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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024	L\$189.7686/US\$1.00	L\$191.5409/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

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Boakai marks first month in office

-But no sign of 100 days deliverable picking up

Protest at NaFFA

P11



-Employees decry alleged malpractices

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Continental News

ADB grants \$7 million trade finance guarantee facility to Access Bank DR Congo to support SMEs and local businesses

The African Development Bank will now be able to provide up to a 100% guarantee to confirming banks for the non-payment risk from the confirmation of letters of credit and similar trade finance instruments issued by Access Bank DR Congo for the

African Development Bank offers to support commercial banks in Africa. Launched in 2021, the guarantee covers a range of trade finance instruments including confirmed letters of credit, commercial loans, irrevocable repayment commitments, endorsed drafts and promissory notes, among others. This instrument enables the Bank to leverage its AAA rating to mitigate country risk and counterparty risk for confirming banks. The facility is available to all banks that are registered and operating in Africa which have passed the Bank's due diligence process. In addition to transaction guarantees, the African Development Bank Group also offers credit lines to African commercial banks for trade finance to support importers and exporters.

Access Bank DR Congo: A subsidiary of Access Bank Plc Nigeria, Access Bank DR Congo was launched in the DRC in 2009 after the acquisition of the Banque Privée du Congo, which had been in existence since 2002. It operates 17 branches in the Democratic Republic of Congo and employs 532 people, of whom 218 (41%) are women. Established in 1988 and listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange as of 1998, Access Bank Plc Nigeria is a well-known partner of the African Development Bank, which has already granted it two finance packages - two lines of credit, one for \$35 million in 2006 and another for \$100 million in 2014.



benefit of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local businesses. Over the next three years, the Bank will also support the import of essential goods and various inputs in such key economic sectors as health and agriculture, as well as \$40 million in trade. "This facility will help improve the provision of trade finance services by providing essential guarantees for the confirmation of letters of credit issued for SMEs, Access

understand and respond to the real needs of the Congolese people, to support the economic growth of the DRC. We are thrilled to be taking this step, because the Facility demonstrates the commitment of Access Bank DR Congo and the African Development Bank Group to advancing trade in Africa". The African Development Bank's Transaction Guarantee (TG) Instrument: The transaction guarantee is one of the trade finance instruments that the

Africa's 2024 Bid Rounds Mean Fresh Opportunities for Upstream Investors

Africa's oil and gas blocks continue to draw global investors, from IOCs to junior and indigenous explorers. In a bid to boost production and reserve volumes, the continent is seeking to attract a broader range of companies to sign new contracts and drive exploratory drilling. At the Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum (<https://apo-opa.co/48pKC6i>) in Paris this May, upstream investors will access exclusive information and dedicated presentations from Africa's leading energy ministries on both current and planned licensing rounds. Some of the blocks on offer are particularly gas-rich - aligning with rising global interest in Africa's underdeveloped gas resources - as well as home to existing discoveries.

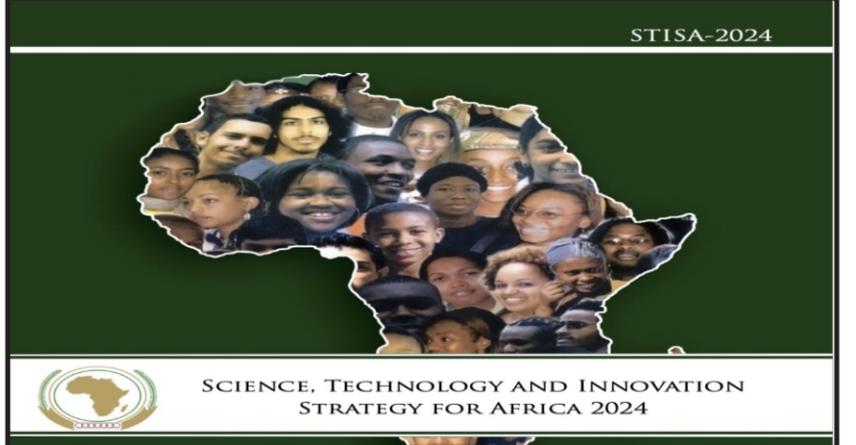
explorers to its frontier acreage. In addition to competitive fiscal terms and a stable operating environment, the country offers extensive 2D and 3D multi-client data and cooperation agreements in place with Angola, Ghana and Equatorial Guinea to help fast-track development. Sierra Leone's latest and fifth licensing round featuring 56 offshore blocks concluded last September, after being extended due to a high level of interest. Now, another licensing round is on the horizon for 2024 with additional acreage available, to be showcased by the Petroleum Directorate of Sierra Leone at the upcoming forum.

Angola is currently in the midst of a six-month oil and gas tender that launched last September, with initial results announced last month. The round - part of a six-year hydrocarbon licensing

United States Primed to Spearhead Africa's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

As Africa looks to develop its gas for domestic and export markets, the U.S. is honing in on LNG as a critical investment avenue, alongside traditional oil exploration. In October 2023, energy research and consultancy group Wood Mackenzie stated that Africa's \$800-billion, 20-year upstream capital expenditure program would result in world-class LNG projects in Mozambique and floating LNG (FLNG) in five countries, presenting substantial gas-driven opportunities for U.S. investors, operators, project developers and service providers. The upcoming Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum (<https://apo-opa.co/4bITmY3>) - taking place in Paris on May 14-15 - will showcase trade, partnership and investment opportunities available to U.S. companies across Africa's energy supply chain. The event

brings together projects from all four corners of the continent to the global investment stage, with a view to establishing regional African gas markets and capitalizing on rising U.S. interest in African energy. While American companies are already at the helm of the continent's booming LNG industry, there is room to grow their participation, particularly in FLNG, which offers increased flexibility, reduced time to market and suitability for smaller gas volumes. According to energy intelligence provider Westwood Global Energy, the global FLNG market is set to see \$35 billion in new investment by 2027 - totaling 18.3 million tons per annum (mtpa) of additional capacity - with Africa dominating short-term investments. This increase in capacity will generate an associated engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract value of \$13



Nigeria
In January, the Federal Government announced plans to launch an oil licensing round in 2024 with 12 offshore blocks, as part of efforts to stimulate deepwater oil exploration and increase the country's reserve base from 37 billion to 40 billion barrels. Nigeria has set its sights on restoring production to 2.1 million barrels per day in the next two years, which would require up to \$7.6 billion in upstream investments and double the current number of drilling rigs. With supermajors Shell, Chevron and TotalEnergies currently leading E&P activities, the planned licensing round aims to attract new investors to the market, with a focus on indigenous participation. Confirmed to participate at IAE 2024, Nigeria's Ministry of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas) is expected to share more details on the upcoming licensing round and how investors can participate. <https://apo-opa.co/3T9YRd>

Sierra Leone
Featuring a working petroleum system with proven discoveries, Sierra Leone is committed to attracting new

strategy that began in 2019 - features 12 onshore blocks in the Kwanza and Congo Basins and aims to relaunch exploration in onshore areas and diversify the country's exploration scene to local and independent explorers. The round has already seen success in the latter regard, with state-owned Sonangol and oil and gas independent Afentra awarded interests in Block KON 15 and Angolan private equity firm Enagol acquiring 10% non-operated interests in Blocks CON 7 and KON 7. Remaining license awards will be announced between now and March 2024, with negotiations for production-sharing agreements currently underway.

Tanzania
Tanzania is expected to launch its fifth oil and gas licensing round by June 2024, with licenses to be awarded by December of the same year. While the details have yet to be disclosed, 26 oil and gas blocks have been initially allocated for tender, including 15 onshore and 11 offshore blocks. Representing the country's first bid round in over a decade, the licensing round aims to accelerate foreign investment in the country's upstream sector and showcase its highly prospective acreage.

EDITORIAL

A messy PR

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia has struggled but failed to present pictorial or video evidence that during President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's recent visit to the Republic of Ghana, he met with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo or Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia as it has claimed.

