ago, when the M23 - accused of being backed by Rwanda - also made huge territorial gains in the resource-rich east.

Though then operating under the banner of a UN Intervention Brigade, SADC troops forced the M23 to retreat. The M23 has since regrouped after a peace deal



Residents on Mayotte have been setting up roadblocks to protest against living conditions and insecurity

the same rules apply there as in the Moselle or Maine-et-Loire, or anywhere else in France. But the territory's difficult experience of mass immigration is pushing President Emmanuel Macron's government to abandon the sacrosanct French principle of equality for all. Visiting the island at the weekend, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announced that the automatic right to French citizenship by virtue of birth on the island is to be rescinded.

A constitutional change to this effect is now to be pursued

the Republican principle of universality, and opens the door to a citizenship based on racial origin. The right says that changing the rules for Mayotte are fair enough, but it is in France as a whole that "birthplace citizenship" needs to be abandoned. The droit du sol - right of the soil, also known as jus soli - is the legal notion that a person born on the territory of a nation automatically becomes a citizen of that nation. Its opposing idea is jus sanguinis - right of blood which confers citizenship only on the children of citizens. For many, particularly on the left, the droit

Tributes pour in for veteran Sudanese journalist, dead at 95

Tributes are pouring in for veteran Sudanese journalist Mahjoub Mohamed Salih, who has died at the age of 95.

Mr Salih passed away in the capital of Egypt, Cairo, on Tuesday. South Sudanese and Sudanese journalists took to social media to express their grief at the passing of a media icon who founded the oldest independent newspaper in Sudan, Al-Ayyam, in 1958.

"We mourn the dean of Sudanese journalists, Mr Mahjoub Mohamed Salih, a fierce warrior on the path of peace and justice, defender of democracy and human rights," wrote journalist Isma'il Kushkush. Mr Salih became a journalist in 1949 after joining the Sudanese independence movement from Egypt.

He rose to prominence when he started covering the war in the western Sudan region of Darfur in 2003.

The Sudanese government

forced him to close down his newspaper from November 2003 to January 2004 due to his reporting on the crisis in Darfur. The Sudanese authorities said the closure was due to Al-Ayyam's failure to pay taxes.

Mr Salih was also imprisoned several times for his coverage of the war.

In 2005 he received the Golden Pen of Freedom Award by the World Association of Newspapers.

Sumaya Elmatbagi, who worked as a reporter for Al-Ayyam newspaper for a number of years, mourned her former editor-in-chief in a moving post. "You left us without saying goodbye - even to the homeland that you loved, struggled and fought for it all your life.

"You left without completing the story of your beloved city, Bahari, you left far from the land that you loved (Sudan). BBC



Mahjoub Mohamed Salih inspired generations of journalists from Sudan and South Sudan



South Africa plans to contribute 2,900 troops in total to a new regional force in DR Congo

In a statement, it says the "details of this incident are still sketchy". South Africa began deploying troops to eastern DR Congo in December under the banner of the 16-member regional bloc, the Southern African Development Community (SADC). They are taking over from the Kenyan-led East African Force (EAF), which left in December - about a year after it was welcomed by President Félix Tshisekedi.

He was re-elected in December for a second term in office - and one of his key campaign promises was to tackle the insecurity that has wracked the east of the country for three decades. SADC has acted in the interests of solidarity, as DR Congo is part of the regional grouping..

It previously warned that an

floundered, and is once again on the offensive.

Remadji Hoinathy, an analyst with the South Africa-headquartered Institute for Security Studies, said the M23 was now stronger and better equipped. The AFP news agency has quoted a UN document as saying that the Rwandan army is using sophisticated weapons such as surface-to-air missiles to support the M23. Rwanda has consistently denied backing the rebel group. Dr Hoinathy said there was no clarity on its strength, but South Africa had a strong and well-equipped army.

Earlier this week, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said that 2,900 troops were to be deployed, without saying how many were already in DR Congo. Malawi and Tanzania are also sending soldiers, but have not yet given any details. 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.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

The Toxic Legacy of the Green Revolution

NEW DELHI - There are more than 390,000 identified plant species in the world, but just three - rice, maize, and wheat - account for roughly 60% of the plant-based calories in our diets. The dominance of these three grains is largely the result of major technological breakthroughs, particularly the development of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of rice and wheat during the Green Revolution of the 1960s.

These innovations have yielded enormous benefits, significantly increasing access to staple foods and rescuing hundreds of millions of people from hunger. But ramped-up agricultural output has also brought a host of other problems, particularly when it comes to the cultivation process. Notably, the enhanced productivity of HYV seeds depends heavily on the availability of reliable irrigation and the application of various chemical inputs, especially fertilizers and pesticides.

Consequently, the adoption of HYV seeds has led to the overuse of canal irrigation and subsequent waterlogging problems, forcing farmers to rely on groundwater irrigation, even in semi-arid regions. Similarly, the use of nitrogen-based fertilizers has dramatically increased following the shift to HYV-based agriculture.

The inherent vulnerability of these varieties to pests, together with the tendency to cultivate them in monocultures, has led to frequent infestations and the widespread, often indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides, resulting in residual toxicity in plants and grains. With pests developing resistance to these chemicals, it became necessary to seek out new technological solutions, including the development of genetically modified crops designed to be naturally resistant to (at least some) pests.

In addition, although these technologies are scale-neutral, access to the required inputs and markets typically is not. As a result, large farmers benefited disproportionately, adding to agrarian inequality.

As if these challenges were not daunting enough, experts are growing increasingly concerned about the deteriorating nutritional content of high-yield crops. For example, a recent study suggests that although the Green Revolution has helped India achieve food self-sufficiency, it has undermined the country's nutritional security.

By analyzing the quality and potential toxicity of roughly 1,500 rice and wheat varieties developed and introduced in India from the 1960s to 2018, the authors trace the long-term effects of HYV-focused breeding programs. These programs, they find, have modified the grains' nutritional makeup, resulting in significantly reduced dietary benefits and a higher concentration of toxins.

In short, although enhancing nutrition was the primary goal of cultivating these grains, the emphasis on increasing yields has significantly compromised their nutritional value. Notably, the levels of vital nutrients like zinc and iron in rice and wheat, India's two most important food staples, have declined markedly. Specifically, rice experienced a 33% drop in zinc and a 27% decrease in iron, while the zinc and iron content in wheat fell by 30% and 19%, respectively. Even worse, arsenic levels in rice surged by 1,493%.

These findings have far-reaching health implications for those who consume these grains. In particular, the authors highlight "strong evidence" that "oral ingestion of metal toxicants" could lead to serious health problems like "lung cancers or chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hyperkeratosis, renal toxicity, and impaired bone calcification." Increased consumption of staples like rice and wheat - the goal of the Green Revolution - could end up exacerbating India's already significant disease burden.

This is also true for many other countries that have relied heavily on HYVs to boost yields and increase the production of staple crops. For example, the recently rebranded Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa continues to advocate an outdated industrial model of agriculture that has failed to deliver the expected nutritional benefits.

As I have previously argued, nutrition should not be viewed only in terms of total calorie consumption based on mono-cropped cultivation. While the superior nutritional value of a diverse diet is now widely recognized, achieving it requires not just technological innovation but also a shift in focus toward cultivating a variety of crops best suited to the local environment and climate. In addition to improving nutritional outcomes, this approach promotes sustainability by reducing carbon dioxide emissions across the food's entire life cycle.

India's experience provides a cautionary tale for developing countries. In India and elsewhere, it is becoming increasingly clear that adopting agroecological practices based on smallholder farming is the most effective way to develop food systems that are both sustainable and nutritionally rich. But this requires moving away from the predatory commercialization of agriculture, which primarily serves the interests of large agribusinesses, toward a model that benefits the actual producers and consumers of food.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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Lord, when will this train really pick up na?

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmmm, this one train can't pick up na, we will soon be reaching mile 90 oo. Somer us na know what to tell our people dem when we reach oo.

Bor my son oo, how de train will pick up when everyday they putting people there and putting them down?

Aah, bor Father you want tell me all de time they wor having you mean they na check the passenger them document before putting them on de train here. I hope da na style they playing here.

What do you mean, my son?