Last week, the Executive Mansion announced via a press release that President Boakai left the country Tuesday, February 13, 2024 for a two-day visit to meet and hold consultations with President Nana Akufo-Addo, on matters of mutual interest to both countries and issues obtaining in the sub-region.

But just as the Liberian President arrived in Accra, Ghana, President Akufo-Addo was leaving Ghana for an official trip abroad. Subsequently, it was gathered that President Boakai did not meet the Ghanaian Vice President either.

Who then did the President of Liberia meet with while in Ghana, is the US\$50 million question Liberians are seeking answer to, which the authority has been unable to clearly address.

In a fruitless endeavor to provide some explanations, as speculations grew in Monrovia, Presidential Press Secretary Kula Fofana told the NEW DAWN last week Thursday, 15 February that things may change in the presidential space.

The Executive Mansion in a release on Wednesday, 14 February had announced, "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, a NEW DAWN's independent investigation that has not been challenged established that President Boakai was flown from Monrovia to the University of Ghana Medical Center last week Tuesday morning for treatment, a place that he had frequently even proper to becoming President of Liberia.

In the first place, there was absolutely no need for the Executive Mansion to have misled the Liberian public about the real intent of the President's trip to Ghana that has created serious embarrassment for the country. Mr. Boakai is now President of the Republic of Liberia and Liberians deserve all rights to know or to be told clearly where he goes and who talks with other than feeding the public with something totally different from the actual happening, as was unfolded recently.

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COMMENTARY

By *Dmytro Kuleba*
and *Josep Borrell*

Europe and the World Need Ukraine to Prevail

KYIV - February 24, 2022, when Russia marched hundreds of thousands of troops into Ukraine, marked the beginning of a major geopolitical earthquake. For two years, Europe has been living with the grim reality of the continent's largest war of aggression since World War II, and with widespread, horrifying atrocities.

What Russia is doing is a classic example of nineteenth-century-style imperial and colonial aggression. Ukraine is enduring what many other countries have cruelly suffered in the past. For Russia, this war has never been about Ukraine's neutrality, NATO enlargement, protecting Russian-speakers, or any other fabricated pretexts.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly claimed that Ukraine does not exist as a nation and that Ukrainian identity is artificial. The war is solely about annihilating an independent country, conquering land, and re-establishing dominance over a people that decided to be masters of their own destiny. Russia's imperial ambition is doubtless familiar to many nations around the world that were previously subject to colonial rule and oppression.

The consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine have been felt far beyond Europe. The war has affected food security and energy prices, and it has been accompanied by massive disinformation and political destabilization campaigns.

These shockwaves have been truly global. Putin is ushering in an increasingly transactional world. He has deployed the Wagner Group in Africa, destabilized other countries through coups, and engaged in economic coercion through the threat of hunger - offering grain that he himself made scarce by systematically burning fields in Ukraine, targeting storage infrastructure, and blocking important maritime export routes.

The war and its consequences thus concern every country. Should Russia prevail, it would send a very dangerous message that "might makes right." Every aggressive power around the world would be tempted to follow in Russia's footsteps. If aggression ultimately pays, why wouldn't all those with territorial claims against their neighbors act on them? This is why it is in many Asian, African, and Latin American countries' interest that Ukraine wins the war.

Ultimately, this war is not about "the West against the rest." Supporting Ukraine is not "pro-Western." It is about rejecting war and terror. It is about standing for the principle of international

relations based on mutual respect, and supporting Ukrainians' right to security and liberty. Ukraine and the European Union share a view of international relations in the twenty-first century that is exactly opposed to that of Putin's Russia. Our vision is based on international law, respect, and mutual benefit, instead of coercion, bribery, and fear.

Nobody has a greater interest than we do in swiftly ending this war and bringing peace back to our continent. To achieve this, Ukraine has proposed a ten-point peace formula - which the EU fully supports - that not only envisions the end of hostilities but also includes proposals to strengthen food security, nuclear safety, environmental protection, energy security, international justice, human rights, and respect for the UN Charter.

This formula is the only serious peace proposal on the table, and we are calling on all countries committed to peace to join us in putting it into action. Ukraine is currently organizing a Global Peace Summit in Switzerland, and the EU is actively supporting this process.

Leaders from around the world will work toward an agreement on a common vision for a just peace in Ukraine based on the UN Charter. Russia will then be presented with this consolidated position representing the global majority, leaving it no other choice but to engage in good faith.

As the war enters its third year, our message is one of resilience in the face of aggression and terror. We cannot and will not allow aggression to be rewarded in the twenty-first century; instead, we will mobilize against it. The only way to achieve a just peace is to double down on support for Ukraine. The EU has done exactly that in recent months, and it is set to increase assistance even further in 2024.

Our common goal is to ensure that Ukraine can turn the tide of the war in its favor so that a just peace can be reached as soon as possible.

The world's support is crucial for achieving this result. It is in everyone's interest that international law be upheld, and that cooperation is the highest priority. There must not be a return to the dark past of military aggression, imperialism, and colonialism - neither in Europe nor in any other region.

Dmytro Kuleba is Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.

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OP-ED

By Diane Coyle

Sharing the Tech Wealth

CAMBRIDGE - One of the defining economic challenges of our time is how to distribute the value generated by groundbreaking technologies, such as generative artificial intelligence and recent innovations in biomedicine and manufacturing, which rely on massive computing power. To improve living standards, the benefits of transformative technologies must be widely shared. So far, however, these benefits have been monopolized by a small cadre of tech billionaires.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is a prime example. Most people recognize that Musk did not deserve the \$56 billion in annual compensation that the company's board of directors attempted to give him in 2018, given Tesla's relatively modest profits and years of losses. Nevertheless, the board argued that this enormous sum was necessary to incentivize Musk to remain at the company - an argument so baseless that a Delaware judge recently invalidated the board's "unfathomable" compensation package.

But Musk is hardly alone. Other tech behemoths, such as Alphabet (Google's parent company), have similarly lavished their CEOs with hefty salaries and stock options under the guise of retaining top talent. In reality, however, the actual contribution of star executives is often unclear. Notably, a classic 1991 study by Nobel laureate economists Bengt Holmström and Paul Milgrom suggests that incentive pay works only with simple tasks that have measurable outcomes and are executed by a single worker; in such cases, compensation can be directly linked to individual performance.

By contrast, the multifaceted nature of CEOs' roles makes it hard to evaluate their individual contributions. But given that the metrics for measuring CEOs' success, such as share prices, are shaped by the collective efforts of numerous employees and by chance, it could be argued that they should be the last to receive monetary incentives.

Moreover, Big Tech companies' huge profits reflect their market power, which they have achieved by offering users "free" services like search and email while harvesting their personal data and copyrighted material to train AI models. In the absence of competitive checks, the quality of these services has gradually deteriorated - a trend that author and tech activist Cory Doctorow has described as "enshittification." At the same time, the adverse effects of Big Tech's business models, from rampant misinformation and deepfakes to clickbait, have become increasingly apparent.

The emergence of generative AI has further fueled concerns about tech giants' market dominance, as writers, artists, and other creative professionals find their livelihoods undermined by large language models that circumvent copyright-law restrictions with impunity.

It does not have to be this way. In a recent essay, MIT economist David Autor argues that emerging AI technologies have the potential to complement the skills of human workers, particularly those, such as nurse practitioners, who typically do not receive incentive-based pay packages. Similarly, research by Autor's MIT peers Erik Brynjolfsson, Danielle Li, and Lindsey Raymond finds that AI significantly boosts the productivity of call-center workers. Taken together, such studies suggest that generative AI could augment the work of creative freelancers instead of replacing them.

But systemic change requires more than individual efforts. The overwhelming power of Big Tech companies calls for government intervention to ensure that the value they create, as well as the value they extract in monopoly rents, is distributed fairly among workers and consumers. Although policymakers in the United States and Europe have rightly focused on competition-enhancing measures, including by examining the impact of major tech firms on labor markets, these actions are not enough.