Ehn you know they say when de train pick up, de first 90 mile, we will na see no jalopy sticking in de mud along our village road? And for all we know, we na reached mile 25, still no sign of de train even starting before I say picking up.

Um, they say somer de passenger them still in Uncle Sam Village. They say since they called their name them to come join dis train here de first ray carpa to buy their plane ticket to come, it na there.

You joking!

Aah, da fire coming from my mouth. They say somer de people wor hauling it over there, you think to geh plane ticket money to come from Uncle Sam Village to our highly forested village da small money?

Bor my son oo, why if de people them wor doing something before de Old Man go put their name them down to geh on de train?

Father, I beg you ya. You wan tell me whole three months since de Old Man win our village voting he na know who he wor going to put on him train? Um mmm.

Yes na Father, all de noise de man them wor making, you wan tell me they na know where they were standing with de Old Man?

My son, bor how long to come from Uncle Sam Village?

Fahter, it na how long oo, de first thing whether somer de conned man them geh ticket money to come first.

What do you mean?

Oh, You na hear de book people say "all da glitters, a na gold"? Every day we hear say my son in Uncle Sam Village, my son in Uncle Sam Village you know whatin him doing there?

Look, leh me tell you, somer them na geh no job there da wah you see when de Goworment in power na their goworment, they can be sitting over their talking big, big thing them.

You mean da to come and geh job bisnay?

Father, you yourself too ya, you think whatin de people can be making all the plenty noise them for- ehn da to geh job. You think wah da orlor Reverend wor here for, ehn da job. He na geh de job na, ehn he na geh vex and gone back to him family people in Uncle Sam Village.

Father, all de noise them you can hear da na love for village bisnay oo, de thing da job bisnay. The people can't survive without goworment job-period!

So, wah kana style you say de people wan play na?

Oh, yea, you know when de train na delay and we reach mile 90, they will say da because de train na pick up soon, da wah we see all de jalopy them in de mud, bor da lie, we jus watching them. They will balance.

OPINION

By Mirei Endara de Heras

Reducing Plastic Pollution Requires Local Remedies

PANAMA CITY - As the United Nations enters the final stretch of negotiations for a new treaty to end plastic pollution, governments must work to ensure that the agreement not only reduces plastic production, but also strengthens local initiatives to remove and recycle existing plastic waste.

Consider the Juan Díaz River, which runs through my hometown of Panama City. Tons of plastic - bottles and other detritus - bob in the river's currents, owing to poor waste management. Faced with this problem, Marea Verde ("Green Tide"), a non-profit organization that I co-founded, has installed a trash-trapping water wheel - dubbed the "Wanda" device - that now collects much of this waste before it reaches the ocean.

Local initiatives like ours are necessary to achieve global climate goals. This is especially true for eliminating plastic pollution, which is largely driven by local consumption decisions. The new UN treaty, in my view, should thus balance top-down efforts to reduce plastic production and ban the use of toxic chemicals in these products with support for on-the-ground efforts to recycle, reuse, or transform in a sustainable way the billions of tons of plastic already clogging the world's waterways and harming the environment. Otherwise, the ocean will contain more plastics than fish by 2050, and new diseases caused by microplastics - which have already been detected in human blood - could become commonplace.

So far, stakeholders are split on how best to proceed. During the latest round of treaty negotiations, held in Nairobi last November, the plastics industry and some oil- and petrochemical-exporting countries called for more emphasis on recycling and reuse, while environmental campaigners and other governments advocated curbs on production. To reach a consensus by late 2024, the two sides must be brought into alignment and agree on an integrated approach that links global goals to local action.

Working in government and nonprofits, I have experienced first-hand how a disconnect between international plans and on-the-ground realities can thwart progress and breed cynicism. That is why we at Marea Verde adapt ideas that have been successfully implemented elsewhere - from the United States to Nigeria and Australia - to our context and culture.

For example, our Wanda device is based on Clearwater Mills' trash wheels, a clean-energy technology that debuted in the US but is customized for a tropical ecosystem. Over the past year, Wanda has collected more than 130 tons of trash from the Juan Díaz River - a more effective intervention than fishing plastics from the sea or beach cleanups. Replicating this model worldwide could dramatically reduce land-sourced debris, which accounts for 80% of ocean plastic pollution.

Fortunately, many other organizations are focusing on river cleanup to prevent new plastic waste from entering the ocean. Eight of these groups - including Marea Verde - are participating in the Clean Currents Coalition, a network of projects that are piloting innovative waste-removal technologies in river communities around the world. Coalition members can share knowledge and work collaboratively while also encouraging and facilitating effective on-the-ground action.

The plastic crisis is a result of human activities, and solving it calls for behavioral change, which can be accomplished only through initiatives that engage local communities. For example, Marea Verde organizes and empowers residents in areas without recycling facilities by going door to door to collect plastic waste. As a result, many people have become aware of their ability to improve their surroundings, leading them to participate in neighborhood cleanups, reclaim green spaces, and lobby for better waste management.

Moreover, the lack of local data in many developing countries, including Panama, can make it difficult to design climate policies that are fit for purpose. That is why Marea Verde is also building databases on the volume and types of plastic trash in Panama's rivers, which will improve reporting, help urban planning, and demonstrate the scale of the crisis.

Efforts to counter plastic pollution must be equal to the size of the problem. To that end, the new UN treaty should include severe curbs on plastic production to choke off output and give clean-up efforts a fighting chance. But it must also support the local groups at the forefront of tackling the plastic problem. These groups' innovative strategies, tools, and data-gathering practices can serve as a model for the global community. This is not an either/or decision: both international regulations and local action are needed. The latter is already underway and is making a difference, one community and one river at a time.

Liberians' Perception of the Free-Tuition Policy and Views of the Incoming Government: An Opinion Poll.

Author's Comments

We are grateful to everyone who responded to the online survey and/or shared the link with other participants. Since perceptions change over time, we intend to conduct future surveys and would like to appeal that you kindly assist us whenever we send out a new link. Your participation is important and could affect policy decisions in our society. Please note that our surveys are anonymous; we cannot trace your response back to you.

Introduction

The author created this anonymous survey to collect information about Liberians' perceptions of key educational policies and early opinions of the new government. We distributed the Google-form survey online (via WhatsApp and Facebook) between January 18th and 22nd, 2024. In an earlier survey published by the Daily Observer, we examined citizens' views on several issues including audit of the previous government, human rights, and service in government (<https://www.liberianobserver.com/liberia-priorities-new-liberian-government-opinion-poll>).

Limitations

Before presenting key findings, here are limitations: (1) Citizens' perception is a fluid measure that can change over time depending on prevailing circumstances. The result of the survey reflects current perceptions and could be vastly different in days, weeks, or months from now. (2) The analysis is based on self-reported information. It is quite possible that some respondents did not share their true feelings but provided a socially desirable response. (4) The study used a convenience sample. It is possible that this sample is not truly representative of the population.

Demographics

The survey had 431 respondents. The majority (62%) of respondents were males. In terms of age group, 5% of respondents were between the ages of 18 to 24, 29% were between the ages of 25 to 35, 17% were between the ages of 36 to 45, 39% were between the ages of 46 to 60, while the rest (9%) were more than 60 years old. Seventy-seven percent of respondents earned a bachelor's degree (41%) or a master's degree (36%). Thirteen percent (13%) indicated that they had college credits but did not graduate, 6% were high school graduates, 1% had a technical certificate, and the rest (3%) had a doctorate. Most respondents (71%) were Liberians living in Liberia, 26% were Liberians who reside outside of Liberia, while the rest (3%) described themselves as "Liberians who reside in Liberia part of the time".

In terms of political affiliation, 43% of respondents were members of the Unity Party (UP), 39% stated that they do not sympathize with any political party, 6% were members of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), while the rest (12%) indicated that they are members of other political parties. Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondents indicated that they participated in the second round of the 2023 Presidential elections. Of those who voted in the second round, 93% picked Joseph Boakai of the UP (the new President), while 7% preferred George Weah (the former President) of the CDC.

Findings

Free-tuition policy at public universities

When asked whether the new government should continue the free-tuition policy at public institutions, only 34 percent (34%) of respondents were in favor. Twenty-three percent (23%) felt that the free tuition policy has led to a decrease in the quality of education at public universities and want the government to abolish it. The rest (43%) suggested that the new government should offer free tuition ONLY for students enrolled in specialized programs that meet national priorities. As expected, support for the free tuition policy was a function of age: respondents between the ages of 18 and 24 years old were more in favor of the free tuition policy (75%) than older respondents (32%). Views of the free tuition policy also differed along party lines: 80% of respondents who identified as members of the CDC want to maintain the policy while only 16% of UP supporters want to keep it.

Payment of WASSCE fees for high school students

Less than half of respondents (46%) agree that the new government should pay the West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) fees for all students across Liberia. Twenty-five percent (25%) felt that the government should pay the WASSCE fees ONLY for students attending public (government) schools, while the rest (29%) believe parents should be responsible for paying the WASSCE fees for their children. Liberians living outside of Liberia were more in favor of the government paying WASSCE fees for all students (64%) than Liberians living in Liberia (39%). Also, views of the free tuition policy differed across party lines: 60% of respondents who identified as members of the CDC want to maintain the policy, while only 48% of UP supporters want to keep it.

Perception of a divided government

Asked to offer an opinion of a divided government 40% of respondents think " CDC heading the House of Representatives is a good thing for Liberia because this will require opposition parties to work together to meet the needs of ordinary Liberians". Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents agree that "It doesn't matter who heads the House of Representatives because Liberian politicians often switch parties to join the ruling party". Additionally, 9% of respondents believe "It doesn't

DATE WITH THE NATION WITH D. WAHNE, JR.

By D. Wa Hne, Jr.

DIGGING INTO NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS- A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY?

Shortly after being sworn in as President of the Republic of Liberia, late President William Richard Tolbert Jr. authorized the audits of the Special Security Service (SSS) and the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) headed respectively by Directors James Bestman and C. Wellington Campbell under his predecessor President William V. S. Tubman.

During the investigations, the operations of both agencies became public knowledge and those agencies were demoralized. Reforms of the security arrangements and intelligence administration within the national security apparatuses were affected to such levels that weakened the security of the President and the State. In fact, the chief intelligence gathering agency NISS was expunged out of existence as well as others deemed not necessary by President Tolbert.

Knowledgeable statesmen like McKinley Deshield, Jonathan Goodridge, Harrison Grisby and others were alleged to have advised President Tolbert to slow down in his reforms as many actions of his, which were designed to exposed President William V. S. Tubman to public and international degradation, would haunt his administration disastrously.

President Tolbert was determined and his investigations of those agencies led to the incarceration of both Bestman and Campbell. C. Wellington Campbell died during the investigation and Bestman was required to pay every cent that he could not justified. He died later.

The security agencies under Tolbert became weak and careful in their operations and could not detect National security dangers to recommend early preventive actions. As President Tolbert advanced in his national reforms agendas which included eradicating policies that prevented diplomatic relations with the communist and socialist blocs, national security problems heightened and there was an invasion of ideologies into the Liberia political space and the rise of militancy opposing the Western Bloc in favor of the Eastern Bloc at the time of the Cold War.

Liberia security and intelligence systems were fragile and porous and could not handle the flood of operatives and as a result, President Tolbert was taken by surprise and met his untimely departure. During the era of President Doe, the agencies regained their strength and abilities. Unfortunately, at a time that Doe should have listened to intelligence information that would have prevented the Civil War, he was misled by politicians which rendered intelligence information gathered of no effect.

National security systems are protected by law and classified. It is therefore important to divorce political actions from national security networks for whatever purposes. That is why the Acts creating those agencies set their audit systems apart from other institutions of Government.

In the 1980s, the US Congress invited CIA Director William Casey for Congressional Hearing on the operations of the CIA. Casey known as controversial responded to every question with one or three words like "classified " or "I don't know". At a point, Congress asked, "what do you actually know"? He responded, "nothing". "Do you think you are qualified to hold such position as you do not know anything"? He responded, "yes I am qualify". This narration is important to bring out the fact that National security is not only the prerogative of the President but the whole nation as peace, stability, and economic development rest on it.

Recently the President of Liberia Joseph Nyumah Boakai instructed the audits of two national security institutions, the EPS and the NSA. These audits, while intentional and good for accountability might expose national security secrets and be placed at the manipulation of politicians and external forces which could possibly operate at the disadvantage of the President at a time that he seeks to establish the controversial War and Economic Crimes Court which many are predicting could return Liberia to civil crisis once again. At this point, a strong national security apparatuses are required.

President Boakai is reinventing the wheel manufactured by President Tolbert. If I am correct, he becomes the second President of Liberia that institutes open audit of classified institutions which works and operations are covert and highly classified. Not only will Liberia security information be exposed, agents, informers, and other lives could be endangered. The President must think about these.

For those aspiring for the Presidency, it is good that research is done on the presidency of Liberia, particularly reading presidential records of Liberia from Joseph Jenkins Roberts up to current administrations. There are important lessons to be learned. We must be very careful with extremities or extremities could cause us extreme predicaments.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Prophet Key escapes detention

-amid upheaval appearance at Temple of Justice

By Lincoln G. Peters and Kruah Thompson

Controversial Liberian social media talk show host, Nayaborqua Oldpa Yeazeah, alias Prophet Key, on Thursday,

later pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against him.

In brief argument from both teams, prosecution prayed the court to issue a Writ Ne Exeat Republica, to prevent Defendant Yeazeah from leaving the country.

court when required to do so.

On the other hand, continuance is what a court may grant to delay proceedings until a later date. Parties in a suit or the judge themselves may wish to have a continuance granted in order to prepare for proceedings.

“We pray this court to grant this defendant personal recognizance in order to secure his bond. We believe that the defendant has no intention of leaving this country or availing justice. If this defendant can be in the Kingdom of Morocco and heard about a writ of arrest against him and responds, he will not escape

Justice. Finally, we also urge this court to grant us continuance”, the defense argued.

Consequently, determining the matter after listening to both parties, Magistrate Barcon denied prosecution’s request granted the defendant continuance, and set the defendant free on personal recognizance as prayed for by his legal representation.

In an interview at the premises of the Liberian National Police after the matter was dismissed, the controversial social media talk show host, praised the police for maintaining a high level of professionalism throughout the entire proceeding.

He noted that he is not guilty of any crime for which he was issued the writ, until the court declares otherwise,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Prophet Key

February 15, 2024, escaped jail sentence after he was released on personal recognizance bond by the Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court.

Mr. Yeazeah appeared before Magistrate L. Ben Barcon, to answer the writ of arrest issued against him for the crime of criminal coercion, menacing and disorderly conduct filed by Liberia Cultural Ambassador, Julie Endee.

However, following his appearance, the defendant was detained and placed on prison bench at the court and

Prosecution at the same time prayed the court for the defendant to file a valid criminal appearance bond.

However, in resistance to prosecution’s argument, the defense prayed the court to deny and dismiss prosecution’s request on grounds that it lacks legal standing, instead, urging the court to grant the defendant personal recognizance and continuance.

Personal recognizance, means a release without the requirement of a posting bail, based on a written promise by the defendant to appear in

MFDP puts in place measures to scrutinize payrolls

-Wants ministries and agencies submit payrolls by 10th of every

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) has issued an official directive to all governmental agencies to submit their current or dummy payrolls by the 10th of every month for thorough scrutiny and necessary adjustments.

This proactive measure is said to be part of the government’s commitment to improve fiscal management and ensure the punctual disbursement of salaries to all government employees.

The move, the ministry said in a statement issued Thursday, February 10, reflects the dedication of the government to uphold transparency and accountability within its financial operations. Agencies are instructed to comply with

the deadline set by the MFDP to facilitate a smooth process.

The MFDP assures all agencies that this step is crucial in enhancing the effectiveness of payroll management, thereby ensuring that hardworking public servants receive their salaries early and

without discrepancies.

The Ministry noted that it appreciates the cooperation of all entities involved and reiterates its commitment to fostering a robust and efficient public sector for the betterment of the country.



UP supporters demand forensic audit

-For inaugural money

By Ramsey N Singbeh, Jr.