To curb the market power of Big Tech firms and ensure that new technologies benefit everyone, governments must invest in developing digital public infrastructure. The concept of an open-standards technology stack - consisting of digital identification, a payment system, and a data-exchange platform - has gained traction in economic-development circles in recent years, and such frameworks could also streamline the provision of public goods.

But achieving this requires a change in mindset. Digital public infrastructure, typically viewed simply as a means to provide government services to individuals, has the potential to become a powerful platform for facilitating interactions among governments, businesses, and citizens. Ideally, a publicly owned payment system could process transactions both between firms and among individuals across different jurisdictions. Moreover, the establishment of public digital infrastructure is crucial to implementing certain policy measures, such as Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer's proposed tax on digital advertising. The revenues from such taxes could, for example, finance waste collection and recycling initiatives.

A thriving market economy operates as a partnership between the government and the private sector. Under this arrangement, businesses are allowed to manage their own affairs, provided they comply with laws and regulations, pay corporate taxes, and withhold their employees' taxes.

But Big Tech firms have undermined this implicit agreement by exploiting various legal loopholes to minimize their tax burdens, compromising the quality of their services, and routinely violating copyright laws. The time has come to establish effective and necessary institutional mechanisms to ensure that potentially transformative technologies benefit everyone, not just a privileged few.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

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Lord, ley papay na making appointment lazy oo

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmm, ley Papay na making appointment lazy oo. De orlor day, ley Old Man mom go wasay again. Na fun oo. Whole 139 people in one day-awa. Ehn, they say ley papay slow, and he wasting time-they will balance.

They say tenure or no tenure de Papay wor jus naming people in those positions. Na, they say aa na easy. You wan see de tenure people running behind him again!

Um, my son, they say da na small wahala de Old Man cause oo. I hear say de unity they never had before they coming together to take de Papay before de Elders at de Palaver Hut.

Father, da ley one you talking slow leh da so? They say de Papay na know how somer de name them geh on da list sef.

You joking!

Da fire! They say de orlor day, some Paramount chief them from de Traditional Council wen to visit him at our village Palace to leh him know da they were na happy with one of de names.

And what de papay say my son?

Father, de papay mom make them weak again. They say de Papay told de Paramount Chief them da he himself saw somer de name them on de list da he na put there.

You say whatin?

Father, this one da na fun oo. They say some people jus there oo, when de Papay say yor bring de list, they say soon de list leave him office, some people can start squeezing their friend them name there.

This one da lie!

Mm be there. You na hear de thin, they say de Papay him sef, sef told de Paramount Chief them da he noticed something leh da happening-people jus putting all kina people on de list.

Hmm, bor de Old Man da "baby, de Papay na Baby."

Father, da de same thin I been telling my village people them this whole time. I say de Papay na baby. De Papay able to make him own list. Bor leh wait to hear wah de Elders at de Palaver Hut will say.

Bor is it true da de Chiefs at de lower end of de Traditional Council say de Papay mom account for him fiasco Charlie Land visit.

Yes, oo Father. They say de Old Man mom tell them how much him spent on da fiasco trip they say wor town visit.

And him tell them?

Father, da de one we still sitting down here waiting to hear oo. De story sef fini long leh spider story. It jus join, join every where no hay no tail.

You joking.

Bor Father, which one be surprised in da one. De Papay town crier them say, him wen to see him brother Nana. Bor it turned out him brother Nana from Charlie Land had gone to Uncle Sam's Cousin village. Den, they say no, him saw Charlie Land second man in command, bor de story too geh plenty noise.

So, na de chief them mom help us know how much him spend. And in doing da maybe, maybe they will ask him to tell them who him really met. Bor in de main time they say him mom tell de village thru them how much him usage on this trip.

Hmm, my son aa look leh yor village geh plenty news oo?

Father, da fun, de Papay mom geh him 41 million Uncle Sam money him asked de Chiefs at de Traditional Council to giv him-no noise, business continue. We jus picking up from de place we stop.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

EFFL leader rejects job from Boakai

By Kruah Thompson

The leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL), Emmanuel Gonqua, rejects his appointment by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai as deputy labor minister-designate, for

designate, he had a meeting with President Boakai on Saturday, February 16, 2024, during which they agreed that EFFL's National Chairman, Steve Saah Kolubah, would be appointed as Ministry of Labor, while Prince Saah Bonnah, Jr., would be appointed as deputy

ability and integrity.

Expressing his commitment to party's principles and fairness, he reiterates that his dedication to upholding political discipline and ensuring the interests of the EFFL and the Liberian people remain paramount. He underscores his unwillingness to compromise on his political principles, emphasizing the importance of fairness and adherence to agreements.

"When the President and I met on Saturday, he confirmed the three appointments to various entities we first talked about, and he also noted that our letters were already signed," Gonqua reveals.

However, he notes that certain individuals within the President's Office had rearranged the roles, placing him in the role of National Chairman and the National Chairman in the role of Vice Chair for Economic Affairs.

"To be honest, they have to exercise caution or else, they will turn the Presidency into a source of bewilderment and laughter with their unprofessional behavior."

He reiterates the importance of maintaining professionalism and integrity within the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Commander-in-Chief Emmanuel Gonqua

planning and manpower, citing a commitment to party integrity and leadership principles. The EFFL is an alliance party of President Boakai's governing Unity Party that supported Mr. Boakai's bid for the Presidency. But speaking to the NEW DAWN via mobile phone, Commander-In-Chief Emmanuel Gonqua clarifies that prior to his appointment by the President as deputy labor minister-

director for administration at the National Housing Authority.

But C-I-C Gonqua says upon perusing the list of appointees, he discovered his name has been listed for the Ministry of Labor, contrary to the agreement he had with President Boakai "I cannot accept an appointment that contradicts the agreement we made," Gonqua firmly resists, adding that doing so would compromise his leadership

Tri Buchanan Corporation dedicates learning center

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Tri Buchanan Development Corporation and Partners officially dedicate Liberia's first postwar learning center today, Friday, February 23, 2024, that contains a modern library near the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC). According to TRI Buchanan Development Corporation Managing Director, Mr. Bleejay Innis, the facility, which is his corporation's first largest project, will comprise modern libraries, business incubation centers, sports and recreation facilities, among others.

Mr. Innis put the 9,000 square feet facility's total cost at approximately US\$ 1.5 million that is 85% complete and will be dedicated today, while former opening follows subsequently. He describes the project as a milestone for the nation, and is keen on the transformative journey of the education sector, noting that it will boost the capabilities of Liberian construction contractors and build trustworthiness of local contractors in public space. He acknowledges challenges

facing Liberian construction companies, including lack of trust from clients.

He also names lack of transparency, bidding for projects they cannot execute, and in the end, they don't often meet the needs and standards of clients.

Mr. Innis urges local construction companies to hold themselves up to a standard and erase negative perceptions against them, admonishing them to overcome such challenges by proving trustworthy of their work.

"I think the completion of this modern library, will serve as a boost to the ability of local contractors, this will help prove what Liberian contractors are capable of doing, and help buy the trust of the public about the quality of work local contractors are capable of doing," he says.

He also stresses a need for the new administration at the Ministry of Public Works to cultivate a stronger working relationship with

Liberian-owned companies, something, he emphasizes as important to the growth and development of the construction industry.

For his part, project-site engineer, Mr. Dee Shadrack K. Yoko, highlights that the Liberian learning center will play an integral role in the broad reshaping of the Liberian education sector. Mr. Yoko says the learning center is keen on children's development as well as molding the minds of architects.

He details that the project consists of three facilities that are designed to reshape the educational landscape of Liberia while providing access to learning resources for Paynesville and beyond.



The US National Defense University Capstone fellows visit the Armed Forces of Liberia on a research study tour

February 16, 2024, steered in another landmark feat for Liberia's national security and defense cooperation between the Ministry of Defense/Armed Forces of Liberia (MOD/AFL) and US Department of Defense.

This was consequent to MOD/AFL receiving a delegation of 19 distinguished fellows from the National Defense University (NDU), USA, led by Gen (Rtd) Thomas D. Waldhauser and Rear Admiral Gerard Mauer (Rtd). Other members of the delegation comprised senior military officers from the US Armed Forces. The team was on pivotal study tour to the Republic of Liberia and MOD/AFL in particular. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen military engagements and enhance strategic discussions relating to bilateral partnership between the MOD/AFL and US Department

Relatedly, the NDU team engaged the Chief of Staff (COS) AFL, Brig Gen Davidson F Forleh in a strategic discussion. In attendance were the Deputy Chief of Staff and other principal staff officers of the HQ AFL. The COS explained Liberia's longstanding relationship with the United States by underlining the mutual benefits derived from this collaboration. He further Provided the team with a comprehensive overview of the AFL's achievements through US support and expressed satisfaction in the standing of the AFL as a national asset. The COS affirmed that the enduring support from the United States reflects a robust bilateral relationship between the two nations. During the interactive session, the COS outlined his top command priorities as: discipline/professionalism, provision of logistics for the AFL, and improving welfare of personnel. He expressed concerns over contemporary security challenges in West Africa which



AFL and US National Defense University Fellows

of Defense. The visit commenced with a meeting with the Acting Minister of Defense, Brig Gen Geraldine J. George (Rtd). The acting minister welcomed the distinguished fellows and expressed her delight for their choice of Liberia as destination of their visit. Furthermore, the Minister highlighted the substantial support the MOD/AFL received from the United States since 2006 when the new AFL was formed. She also acknowledged the AFL as a "Force for Good," emphasizing the comprehensive nature of US support received by the armed forces on reforms, trainings, and equipping.

Additionally, the Minister commended the pivotal role played by the State Partnership Program with the Michigan National Guard, which bolstered ties between the AFL and US Armed Forces. Similarly, the Minister pointed out that it is gratifying for the team's choice to visit Liberia after a keenly contested Presidential election. The Minister also conveyed the warm compliments of the President and Commander-in-Chief of the AFL to the team and wish them fruitful study tour.

adversely inhibited Liberia's growth. The COS highlighted the security challenges as terrorism from the Sahel, maritime crime in the coastal states, militancy, youths' restiveness, porous borders, illicit drug trade, and illegal arms/ammunition trade amongst others. Adding that, the existing collaboration with the US Government, especially the Michigan National Guard, is known for its instrumental role in building the capacity of personnel in the Liberian National Coast Guard.

Following the meeting with the Chief of Staff, the NDU team received a comprehensive 30-minute briefing from the AFL Assistant Chief of Operations, Col Joseph T. Gayflor. The brief highlighted the successes gained from the US partnership, including training, mentorship, and equipping. He also outlined challenges faced by the AFL, such as attrition, unimproved training facilities, limited training aids, inadequate housing facilities, and equipment shortages resulting from wear and tear. The NDU team further engaged with 25 selected AFL personnel from the 8 rotations (LIBBATT 1 to 8) that previously served in the MINUSMA peacekeeping mission in Mali.

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Dillon back-kicks Boakai's US\$41.3m request

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon known as the "Rescue Light," has voted against President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's request for the passage of US\$41.3 million. The new government

However, the Senate has concurred with the House of Representatives to authorize the usage of the US\$41,300,000.00 for operations for February.

The senate voted in majority on Thursday, 22 February approving the

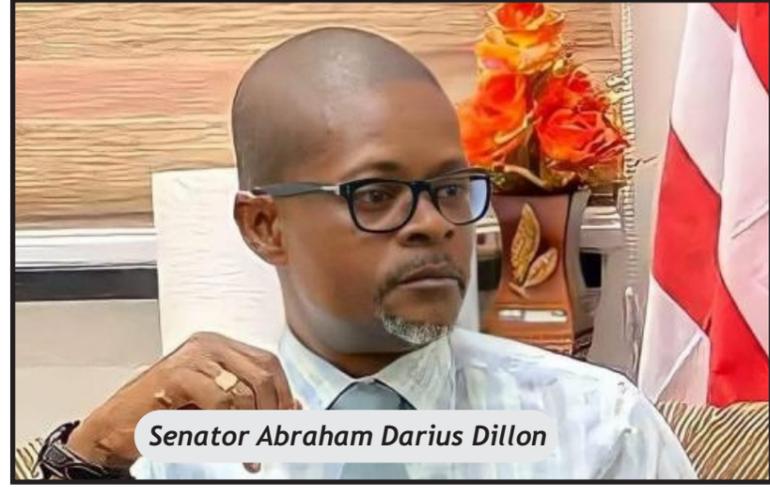
not however change the overall amount. Recently, President Boakai communicated with the Legislature, seeking authorization to spend the amount of US\$41,300,000.00 to cover operations for February.

According to the President's communication, the authorization requested was based on the fact that the draft budget for the fiscal year 2024 was returned by the House of Representatives and is being finalized for resubmission.

The communication further stated that the operations of the Government have to continue to avoid a shutdown.

Those who voted against the passage of the President's request were Senators Abraham Darius Dillon, J. Gleh-Bo Brown of Maryland, Numene T.H. Bartekwa of Grand Kru, and Nathaniel F. McGill of Margibi.

Senator Nathaniel McGill of Margibi County voted against approving the instrument on grounds that the detail surrounding said amount meant for domestic debts was not provided. Senators who voted in favor of the request are Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence of Grand Bassa, Gbehzohngar Findley of Grand Bassa, Crayton Duncan of Sinoe County, and Dabah Varpilar, Grand Cape Mount.



Senator Abraham Darius Dillon

requested the Legislature's approval of the US\$41.3m to enable it to finance its operation for February.

But the tough-talking senator who is a member of the "Rescue Team" has gone against the President's request. According to Dillon, he could not vote for the request until he was given a detailed breakdown of the \$41.3 million requested to pay the Government's debts.

financial request following a report from the Senate Statutory Committee on Ways, Means, Finance, and Budget under the Chairmanship of Bong County Senator Prince Moyer. Senator Moyer reported that the decision was intended to fast-track funding for the operation of the Government for February 2024. He said although there were some adjustments in the request made by the President, it could

Local farmers in Bong County urge Liberian government to invest more in agriculture

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Local Farmers in Bong County are calling on the government of President Joseph N. Boakai to prioritize investments in agriculture by providing essential support to farmers in the form of training and farming equipment. The farmers emphasized that with adequate support from the government, they can make a significant impact in the ongoing battle against food insecurity in Liberia.

They said millions of dollars that are being used annually by the country to import its staple food will drastically reduce if not stopped. Liberia spends over US\$200 million annually on rice imports, according to the country's Finance Ministry in 2023. Every year the government has to subsidize the importation of rice with millions of dollars so that the commodity can become affordable for many ordinary citizens. However, James Kollie, one of the Lofa farmers in Siannoyea District highlighted the crucial role of government intervention in

boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. He stated, "We, as local farmers, are ready and willing to contribute to the agricultural development of our country."

"However, without proper training and access to modern farming equipment, our efforts are limited. We urge the government to invest in us, and we will deliver remarkable results."

Another farmer, Mrs. Korto R. Jorkeh echoed Mr. Kollie's sentiments, emphasizing the need for sustainable support from the government. She said Agriculture is the backbone of any nation and as farmers, they are the ones working on the land to feed the nation.

"By providing us with training and necessary farming equipment, the government can empower us to boost food production and improve food security for all Liberians."

The farmers emphasized that by investing in agriculture and supporting local farmers, the government can not only enhance food production but also create employment opportunities, alleviate poverty, and stimulate economic growth in rural communities across Bong County and beyond.

As stakeholders continue to advocate for increased investments in agriculture, the collective efforts of the government and local farmers are crucial in realizing the vision of a food-secure and prosperous Liberia.