Some Unity Party (UP) supporters in Margibi County are demanding a forensic investigation to clear their doubts about the usage of US\$5,000 provided for each district to celebrate President Joseph Nyumah Boakai’s inauguration.

The UP partisans comprising Motorcyclists and Auxiliaries for Transparency and Accountability (MUPPCMATA) are making claims of alleged corruption. They have accused the UP’s Margibi County Chairperson Madam Cecelia K. Doe and other stalwarts of the party in the county of the alleged misappropriation of the funds. In a document available to our correspondent, the group alleged that Madam Doe deducted US\$200 from the US\$5,000 provided for each of

committee. MUPPCMATA said US\$100 was subtracted from the already reduced US\$5,000 for transportation for the City Mayor and the chairperson. Additionally, the UP partisans alleged that Madam Doe received US\$3,500 and organized a program meant to present Amb. Boakai and UP candidates during the campaign without the involvement of the county and other district leadership.

According to them, Madam Doe and Alphanso Belleh of the UP allegedly received US\$3,100 to train precinct supervisors in Margibi.

However, they alleged that she told UP’s county leadership that she instead received US\$650 and allegedly had no account for it.

The disenchanted Unity Party partisans claimed further that Madam Doe received another US\$1,200 as a portion of an alleged



Margibi County’s five electoral districts.

The group alleged that Madam Doe subtracted the money with a commitment to organize activities for the inauguration at the party’s head office in Kakata, but allegedly failed to do so. The UP partisans further alleged that Madam Doe appeared on a local radio station in the county and allegedly explained that she had used the deducted money for gasoline and scratch cards.

They accused the UP-county official of unilaterally appointing Mrs. Harrisona Grimes as the Ways, Means, and Finance official on the county inaugural committee. The group lamented that it also discovered that on Saturday, 20 January 2024, a meeting masterminded by Madam Doe was convened by the UP Margibi District #2 Coordinator Mr. Reuben Cooper.

They alleged that the meeting was stage-managed with Mrs Grimes and some of her family members serving on the inaugural

US\$6,000 sent to Margibi for preparations for a visit by Mr. Boakai and Mr. Jeremiah Koung.

They also alleged that she did not account for the amount. The group lamented that motorcycle and tri-cycle operators who were used to protect President Boakai’s votes during the elections are curious about the forensic investigation.

The partisans have called on the UP’s national leadership to probe all the allegations of misappropriation and to derive a transparent and accountable conclusion. When contacted, Unity Party Margibi County Chairperson Madam Cecelia K. Doe described all the allegations as lies and misinformation meant to undermine her high-earned character.

She clarified that the allegation about her appointing Mrs. Harrisona Grimes to the inaugural committee was false.

She also challenged her accusers to take their case anywhere because she did not do what they were accusing her of.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

APM Terminals Liberia Spreads Joy to New Mothers, Continuing a Two-Year Tradition

In the spirit of Christmas, APM Terminals Liberia again made a heart-warming donation of essential items to



new mothers at various health facilities on Christmas Day. This initiative aimed to support and celebrate the joyous occasion of childbirth by providing essential supplies for both mothers and their new-borns and also alleviating some of the financial burdens that often accompany childbearing.

In Montserrado and Margibi Counties, the company

presented 300 packages to new mothers at the Redemption Hospital, James N. Davis Jr. Hospital, St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, ELWA Hospital, the

Japanese-Liberian Friendship Maternity Center (JFK Compound), C.H. Rennie Hospital and other smaller health facilities in Kakata, Margibi. Head of People Function, Jean Hannah Thompson, led the donation and expressed her delight at being able to contribute to the well-being of new mothers during such a special time. She stated, "At APM Terminals

Liberia, we believe in the importance of supporting and uplifting our communities. We are honoured to bring some joy and relief to these new mothers and their precious babies during the holiday season. It is our hope that these donations will provide them with the necessary supplies and support they need as they embark on their journey of motherhood."

The donation package included baby wipes, diapers, blankets, and toiletries, all aimed at easing the transition into motherhood for these new Moms.

The recipients of the donation expressed their gratitude for the support they received from APM Terminals Liberia. Many mothers shared their heartfelt appreciation, emphasizing how these essential supplies would positively impact their lives and the well-being of their babies.

APM Terminals Liberia continues to prioritize giving back to the community through corporate social initiatives like these. By extending a helping hand to new mothers during the holiday season, the company showcased its dedication to fostering a sense of care and support within the region it operates

Health Minister Kpoto takes office

By Kruah Thompson

Former Health Minister Doctor Wilhemina S. Jallah, expresses confidence in the ability of her successor, Doctor Louise M. Kpoto, to reinvigorate the health sector of Liberia with integrity, passion, and ambition, as she takes office.

However, amidst this endorsement, Doctor Jallah stresses the importance of Doctor Kpoto embracing her new role with humility. Jallah, whose tenure has been marred by notable strides and challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, spoke warmly of Minister Koto's potential to lead the ministry to greater heights. "I have every confidence in Minister Koto's ability to bring fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to our healthcare system," she affirmed here on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 during her official turnover ceremony at the Ministry of Health in Congo Town.

She emphasized that the turnover ceremony signified not only a change in personnel but also continuation of collective efforts toward wellbeing of citizens and the nation's healthcare system.

During the ceremony, Minister

outlined various projects and responsibilities awaiting to her, including hospital constructions, PSA plans, and initiatives to address public health crises such as pandemic and drug-related issues.

"The full financing documents are on your desk for signing. The malarial project will commence in April, and you need to convene an ICC meeting for the induction of the new vaccine", she explained and added, "I'm entrusting you with the oversight of five hospitals under construction: the new Redemption, Bassa, Nimba, Grand Gedah, C.H. Rennie, and the renovation of the Infectious Disease Hospital at Starbase." According to her, the PSA plans are in place for Starbase, Bomi, JFK, Grand Gedah, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Kru, Grand Bassa, and Palatable, along with a special VSA plant for Sinoe, which is currently en route, awaiting delivery.

She indicated that an Infectious Disease Unit, funded by the Government of Japan is scheduled for delivery in Maryland County.

Responding, Minister Kpoto expressed gratitude for the confidence placed in her by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., and promised to build upon the achievements of her predecessor.

She also pledged to foster a vibrant work environment that

US and Ministry of Health celebrate improved laboratory services in Bong, Nimba and Lofa

On February 15, 2024, Representatives from Liberia's Ministry of Health (MoH) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) celebrated the success of the recently completed Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) project.

The IDDS project strengthened Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties' abilities to detect diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by enhancing Liberia's detection networks and AMR surveillance systems. AMR poses a significant threat to global health and directly impacts communities, with over one million deaths globally linked to bacterial AMR each year.

The project focused on upgrading laboratory systems in the three counties beginning in 2019. Over five years, the collaboration between the MoH and USAID strengthened quality-assured laboratory results and improved timely AMR surveillance data. County laboratories now have trained personnel, advanced equipment, and modern methodologies, improving

clinical outcomes, informing health policy, and enhancing individual health in Liberia as well as global health security.

USAID/Liberia Mission Director Jim Wright praised the successful partnership with the MoH, noting that Tellewoyan Hospital in Lofa, Phebe Hospital in Bong, and G.W. Harley Hospital in Nimba now offer quality-assured and timely bacteriology testing, including antimicrobial resistance detection.



Armed with reliable information, clinicians can now make informed decisions, thus reducing indiscriminate antibiotic use. The result is more appropriate treatment for patients. Mr. Wright reiterated USAID's commitment to continued partnership with the MoH to improve the health of all Liberians, and to build Liberia's ability to better prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases. -Press release



Outgoing Health Minister Jallah (right) hands over to Minister Louise M. Kpoto

Jallah highlighted remarkable strides made during her administration to improve public health and extend access to healthcare across Liberia.

She acknowledges the critical nature of the responsibilities entrusted to the new Minister of Health, underscoring the need for humility in navigating the complexities of the role. "I will like to express my profound gratitude to the members of my team, the Deputy Minister, the Assistant Minister, the County Health Officers, the Directors, and other county health workers of all the fifteen counties that I have worked with in the Ministry of Health for their dedication and commitment to the health of our nation," Doctor Jallah expressed, why acknowledging partners who guided, advised, and encouraged her throughout her tenure.