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Agriculture, Research Nominees Lack Qualifications

By Judoemue M. Kollie

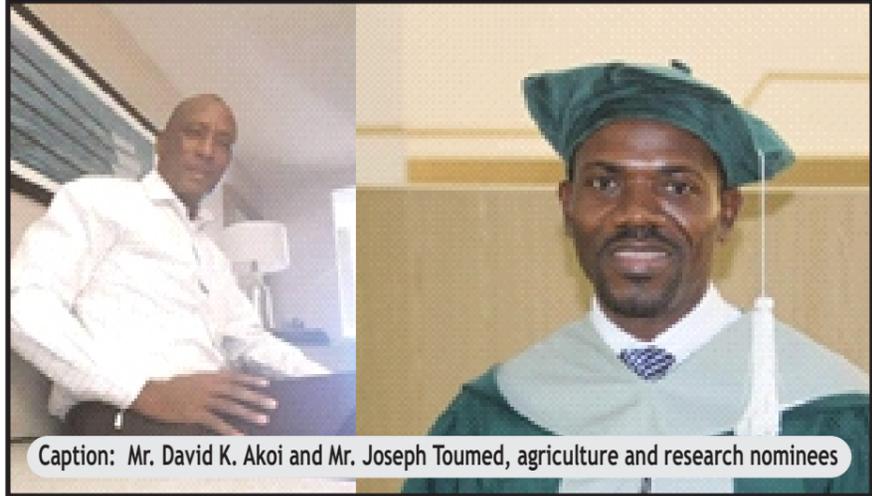
On Tuesday, January 20, 2024, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai nominated additional officials to positions in government affecting several ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Agriculture Research Institute.

Those nominated by the Liberian leader for the MoA and CARI include, David K. Akoi Deputy Minister for Planning and Development, Antionette F. Dukuly, Minister of Administration, Moses R. Gbanyan, Deputy Minister for Regional Development Research and Extension, and Solomon C. Hedd-Williams, Deputy Minister for Technical Services. Others are Edward B. Perry, Assistant Minister for Extension, Folton Blasin, Assistant Minister for Administration, Zogbo Luther,

agriculture at the University of Liberia.

If confirmed, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Development will have the responsibility to provide policy advice to the minister on agricultural economic issues and engage in strategic planning and sector coordination in order to promote and stimulate development in agriculture. Additionally, he will also be responsible for coordinating the activities of planning of the various divisions and projects of the Ministry of Agriculture.

As regards the Deputy Director position at CARI, the administrative structure of the research institute calls for a deputy director for research. If the nominee is confirmed he will definitely work with the Director General to conduct, monitor scientific research for agricultural development. The Act that establishes the Research Institute



Caption: Mr. David K. Akoi and Mr. Joseph Toumed, agriculture and research nominees

Assistant Minister for Technical Services and Francis F.B. Mulbah, Assistant Minister for Planning and Policy. Lastly, Joseph Toumed, Deputy Director for the Central Agriculture Research Institute all pending confirmation by the Senate.

However, research conducted by this reporter shows that two of the nominees, including, David K. Akoi and Joseph Toumed do not have the requisite qualifications and track records of experience in working with the ministry of agriculture and the research institute.

The nominee for the position of Deputy Minister for Planning and Development has an experience as Director of Internal Audit at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) with a demonstrated experience of working as an accountant and other related financial qualifications. While, the Deputy Director nominee for CARI information shows that he is serving or has served as Assistant Economist of Finance and Planning and Economic Development. However, information on his Facebook page indicates that he works or has worked in the area of

mandates that the Director General for CARI must be one with a PHD in agriculture and research.

But it is observed that since the act came into being some directors have served without the requisite qualifications.

Stakeholders of the agricultural sector have been giving descending views about the qualifications and experience of the nominees in question.

Some believe that perhaps in the wisdom of the president the nominees' financial backgrounds are intended to ensure prudent financial management at the both institutions when confirmed.

The chairman of the ECOWAS Non States Actors Coalition H. Augustus Roberts said that though the nominees assignment technically is implied, maybe it is necessary for the basis of good financial management.

"The Deputy Minister for Planning and Development will need to closely monitor financial transactions for donor projects at the Ministry. Maybe it is the reason why the President made the appointment," he said. However, Roberts said that there was a need for key officials of the ministry to have thorough understanding about agricultural policies and programs.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WoFAL Supports 500 Smallholder Farmers for Cooperative Farming

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Before the civil war Liberia had stronger agricultural cooperatives to boost production and marketing, but currently many vibrant cooperatives ceased to exist

send their children to schools and feed their families. Many Muslims reside in Zaway and Gohn and most of them are married to more than one wives. The polygamous and cultural lives of the people is giving rise to the birth of more

little yield. But by coming together this year, we expect to grow more food for the communities," he said.

According to him, with the help of WoFAL, they have cultivated more than 100 acres of land and are expected to grow rice on it this year. Varney explained that the organization supported them with food and



WoFAL's CEO Engages communities on cooperatives farming

causing difficulties for farmers to access resources. For instance, approximately 500 smallholder farmers majority of whom are women in Zaway and Gohn farming communities located in Garwula District, Grand Cape Mount County food security is said to be affected. The farmers have attributed the food insecurity situation facing them partly to their inability to work as cooperatives. They grow rice and other food crops, but are unable to produce enough to

children and many of the children are not in schools. Poverty is becoming a serious problem within communities.

Varney S. Kiazolu, age 51, who is a town chief of Zaway said that making a farm is a very struggling experience, but they are now motivated due to the incoming rice project at head.

"We embraced the idea of farming as a cooperative. This is something we have not been able to do. Most times we work as individuals and realise very

tools to brush the farm.

Kiazolu said that educating his children remains a serious challenge.

"I have so many children who can't be in school due to the lack of finance. We want the Ministry of Agriculture to work with WoFAL to assist us. We want the government to do more for us," he said.

Hawa Kawai, a woman farmer, said that women's food security and nutrition can be strengthened through cooperative farming.

In PUL Dispute – Trial Judge Dismisses Motion as Team Kanubah Wins Again

The Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court in Bong County has denied and dismissed a motion to strike filed by the lawyer representing the former administration of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL).

Judge J. Boima Kontoe made the decision on Friday, 16 February 2024 during a hearing into the motion to strike which was filed on 23 December 2022. The lawyer of the PUL former administration had filed the motion, challenging the 12 December 2022 Amended Petition filed by the legal team of the National Campaign Management Team of Julius Kanubah and Beatrice Sieh for the PUL leadership.

The PUL ex-administration's lawyer had questioned the legality of the legal team of Kanubah-Sieh to withdraw and amend their original Petition for Declaratory Judgment, thereby asking the Judge to quash the entire suit because it was withdrawn and prematurely amended.

But in a resistance motion, lawyers of the campaign team

of Kanubah-Sieh justified the legality of the Amended Petition, citing relevant civil and electoral procedure laws.

Judge Boima Kontoe therefore granted the request of the lawyers of the campaign team of Kanubah-Sieh for the motion to strike to be denied and dismissed because it was an unnecessary legal technicality.

The denial and dismissal of the motion to strike is yet another legal victory for Team Kanubah-Sieh because by quashing the motion, the Judge can now hear and adjudicate the petition for declaratory judgment bordering on fraud underpinned by violations of the PUL Constitution by the former leadership. Meanwhile, Judge Kontoe has cited the legal counsels and parties to the PUL 2022 Congress dispute for a Pre-Trial Conference on 26 February 2024, intended to see if both parties have reached a settlement on resolving the dispute outside of court, if not, present witnesses and

evidence to commence the trial.

Before the pre-trial conference, Judge Kontoe has ordered counsels of the parties to the PUL dispute to confer with each other and reach a possible settlement, if not, the case will proceed in keeping with law as mandated by the Supreme Court, where Team Kanubah-Sieh secured a major legal victory in a landmark ruling of 19 December 2023.