As Minister Kpoto assumes office, the former Minister

encourages productivity and collaboration.

"As a health worker myself, I'm aware of the challenges that have impacted the smooth running of the ministry," Minister Koto remarked, and called for collective efforts to ensure success of the sector, while assuring transparency in managing contributions made to the ministry. Doctor Koto assured stakeholders of her commitment to transparency, accountability, and the introduction of initiatives such as the national health insurance plan to enhance healthcare delivery in Liberia. "I also learned about some misappropriations of donors and government's funds, and I will ensure that the issue will be one of my priorities." She reassured partners and the public of her commitment to fostering a transparent health sector and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for corruption. She revealed plan to kick start initiatives by collaborating

Français

730 employés fantômes découverts au Ministère d'État

Plus de 730 employés non reconnus ont été découverts au Ministère d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles, selon une déclaration faite

de manière privée par les ministères des Finances et du Planification du développement, ainsi que par le Ministère d'État sous l'ancien gouvernement de la Coalition

ministère collabore actuellement avec l'Agence de la fonction publique (CSA) et la Commission de gouvernance pour mener une évaluation complète de l'institution. L'objectif est de s'assurer que le personnel travaille de manière efficace et efficiente, et que les ressources du pays sont utilisées à bon escient.

En raison de ces 730 employés supplémentaires, le ministère dépense plus de 2,7 millions de dollars américains par an uniquement en salaires. Mme Togba a exprimé la détermination de l'équipe de direction à relever ces défis dès sa confirmation par le Sénat libérien.

"Nous pensons qu'une fois que nous aurons réglé ces problèmes au ministère qui abrite le siège de la présidence, il sera facile pour les autres ministères de s'inspirer de modèles similaires ou de décisions administratives similaires prises par le ministère", a déclaré Mme Togba.

L'audit a également révélé l'absence de systèmes fonctionnels au sein du ministère. On note notamment l'inexistence d'un service d'achat, alors qu'une unité d'achat existe mais n'est pas

pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

En plus de ce fardeau financier colossal, le ministère compte déjà 385 employés reconnus comme personnel légitime par l'Agence de la fonction publique. Or, la présence de ces 730 employés supplémentaires fait grimper le nombre total d'employés à plus de 1000.

Mme Togba a déclaré que l'équipe de direction du

mercredi par la candidate au poste de Vice-ministre délégué à l'Administration, Mme Cornelia Kruah Togba.

Mme Togba a révélé ce chiffre alarmant lors de son audition de confirmation devant la Commission sénatoriale exécutive, dirigée par le sénateur James Biney du comté de Maryland. Elle a expliqué que cette liste supplémentaire était gérée

Consultation technique ECOWAS-PNUD lance les efforts pour développer une stratégie de résilience en Afrique de l'Ouest

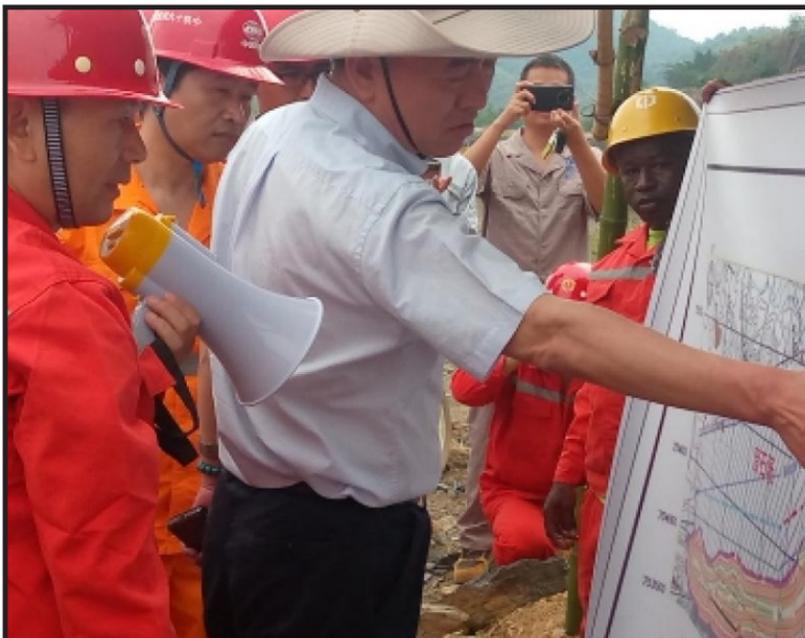
Abuja, Nigéria, 13 février 2024 - La Commission de la CEDEAO, en partenariat avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), a lancé un atelier régional de trois jours visant à développer la Stratégie régionale de résilience pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Organisé au Centre de conférence NAF à Abuja, cet événement représente une étape importante dans la résolution des défis de la région et la promotion de la résilience et du développement durable.

Malgré l'abondance des ressources naturelles en Afrique de l'Ouest, l'exploitation durable et la distribution équitable des bénéfices aux communautés restent un défi. La région, ne contribuant que pour 1,8 % aux émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre, fait face à des températures et à des événements météorologiques extrêmes croissants, exacerbés par un développement et une gouvernance inadéquats, ainsi que par des problèmes de sécurité.

Dans son allocution d'ouverture, S.E. Professeur Fatou Sow Sarr, Commissaire au développement humain et aux affaires sociales de la Commission de la CEDEAO, a souligné la vulnérabilité de l'Afrique de l'Ouest aux dangers et aux catastrophes, notamment les impacts du changement climatique, les conflits, la pauvreté et les épidémies. Elle a également souligné l'importance de la réduction des risques de catastrophe dans le redressement post-catastrophe et le développement.

"Cet atelier marque une avancée substantielle dans nos efforts pour renforcer la résilience en Afrique de l'Ouest. Grâce à la collaboration avec le PNUD et nos parties prenantes, nous pouvons formuler des stratégies robustes pour relever les défis multiformes auxquels notre région est confrontée", a-t-elle déclaré, exprimant sa gratitude aux partenaires et aux donateurs pour leur soutien et

▶ CONT'D page 9



Éditorial

Le Liberia se lance sur une trajectoire démocratique irréversible

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

Par Jayati Ghosh

Starts from page 8 **730 employés fantômes**

fonctionnelle depuis six ans. Selon Mme Togba, les employés effectuaient leurs propres achats individuellement, et l'institution ne disposait ni d'espace de bureau ni de service responsable de l'audit interne, malgré la présence d'auditeurs internes.

Cette situation rend impossible l'audit des transactions. La Vice-ministre déléguée désignée a également révélé que les actifs du Ministère d'État ne peuvent être comptabilisés et que la nouvelle direction n'a hérité

que d'un seul véhicule.

"En tant que DMA désignée du Ministère d'État, je peux vous assurer, Comité exécutif du Sénat, que nous nous engageons à mettre en place un système qui ramènera la responsabilité à la présidence", a-t-elle promis.

Elle a promis de veiller à ce que les employés du ministère soient efficaces et contribuent au succès global du Plan de sauvetage. Mme Togba a également évoqué la possibilité d'un "ajustement des effectifs", car le ministère est en situation de sureffectif.

Starts from page 8 **Consultation technique ECOWAS**

réaffirmant l'engagement de la CEDEAO à renforcer la résilience en Afrique de l'Ouest.

L'honorable Alhaji Mustapha Habib Ahmed, Directeur général de l'Agence nationale de gestion des urgences du Nigéria (NEMA), a souligné la nécessité pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest de développer une stratégie régionale de résilience efficace. Cela guidera les actions anticipatoires pour soutenir l'utilisation de données qualitatives et quantitatives pour une prise de décision éclairée par les risques. Il est impératif pour la région de tirer parti de son riche capital naturel et humain pour réaliser des investissements intelligents afin de répondre à ses aspirations futures.

Les discussions de l'atelier porteront sur six domaines thématiques : la bonne gouvernance, la paix et la sécurité ; la résilience macroéconomique ; les moyens de subsistance durables ; la protection sociale et la résilience ; le genre et l'inclusion sociale ; et le changement climatique et la réduction des risques de catastrophe.

M. Blessed Chirimuta, Représentant adjoint du PNUD au Nigéria, a souligné l'importance des partenariats pour le développement durable et la construction de la résilience : "La capacité à prévenir, résister, absorber, s'adapter, réagir et se rétablir

positivement face à divers risques est essentielle pour le développement durable, la paix, la sécurité, les droits de l'homme et le bien-être de tous."

"Notre partenariat avec la CEDEAO et le soutien de la Suède et du Danemark sont essentiels pour notre mission de renforcer la résilience en Afrique de l'Ouest. Ensemble, nous devons mettre à profit notre expertise et nos ressources pour ouvrir la voie à un avenir plus résilient et prospère pour tous", a souligné M. Chirimuta.

Dans le cadre des projets de résilience au Sahel et de sécurité climatique, financés respectivement par les gouvernements suédois et danois, la consultation réunit des acteurs clés de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, notamment la Commission de la CEDEAO et ses directions, les États membres, ainsi que des organisations régionales, continentales et internationales, dont les Nations Unies.

Cette consultation technique marque un moment crucial pour renforcer la résilience de l'Afrique de l'Ouest face à d'importantes transformations démographiques, sociales, économiques, environnementales et politiques. La population de la région devant dépasser 900 millions d'habitants d'ici 2050, dont plus de 64 % de moins de 25 ans, des approches innovantes sont nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins en constante évolution et à l'avenir des communautés jeunes.

L'héritage toxique de la Révolution verte

NEW DELHI - Il existe plus de 390.000 espèces végétales recensées dans le monde, mais trois seulement d'entre elles - le riz, le maïs et le blé - représentent environ 60 % des calories provenant de plantes dans l'ensemble du régime alimentaire humain. La prédominance de ces trois céréales est largement due à des avancées technologiques majeures, en particulier la mise au point de variétés à haut rendement (VHR) de blé et de riz durant la révolution verte des années 1960.

Ces innovations se sont traduites par d'énormes bénéfices, en améliorant considérablement l'accès aux aliments de base et en sauvant des millions de personnes de la faim. Cette augmentation rapide de la production agricole a toutefois engendré de nombreux autres problèmes, en particulier en ce qui concerne les méthodes de culture. Surtout, le gain de productivité des semences VHR dépend dans une très large mesure de la disponibilité de systèmes d'irrigation fiables et de l'utilisation de divers intrants chimiques, notamment les engrais et les pesticides.

C'est ainsi que l'adoption des semences VHR a entraîné une utilisation excessive des canaux d'irrigation et des problèmes subséquents d'engorgement et de salinisation des sols, obligeant les agriculteurs à dépendre du captage des eaux souterraines pour l'irrigation, y compris dans les régions semi-arides. De même, l'utilisation des engrais azotés a fortement augmenté depuis la transition vers une agriculture basée sur les variétés à haut rendement.

La vulnérabilité intrinsèque de ces variétés aux organismes ravageurs, ainsi que la tendance à les cultiver en monocultures, a donné lieu à de fréquentes proliférations de ces ravageurs et de maladies, et à une utilisation généralisée, souvent de manière inappropriée, des pesticides de synthèse, entraînant une toxicité résiduelle dans les végétaux et les céréales. Et étant donné que ces organismes ont développé une résistance aux produits chimiques, il est devenu nécessaire de trouver de nouvelles solutions technologiques, dont la mise au point de cultures génétiquement modifiées, conçues pour être naturellement résistantes aux ravageurs (du moins à certains d'entre eux).

En outre, bien que ces technologies ne modifient pas la productivité agricole en fonction de la superficie de la parcelle cultivée, qu'elle soit grande ou petite, l'accès aux intrants nécessaires et aux marchés est loin d'être égal. En conséquence, les grands exploitants en ont profité de manière disproportionnée, aggravant les inégalités agraires.

Si ces problèmes n'étaient pas en eux-mêmes redoutables, les experts s'inquiètent de plus en plus de la dégradation de la valeur nutritive des cultures à haut rendement. Par exemple, une récente étude scientifique laisse entendre que si la révolution verte a d'un côté contribué à ce que l'Inde parvienne à l'autosuffisance alimentaire, elle a de l'autre réduit la sécurité nutritionnelle du pays.

En analysant la qualité et la toxicité potentielle de quelques 1500 variétés de riz et de blé mises au point et cultivées en Inde entre les années 1960 et 2018, les auteurs de l'étude ont évalué les effets à long terme des programmes de sélection axés sur les variétés à haut rendement. Ils ont constaté que ces programmes ont modifié la composition nutritionnelle de ces céréales, avec pour conséquence une baisse considérable de leur qualité nutritionnelle et une concentration plus élevée de toxines.

En somme, alors que l'objectif premier de la culture de ces céréales était l'amélioration de la nutrition,

l'accent mis sur l'accroissement des rendements a sérieusement compromis leur valeur nutritionnelle. Entre autres, la teneur en zinc et en fer, des éléments nutritifs vitaux, dans le blé et le riz, les deux plus importants aliments de base en Inde, a fortement décliné. Plus précisément, la teneur en zinc a chuté de 33 % et la teneur en fer de 27 % dans le riz, tandis que la teneur de zinc et de fer dans le blé a baissé de 30 % et de 19 % respectivement. Pire, le taux d'arsenic a augmenté de 1493 % dans le riz.

Ces résultats ont une profonde incidence sur la santé des personnes qui consomment ces céréales. Les auteurs soulignent notamment que des preuves solides indiquent que « l'ingestion de métaux lourds toxiques peuvent engendrer de graves problèmes de santé tels que le cancer du poumon ou des maladies respiratoires chroniques, des troubles cardiovasculaires, une hyperkératose, une insuffisance rénale et une altération de la calcification osseuse ». Une consommation accrue d'aliments de base comme le blé et le riz - l'objectif de la révolution verte - pourrait donc finir par exacerber la charge de morbidité déjà importante de l'Inde.

Ce constat vaut également pour de nombreux autres pays qui ont fondé de grands espoirs sur les variétés à haut rendement pour accroître la productivité et les volumes des cultures de base. Par exemple, l'Alliance pour une révolution verte en Afrique (désormais renommée par son acronyme anglais AGRA) continue à défendre un modèle agricole industriel obsolète qui n'a pas produit les bénéfices nutritionnels escomptés.

Comme je l'ai soutenu dans un article précédent, la nutrition ne doit pas être perçue uniquement en termes de consommation totale de calories, produites en monocultures. Maintenant que la plus grande valeur nutritionnelle d'une alimentation variée est largement reconnue, sa réalisation nécessite non seulement des innovations technologiques, mais également un changement d'orientation vers la culture d'un ensemble de végétaux mieux adaptés aux conditions locales et au climat. Outre l'amélioration des résultats nutritionnels, cette approche favorise la durabilité en réduisant les émissions de dioxyde de carbone tout au long du cycle de vie des aliments.

L'expérience de l'Inde constitue une mise en garde pour les pays en développement. En Inde comme ailleurs, il devient de plus en plus évident que l'adoption de pratiques agroécologiques dans le cadre d'exploitations agricoles de petite taille est la manière la plus efficace de développer des systèmes alimentaires qui sont à la fois durables et à haute valeur nutritive. Mais il faut à cette fin renoncer à la commercialisation délétère de l'agriculture, qui sert principalement les intérêts de l'industrie agroalimentaire, et tendre vers un modèle qui profite aux véritables producteurs de denrées alimentaires et aux populations qui les consomment.

Jayati Ghosh, professeure d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst, est membre de la Commission sur l'économie transformationnelle du Club de Rome et coprésidente de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de l'impôt international sur les sociétés.