In this regard, Team Kanubah-Sieh is working with its legal counsel on the pathway forward as it has and will continue to brief media and civil society stakeholders who have been mediating to find a solution.



"Let us forge a Stronger Partnership to create one Development Basket"

-Minister Boima S. Kamara

Monrovia, Liberia- February 22, 2023: Finance Minister Boima S. Kamara has provided a candid assessment of Liberia's economic landscape, emphasizing the urgent need for strengthened partnerships including international collaboration to address the challenges ahead.

Mr. Kamara commenting on the current economic challenges, gave a picture of the complex fiscal hurdles the nation's faces under the ARREST Agenda of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

The finance minister spoke on Thursday, February 22, 2024, when the UN Resident Coordinator paid a courtesy visit at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

order to rebrand and drive a moving and vibrant economy."

The UN Resident Coordinator offered a responsive ear to the challenges laid out by Minister Kamara, reaffirming the United Nations' commitment to assisting Liberia.

"The UN stands ready to work closely with the government of Liberia to support its efforts in economic recovery, sustainable development, Resident Coordinator Ms. Christine N. Umutoni said.

Ms. Umutoni assured Minister Kamara of the collective UN's continued commitment, partnership, and support to the Government of Liberia to build back better, transforming lives of Liberians.

The UN Resident Coordinator expressed the need for coordination at both Government, UN,



With post-pandemic recovery slow to take hold, combined with global economic uncertainties, Liberia's challenges are complex, including inflationary pressures and a need for increased foreign investment.

"While we acknowledge the strides made in peace and democratic governance, it's imperative to recognize that our economy is at a critical juncture," Minister Kamara stated.

Minister Kamara used the visit to underline the importance of enhanced cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies, explaining that such support is paramount for Liberia to achieve its economic and development goals.

He explained "As we strive to strengthen the current challenges faced, we need a stronger partnership across all sectors of the United Nations in

Development Partner leadership and technical levels through "agreed upon" coordination mechanisms including the Joint Steering Committee, Sectoral coordination for positive results.

She acknowledged the government of Liberia request for support in implementing the 100-Days Deliverables and developing the 1 year and national development plan (including the sub-national plan) within six months.

Moreover, Ms. Umutoni revealed that the UN office is aware of the government of Liberia engagement with ECA and the UN Regional Support teams, adding that the ECA and the UN Regional Support teams stand ready to provide a multidisciplinary team, complemented by in-country UN technical expertise to support the processes, but such support will be based on the Liberian government request for support.

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Français

L'agence anti-drogue libérienne arrête 9 Nigériens et 2 Libériens soupçonnés de trafic de drogue

L'Agence libérienne de lutte contre les drogues (LDEA) a arrêté neuf ressortissants nigériens résidant au Liberia et deux Libériens suspectés de diriger un cartel de

avancée significative dans la lutte du pays contre les drogues illicites, dans un contexte où une part croissante de jeunes s'adonne à la consommation de drogue.

Parmi les personnes arrêtées

pièces détachées automobiles, et M. Sunday Odeh. Les autres sont Peter Momat, Edwin Ozioko, Brigston Harris, Iglwe David, Ndubuis Okoronkwo, China Ekwe et Efam Jamo.

Peu après l'arrestation, le directeur de la LDEA, le colonel Abraham Kromah, a déclaré aux



drogue à Sayon Town, sur l'île Bushrod.

Le nouveau directeur de la LDEA, le colonel Abraham Kromah, a personnellement dirigé l'opération en fin d'après-midi le mercredi 21 février 2024, sous les acclamations des habitants.

Pour les Libériens, cette arrestation constitue une

figurent deux femmes libériennes : Hawa Tamba, âgée de 28 ans, et Shelly Sheaton, âgée de 17 ans. Elles sont soupçonnées d'avoir facilité le trafic de drogue dans la communauté.

Les suspects nigériens interrogés sont George Ikpehehukwu, alias "Original Japan", qui serait un vendeur de

journalistes que les trafiquants présumés, dont le célèbre George Ikpehehukwu, alias "Original Japan", avaient été identifiés par les agents de la LDEA à la suite d'un renseignement transmis par un informateur anonyme.

Le colonel Kromah a précisé que les suspects avaient été arrêtés lors d'opérations coup de

Drame : 5 morts dans un incendie causé par une bougie à Paynesville

At moins cinq personnes, dont trois femmes et deux hommes, sont décédées dans un incendie survenu à Paynesville, détruisant des biens dont la valeur est estimée à plusieurs milliers de dollars américains. Cette tragédie a plongé les habitants dans un état de choc, de tristesse et de douleur profonde.

Les victimes, dont Alexander Johnson, un

étudiant de quatre ans, Eleazar P. Zamerzar, âgé de 16 ans, Jennifer Johnson, 37 ans, Pauline Myers, 26 ans, et Cecelia Fallah, 11 ans, ont toutes été brûlées méconnaissables dans l'incendie. Selon les informations recueillies, les victimes étaient toutes endormies lorsque le feu s'est déclaré, probablement déclenché par une bougie allumée dans une pièce d'une maison de la communauté de Cow Field à Paynesville.

Sur les lieux du drame, Robert

Bestman, maire désigné de la ville de Paynesville, a exprimé son choc et présenté ses condoléances aux familles endeuillées et à toute la communauté. Il a qualifié la situation de perte irréparable, non seulement pour la ville de Paynesville, mais pour l'ensemble du Libéria, et a promis que la municipalité travaillerait aux côtés des familles endeuillées pour assurer un enterrement digne aux victimes et apporter une assistance aux survivants de

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The burnt building with bystanders

Éditorial

Un sale coup de relations publiques

La présidence à Monrovia a peiné à fournir des preuves photographiques ou vidéo de la rencontre du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai avec son homologue ghanéen Nana Akufo-Addo ou son vice-président Mahamudu Bawumia lors de sa récente visite en République du Ghana, comme elle l'a affirmé.

La semaine dernière, la présidence a annoncé dans un communiqué de presse que le président Boakai quittait le pays le mardi 13 février 2024 pour une visite de deux jours afin de rencontrer et de consulter le président Nana Akufo-Addo sur des questions d'intérêt mutuel pour les deux pays et la sous-région.

Or, au moment même où le président libérien arrivait à Accra, au Ghana, le président Akufo-Addo quittait le pays pour un voyage officiel à l'étranger. Il s'est avéré ensuite que le président Boakai n'avait pas non plus rencontré le vice-président ghanéen.

La question à 50 millions de dollars que se posent les Libériens et à laquelle les autorités n'ont pas pu répondre clairement est donc celle-ci : qui le président libérien a-t-il rencontré au Ghana ?

Dans une tentative infructueuse de fournir des explications, alors que les spéculations s'amplifiaient à Monrovia, le porte-parole de la présidence, Kula Fofana, a déclaré au NEW DAWN le jeudi 15 février que les choses pouvaient changer dans l'espace présidentiel.

La présidence avait annoncé dans un communiqué publié le mercredi 14 février : "Son Excellence Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., président de la République du Libéria, est rentré chez lui après une brève visite de travail fructueuse en République du Ghana. Au cours de son séjour, il s'est entretenu avec des membres du gouvernement ghanéen.

Lors de sa rencontre avec l'équipe ghanéenne, le président a exprimé sa gratitude pour le soutien reçu avant et pendant son investiture, ainsi que pour la visite du dirigeant ghanéen, le président Nana Akufo-Addo.

Pour sa part, le vice-président du Ghana, l'Honorable Mahamudu Bawumia, s'est réjoui de la visite et a assuré le dirigeant libérien de leur soutien continu et de leur engagement envers le Libéria".

Cependant, une enquête indépendante du NEW DAWN, qui n'a pas été contestée, a révélé que le président Boakai avait été transporté de Monrovia au centre médical de l'université du Ghana le mardi matin de la semaine dernière pour y être soigné, un endroit qu'il fréquentait régulièrement même avant de devenir président du Libéria.