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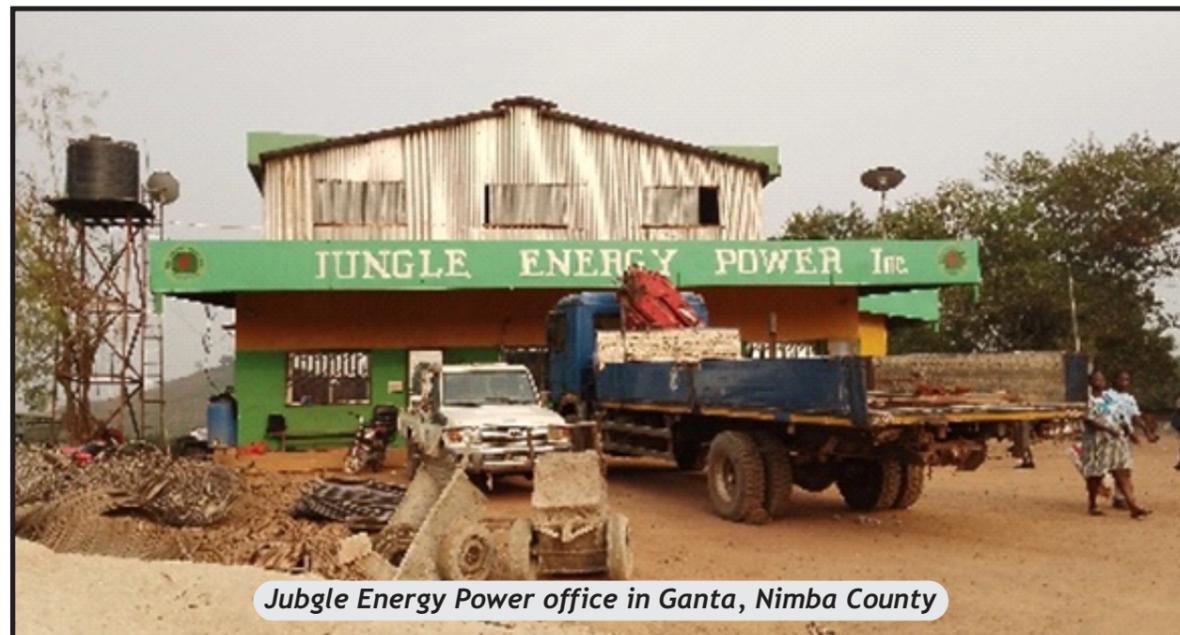
Bong residents accused of power theft

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County
The general manager of Jungle Energy Power (JEP) in Nimba County has accused residents

Guinea (CLSG). But Mr. Keita laments constant power theft is causing his company to loss more money.

He warns those private homes in Bong County involved

disappointment over low customer service in Bahn City, Nimba County since the area was connected, disclosing there are less than 20 customers in Bahn City, Nimba



Jungle Energy Power office in Ganta, Nimba County

of Gbarnga, Bong County of involvement in daily power theft. Mr. Aleyou Keita, said most Gbarnga residents continue to be involved in power theft, rather than going to buy token to reload their meters.

He notes that those mainly involved are private homes, and it has reached an alarming proportion, thereby creating problems for his entity. Jungle Energy Power (JEP) Inc entered into an agreement with a USAID's sponsored project to connect homes, institutions, and others in several counties under a cross border electricity partnership that involves Cote d' Voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and

stealing power to desist immediately.

The JEP manager discloses that in the past, residents of Ganta were similarly involved in power theft but that has been abolished.

Commenting on debt the Government of Liberia owes the Government of Ivory Coast that reports has reached US\$11 million, he said JEP reports directly to the Liberia Electricity Corporation, not the Ivorian government.

The Government of Liberia, under former President George Weah is said to have accrued this huge debt under the cross border electricity partnership. Meanwhile, Mr. Keita expresses

County electoral district #7.

The company moved to Bahn on the order of former President Weah during the 2023 campaign period.

But since the former President alongside with development partners provided free meters and connected several towns and villages in Bong and Nimba counties, the recipients are yet to make use of the facility.

Several of residents who spoke to the NEW DAWN, outlined poor living conditions and lack of money to buy tokens to recharge their meters since they were connected several months ago. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Rep. Bility wants Aliens and Nationality law amended

By Bridgett Milton

Nimba County district #7 Representative Musa Hassan Bility, has presented a bill to the House, seeking to amend certain provisions of the Liberian Aliens and Nationality laws of 2022.

According to Rep. Bility, the Bill undertakes a general revision and modernization of these laws that he says is needed and long overdue, particularly with respect to citizenship, immigration and naturalization, and seeks to provide a policy that is in tune with the current global realities. He notes that the submission is an omnibus bill which would revise and codify all of the laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality. "In recent years, our citizenship, immigration and naturalization policy has become a matter of major national concern with questions about its effect on our national and cultural fabric and what we do in this area is vital to the continued growth and development in our

and better life within the country's borders, while addressing the need to remove archaic and colonial references to black people and women.

"Today, it seems that we are still "protecting" ourselves, as we were in 1876 during the colonial and slave period, against being flooded by immigrants and even diaspora Liberians", he argues.

According to him, it is time Liberians open their doors and welcome citizenship, immigration and naturalization as a means to economic development and growth, noting that in no other area of the nation's laws are Liberians are so encumbered by the dead hand of the past, as they are in citizenship, immigration, and naturalization policies. The Nimba County lawmaker said we must not limit our social growth or hold our economic growth to the environment of 1876 but rather should welcome progress and change to meet changing conditions in every sphere of life.

"Now is the time to start shaking off the dead weight of past mistakes; the time to develop laws



Rep. Musa Bility

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Prophet Key escapes detention

emphasizing that appearing before the city court does not necessarily imply his guilt.

Prophet Key, responding to group of women who angrily insulted him after he was released, expressed pride in the judiciary system and urged all Liberians to believe in the court because it plays a key role in handling situations that may arise. Similarly, Culture Ambassador Julie Endee, expressed her belief in the judicial system of Liberia, remarking that the progression of the case

demonstrates the efficacy of the Liberian judiciary system and pledged to see the case through to its conclusion.

She emphasizes that regardless of one's status, everyone's rights have limits, and respect for others' rights is paramount.

Endee thanked all women, who supported her and reiterated that whether Prophet Key is released on bail or not, it is his constitutional right. She affirmed her commitment to fulfilling her promise of bringing him to

court.

Meanwhile, tensions brewed at the Supreme Court's premises as supporters of both Julie Endee and Prophet Key nearly engaged in physical altercation, prompting intervention from the Liberian National Police.

The courtroom was packed with spectators eager to see the controversial talk show host, known for raining invectives, in person, many of whom had previously only seen him on social media. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Health Minister Kpoto takes office

with relevant stakeholders to introduce Liberia's national health insurance plan that aims not only to alleviate suffering but also provide affordable and equitable healthcare delivery across the country.

Meanwhile, Doctor Wilhemina S. Jallah served as

Minister of Health under the administration of former President Weah. She is a Medical Doctor with over 30 years of national and international experience in clinical services and public health management.

Prior to becoming Minister of

Health in March 2018, she served as Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and the Medical Director at her privately-owned Hope for Women International Medical Center Liberia, Inc. for six years (2012-2018). Editing by Jonathan Browne

quest for a unification among Liberians, critical to our economic and social strength, pertinent to the conduct of our foreign relations, and most important, critical to our responsibilities of moral

leadership in the struggle for unity", he says.

He adds that the bill recognizes the great domestic and international significance of Liberian citizenship, immigration and naturalization policies, and takes a step to improve existing laws to alleviate

the perpetuation of division that hampers efforts being made to rally support for unification, and decrease the repressive and inhumane aspects of immigration procedures by removing restrictions on citizenship of natural born Liberians and their children, removing unnecessary barriers to immigration and naturalization, and proposing alternative immigration and migration requirements.

Bility says it also strikes down the marks of prejudice and removes repressive measures directed at all who seek a new

on citizenship, immigration and naturalization that are a true reflection of the ideals we proclaim to stand for." He says in the last few years, Liberians begun this work with the enactment of the dual citizenship clause and it was a major win for the country, so Liberians must continue the work to further create laws not to keep people out, but to bring qualified and productive people in and find better ways to meet the immigration challenges of the 1870's that are so prevalent in the Alien and Nationality Law. "We must not restrict the inalienable rights of natural born Liberians, who have taken on the citizenship of other countries but not denounced Liberian citizenship, to serve their country as elected officials. We must instead recognize the conditions and necessities that compelled our citizens in the diaspora to seek citizenship elsewhere in the world and not subject them and their children to discriminatory practices; we must adequately deal with the provisions of our existing laws related to the qualifications of aliens and immigrants for admission and the administration of the laws.