En premier lieu, il n'était absolument pas nécessaire que la présidence induise le public libérien en erreur sur le véritable but du voyage du président au Ghana, ce qui a créé un sérieux embarras pour le pays. M. Boakai est désormais président de la République du Libéria et les Libériens ont le droit de savoir ou d'être clairement informés de ses déplacements et de ses contacts, au lieu de nourrir le public avec des informations totalement différentes de la réalité, comme cela s'est récemment produit.

Français

Starts from page 8

L'agence anti-drogue

poing visant à endiguer la prolifération de substances narcotiques. Il a ajouté que ces actions s'inscrivaient dans le cadre de la mission de la LDEA visant à soutenir les efforts du gouvernement dans la lutte contre le trafic de drogue et la traque des trafiquants.

Selon le colonel Kromah, le cartel présumé fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête de la police nationale libérienne (LNP). Les suspects auraient été trouvés en possession d'une quantité importante de cocaïne, d'héroïne et de tramadol, entre autres substances narcotiques, d'une valeur estimée à environ cinq millions de dollars libériens.

Parallèlement, le directeur de la LDEA a appelé le gouvernement libérien à augmenter le soutien budgétaire à l'agence afin de renforcer ses opérations.

"Nous ne relâcherons pas nos efforts dans cette lutte contre la drogue car cette situation affecte de nombreuses personnes, en particulier nos

jeunes", a déclaré le colonel Kromah.

"Les habitants de Sayon Town vivaient dans la peur de la criminalité, car les consommateurs de drogue, sous l'effet de la drogue, agressaient des innocents et leur volaient leurs biens. C'est une guerre que nous devons mener ensemble", a-t-il poursuivi.

"C'est notre première opération, et nous allons continuer encore plus en renforçant les équipes d'agents à travers le pays. Je vais m'assurer que les personnes arrêtées aujourd'hui soient poursuivies en justice conformément à la loi de ce pays", a-t-il ajouté.

Les habitants de Sayon Town ont salué l'opération menée par la LDEA, qui, selon eux, apportera un soulagement à leur communauté.

Cependant, le principal suspect accusé d'être à la tête du cartel, George Ikpehekwa, a nié toute implication dans le trafic de drogue. Il a affirmé ne rien savoir du commerce illicite de drogue dans la communauté.

Pour l'Europe et le monde, il faut que l'Ukraine l'emporte

Par Dmytro Kuleba et Josep Borrell

KYIV - Le 24 février 2022, le jour où la Russie a fait entrer des centaines de milliers de soldats en Ukraine, a marqué le début d'un séisme géopolitique majeur. Depuis deux ans, l'Europe connaît la sinistre réalité de la plus grande guerre d'agression qu'ait connue le continent depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, accompagnée d'atrocités horribles et généralisées.

Ce que fait la Russie est un exemple classique d'agression impériale et coloniale dans le style du XIXe siècle. L'Ukraine subit ce dont de nombreux autres pays ont cruellement souffert par le passé. Pour la Russie, cette guerre n'a jamais eu pour objet la neutralité de l'Ukraine, l'élargissement de l'OTAN, la protection des russophones ou tout autre prétexte inventé.

Le président russe Vladimir Poutine a affirmé à plusieurs reprises que l'Ukraine n'existait pas en tant que nation et que l'identité ukrainienne était artificielle. La guerre vise simplement à anéantir un pays indépendant, à conquérir des terres et à rétablir une domination sur un peuple qui a décidé d'être maître de son destin. L'ambition impériale de la Russie est probablement familière à de nombreuses nations dans le monde, soumises dans le passé à l'oppression d'un régime colonial.

Les conséquences de l'agression russe contre l'Ukraine ont été ressenties bien au-delà de l'Europe. Cette guerre a affecté la sécurité alimentaire et les prix de l'énergie, et s'est accompagnée de campagnes massives de désinformation et de déstabilisation politique. Ces ondes de choc ont été véritablement mondiales. Poutine inaugure un monde de plus en plus transactionnel. Il a déployé le groupe Wagner en Afrique, déstabilisé d'autres pays par des coups d'État et exercé une coercition économique en utilisant l'arme de la faim - offrant des céréales qu'il avait lui-même rendues rares en brûlant systématiquement les champs en Ukraine, en ciblant les infrastructures de stockage et en bloquant les voies d'exportation maritimes.

La guerre et ses conséquences concernent donc tous les pays. Si la Russie l'emportait, cela enverrait le message très dangereux que "la force fait le droit". Toutes les puissances agressives du monde seraient tentées de suivre le chemin tracé par la Russie. Si l'agression finit par payer, pourquoi tous ceux qui ont des revendications territoriales à l'encontre de leurs voisins n'agiraient-ils pas en conséquence ? C'est pourquoi il est dans l'intérêt de nombreux pays d'Asie, d'Afrique et d'Amérique latine que l'Ukraine l'emporte.

Cette guerre n'est pas celle de "l'Occident contre les autres". Soutenir l'Ukraine n'est pas être "pro-occidental". Il s'agit de rejeter la guerre et la terreur. Il s'agit de défendre des relations internationales fondées sur le respect mutuel et de soutenir le droit des Ukrainiens à la sécurité et à la liberté. L'Ukraine et l'Union européenne partagent une vision des relations internationales au XXIe

siècle qui est exactement opposée à celle de la Russie de Poutine. Notre vision est fondée sur le droit international, le respect et le bénéfice mutuel, plutôt que sur la coercition, la corruption et la peur.

Personne n'a plus intérêt que nous à mettre fin rapidement à cette guerre et à ramener la paix sur notre continent. Pour y parvenir, l'Ukraine a proposé une formule de paix en dix points - que l'UE soutient pleinement. Celle-ci ne propose pas seulement la fin des hostilités, mais elle comprend également des dispositions visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, la sûreté nucléaire, la protection de l'environnement, la sécurité énergétique, la justice internationale, les droits de l'homme et le respect de la Charte des Nations unies.

Cette formule est la seule proposition sérieuse sur la table, et nous appelons tous les pays engagés pour la paix à se joindre à nous pour la mettre en œuvre. L'Ukraine organise actuellement un sommet mondial pour la paix en Suisse, et l'UE soutient activement ce processus. Des dirigeants du monde entier s'efforceront de parvenir à un accord sur une vision commune d'une paix juste en Ukraine, fondée sur la Charte des Nations unies. La Russie se verra alors présenter cette position consolidée représentant la majorité mondiale, ce qui ne lui laissera pas d'autre choix que de s'engager de bonne foi.

Alors que la guerre entre dans sa troisième année, notre message est un message de résilience face à l'agression et à la terreur. Nous ne pouvons pas permettre et nous ne permettrons pas que l'agression soit récompensée au XXIe siècle ; au contraire, nous nous mobiliserons contre elle. La seule façon de parvenir à une paix juste est de redoubler le soutien à l'Ukraine. C'est ce qu'a fait l'UE ces derniers mois, et elle va encore accroître son aide en 2024.

Notre objectif commun est de faire en sorte que l'Ukraine puisse renverser le cours de la guerre en sa faveur afin de parvenir à une paix juste le plus rapidement possible. Le soutien du monde est essentiel pour parvenir à ce résultat. Il est dans l'intérêt de tous que le droit international soit respecté et que la coopération internationale soit la priorité absolue. Il ne doit pas y avoir de retour au sombre passé de l'agression militaire, de l'impérialisme et du colonialisme. Ni en Europe, ni dans aucune autre région du monde.

Dmytro Kuleba est ministre des affaires étrangères de l'Ukraine. Josep Borrell est haut représentant de l'Union européenne pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne.

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Starts from page 8 Drame : 5 morts dans un

incendie. Également présent sur les lieux, Michael Thomas, représentant du district #4 du comté de Montserrado, a déclaré sa tristesse face à l'incident et s'est engagé à venir en aide aux survivants. Il a indiqué qu'il travaillerait avec ses collègues de la 55e législature pour s'assurer que la ville de Paynesville reçoive du matériel logistique, notamment des camions de pompiers, afin de contribuer à la réduction des incendies dans la ville.