Cloud hangs over Boakai's Ghana trip

By Othello B. Garblah

There are particles of dust in the air amidst dark clouds over the main purpose of President Joseph N. Boakai's recent trip to Ghana.

Ghanaian sources informed this paper that no meeting

His return was followed by an Executive Mansion press release indicating that he had instead met with Ghana's Vice President Bawumia and other senior Ghanaian Government officials.

The Executive Mansion release on Wednesday, 14

Some editors of major Ghanaian media outlets such as the Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times, and Daily Guide informed this writer that they did not receive any story from their correspondents regarding President Boakai's meeting with VP Bawumia.

One of the editors told the New Dawn that such a meeting would have been a major headline in the state-owned Daily Graphic newspaper.

Another said: "No, I have not heard about that because had such a meeting taken place my correspondent in the Vice President's office would have filed the story."

Medical visit not working visit

A source close to the University of Ghana Medical Center told this writer that President Boakai was flown from Monrovia to the medical facility on Tuesday morning for treatment.

The source reminded this paper that President Boakai, then candidate Boakai used to frequent the hospital for treatment, adding that his latest visit to the facility was one such visit.

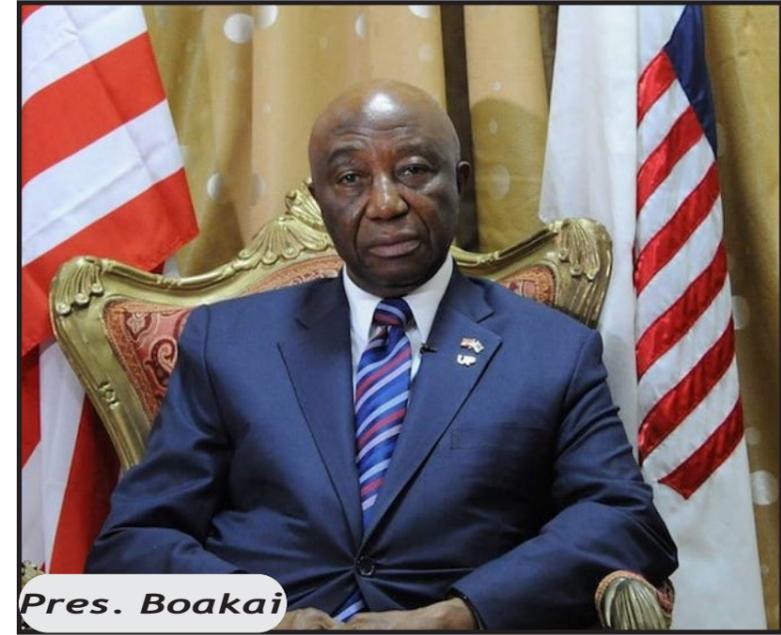
What the Press Secretary had to say?

Presidential Press Secretary Kula Fofana told this writer from where she sits in her office to provide the information. She said things may change in the presidential space.

She made a comparison between the news release which was issued on Armed Forces Day indicating that President Boakai would have visited the Camp Schieffelin Military Barracks off the Roberts Highway but had to be redirected at the President's house due to security issues with the Ghana visit.

Further on questions over doubts that President Boakai met with Ghana's Vice President Bawumia, the Press Secretary referred this paper

to the two press releases as her official statement.



Pres. Boakai

took place between President Boakai and the Vice President of Ghana Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia or any other Ghanaian Government official, rather he was flown from Monrovia to the University of Ghana Medical Center for treatment on Tuesday, February 13.

The Executive Mansion on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, issued a release stating that President Boakai had traveled to Ghana for a two-day working visit.

According to the Executive Mansion release, President Boakai was due to meet with Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to hold consultations on matters of mutual interest.

But it turned out President Akufo-Addo left Ghana on the same Tuesday, 13 February 2024, to lead the Ghanaian Delegation to attend the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany. Meanwhile, instead of staying two days, as was previously contained in the Executive Mansion Press release, President Boakai returned on Wednesday, February 14.

February stated in parts: "His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia returns home following a brief successful working visit to the Republic of Ghana. While away, he held talks with members of the Ghanaian Government.

During his meeting with the Ghanaian team, the President extended appreciation for the support received prior to and during his inauguration as well as the visitation by the Ghanaian Leader, President Nana Akufo-Addo.

For his part, the Vice President of Ghana, Honorable Mahamudu Bawumia expressed excitement for the visit and assured the Liberian Leader of their continuous support and commitment to Liberia."

However, sources within the corridor of Vice President Bawumia's office told this writer on Thursday, February 15, that they did not know of any such meeting between President Boakai and VP Bawumia.

Major Ghanaian news outlets also denied knowledge.

Starts from back page

Intrusion at Justice Scott's

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

These incidents of invasion or intrusion are also being seen as a validation that the compound (house) is not as fortified (protected) as the police made it to appear, and this could further diffuse the Government's theory of NO INTRUSION, which is the main basis on which Cllr. Scott and family members were charged and convicted for killing another family member, Charloe

Musu, on February 22, the public through the local radio talk show

It may be recalled that the investigation findings didn't suggest the Head of the Police Investigation Team, the crimes mentioned in the indictment, but of Police, Monroe A. heavy hands Dennis, about two weeks ago, made many startling revelations on a local radio (Hott FM), from the United States. ACP Dennis on phone from the U.S., informed

UP wants NEC to revoke Rep. Goshua's certificate

The ruling Unity Party (UP) has dragged the National Elections Commission (NEC) before the Supreme Court of Liberia challenging the certification of Mr. Thomas Goshua II as Grand Bassa County Electoral District #5 Representative.

Through a Writ of Prohibition filed before the court, UP said the NEC certificated Mr. Goshua amidst the continuation of an electoral dispute in violation of due process.

"Petitioner says that she is the challenger and 1st runner against the Declared winner by

amended the instrument in February 2024. However, the UP said the Bill of Information was dismissed on the ground that the BOC lacks Jurisdiction. Unhappy with the decision of the Board of Commissioners, the UP said it filed a Bill

of information to the Supreme Court on 2 February 2024.

The Petitioner said it subsequently filed a complaint before the BOC and subsequently filed a Petition for a Writ of Mandamus before the Justice in Chambers in February 2024.

While this complaint and Mandamus are pending undetermined, UP said the NEC certificated Mr. Goshua without a



Mr. Goshua

logical conclusion of the pending cases." The Petitioner says that the act of Co Respondent/NEC to have certificated Hon Thomas Goshua is contrary to the doctrine of Due process for which this Petition for a Writ of Prohibition will lie," said UP.

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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 beginning 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)

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Intrusion at Justice Scott's residence again

-several items stolen

For the fourth time in a year, the residence of former Chief Justice, Gloria Musu Scott, has been invaded by unidentified persons this time, making away with

November 2023 for murder. The intruders have reportedly been arrested by help of community members, who called the police and took the individuals to a local depot in Virginia, Zone 6 Base.

major factor during the months-long murder trial, after investigators of the Liberia National Police ruled out any possibility that anybody could intrude into the house, a conclusion that defense lawyers vehemently resisted through evidence, including expert testimonies, insisting that there were many possibilities of intrusion and that the murder was committed by an intruder on the night of February 22, 2023.

During the trial at the lower court (Criminal Court A"), Defense raised the issue that unknown persons were still accessing the compound and making away with items, but Prosecution argued that it was a family member by the name of Anthony Musu, who was going to the compound under the pretext of feeding dogs there.

Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie, therefore, ruled that no family member should visit the premises and that the Police be in charge of the compound.

The continuous accessing and intrusion of the compound is now being viewed as another validation of the Intrusion alarm raised by Cllr. Scott and her family which Police said was FALSE INFORMATION TO LAW



several items including a flat-screen television set.

Justice Scott and three members of her family are remanded at the Monrovia Central Prison, awaiting hearing into an appeal filed before the Supreme Court after their conviction at Criminal Court 'A' in

There have been series of complaints (reports) of unidentified intruders accessing the compound and making away with things and sometimes sleeping in, according to some neighbors.

The question of a possibility of intrusion into the former Chief Justice's residence was a

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