Rappelons que le Service national d'incendie du Libéria

(LNFS) a récemment lancé un appel au parlement pour qu'il envisage d'allouer des fonds dans le budget national 2024 pour l'achat d'un camion de pompiers pour Paynesville et éventuellement d'autres véhicules pour d'autres villes, dans le but de renforcer les mesures de sécurité incendie afin de protéger les vies, les biens et les ressources naturelles. La ville de Paynesville a connu une augmentation du nombre d'incendies ces derniers temps, entraînant des pertes de vies humaines et de biens matériels.

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COMMENTARY

By: Austin S. Fallah

House demands clarity on Boakai's travel

Starts from back page

country allegedly on a private jet. He said it is good that they get clarity on his travel.

In Rep. Kolubah's communication, he said over the past time, Liberians have cried on the issue of corruption (lack of Accountability and Transparency).

Kolubah said these are among the issues that led to the failure of the Weah-led Government, especially the failure of its re-election.

He said when samples of these things start to come out, it is their responsibility to set checkpoints so that they cannot go out of hand before trying to arrest the situation.

It can be recalled that the President of Liberia wrote that August body informing lawmakers about his two-day working visit to Ghana. At that same time, Liberian Vice President Jeremiah

Koung had also gone to Nigeria and Casablanca on working visits.

Kolubah said he believes such trips require the government's sponsorship, and if it is not the government-sponsored trips, they need to know as the people's deputies.

Besides, he said it became a concern when it was stated that the Vice President traveled on a private jet plane. "Considering that we don't want to do business as usual, we crave the indulgence of this August Body to invite the Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs to appear before the plenary of the House to provide detailed information on the travel cost of the various travels by the President and Vice President as stated above," said Kolubah.

Protest at NaFFA

Starts from page 11

opportunities to advance themselves for the future growth of the Authority.

Another fisheries observer, Matthew W. Tokpah, laments that go on sea to work without insurance benefits.

Mr. Tokpah explains that their Daily Sustenance Allowance (DSA) as Fisheries Observers is US\$30 but they received only \$10.

He adds on the international vessels, the DSA was supposed to be US\$50, but administration provided US\$15, and that D.G. Glassco has allegedly refused to bring in more vessels for effective observation.

According to him, Madam Glassco receives US\$100k every year from GuoJI Dalian Frozen Food, so that no other company can come in the country to engage in similar business.

Tokpah further alleges that the Director General uses the entity's payroll to impress foreign donors and the public that employees are well taken care of, but in reality, there is unfair treatment from the

administration.

He calls for an audit of Madam Glassco, who he claims has bought a house in California for US\$550k through her Aunt Lurina Coleman.

At the same time, the Chief Driver for the NaFFA Boss, Blamah Sambullah, who was dismissed recently, says the main reason behind his dismissal was that he refused to vote for the defeated Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and had nothing to do with disorderly conduct.

Mr. Sambullah, explains that he was dismissed on December 12, 2023, without salary after his boss, Madam Emma Glassco, said she does not have a UP supporter as her driver. Attempt by the NEW DAWN to get clarification from the NaFFA administration was unsuccessful, as the entity's Head of Communication Lewis Konoe, says administration will respond via an official press release. Editing by Jonathan Browne

EFFL leader rejects job from Boakai

Starts from page 5

government and vows to continue advocating for the interests of the EFFL and the Liberian people.

"In order to maintain harmony within our party, I made the tough decision to reschedule my appointment. The core of leadership is selflessness, not self-interest", he underscores. At the same time, Gonqua reaffirms his commitment to the EFFL's values and the betterment of Liberia, adding "I value our party above all others, and I do not prioritize the President's relationship with me as a son and father. He is

truly a leader whose only interest is to see a better Liberia."

President Boakai has been forming his government with the nomination of individuals to the cabinet and public corporations, but the exercise has been greeted with outcry from alliance political parties and from within the ruling UP about stalwarts, who campaigned in trenches and villages being left out.

A group of aggrieved ruling UP partisans recently protested at the residence of President Boakai in Rehab community, Paynesville in demand of jobs. Editing by Jonathan Browne

The Unfinished Fight: Realizing Liberia's Progressive Revolutionaries' Dreams

As time ebbs away, the Progressist Revolutionaries' dreams of the 1970s, meticulously woven into the fabric of Liberian ideology, are awaiting full realization.

Like many nations including developed ones, we as Liberians are proud of our Brave Progressive Revolutionaries who in the 1970s risked their youths and lives to champion the causes of social and economic justice, vociferously advocating for the freedom to sculpt individual futures in a corruption-free Liberia.

They sought to establish a Liberia where the press became an unshackled oracle of truth, where women would control their destiny, and where children could access quality education.

Most importantly, they strove to create a nation that respected and protected the human and constitutional rights of all its citizens, and by extension, humanity at large.

It is time for Liberians now to dwell in this compelling blueprint that reverberated powerfully through the revolution.

Today, more than ever, the realignment of these ideals forms the warp and weft of the sociopolitical survival of Liberia.

The winds of change, having borne the responsibility of elevating President Boakai and Vice President Koung to the leadership helm, now command their utmost dedication to transforming these dreams into an achievable reality.

It can no longer be a quixotic venture but a mandatory fulfillment that pushes the Liberian populace towards an elevated livelihood.

Without question, the fight is far from over. Our beloved Liberia still grapples with the monstrous tentacles of abject poverty, mercilessly constricting the lives of countless citizens amidst an ocean of national resources yet untapped.

Liberate the people of Liberia from these proverbial dungeons and gutters, affirming the valuable freedom they deserve.

It is high time these shadows of disenfranchisement and neglect receded and the dawn of prosperity emerged on Liberia's horizon.

Corruption, that historical poison, needs no place in this new Liberia.

It has consistently gnarled and twisted the growth of our nation, burrowing its pestilential roots deep within our structures. Any discourse on economic empowerment inevitably calls for the confrontation and extermination of this vile vitiator.

Now, more than ever, Liberia needs leaders who are not only averse but openly defiant to it.

A crucial facet of the myriad causes the revolutionaries fought for was the autonomy and empowerment of women. The path has been ruthless, the headwinds, relentless.

Still, the Progressives Revolutionary message echoed then rings true now, if not more, given our more enlightened hindsight, that women must be given the reins to lead, to make decisions, to shape policies, to alter their and the nation's destiny.

Alongside women's rights, the revolutionaries shed light on the significance of children's access to quality education.

The future of Liberia lies nestled in the minds of its young, ready to be ignited by the illuminating flame of knowledge.

A society devoid of educated minds soon stagnates and succumbs to the abyss of ignorance.

An educated Liberia is thus an essential pledge the nation's leadership must actualize.

Another cornerstone was the granting of a free press.

May Liberia always esteem the media's essential role, that of an unbiased, unfiltered portal of truth, unafraid to hold power to account. Safeguard this fortress of transparency from the corrosive actions of manipulative authority.

The dreams of those Revolutionary Progressives were not mere wishes but potential realities, painstakingly knitted into the complex tapestry of Liberia's national philosophy.

Today, these principles are specific coordinates on the development map.

Each stride towards their fulfillment brings us closer to the dream of Liberia - the land the revolutionaries spent their lives fighting for.

The baton has now been passed to President Boakai and Vice President Koung.

The onus lies with them to steer Liberia's ship in the right direction - towards a corruption-free society that values human rights, press freedom, gender equality, education for all, and economic justice.

Let us remember that the fight for fruition is the creed the revolutionaries handed down.

Let Liberians of today live the dream that the Brave Revolutionary Progressives fought for in the past. Now is the time to recommit to these ideals and let them shape the narrative of our destiny. It is not an option; it is a dictum that has been handed to us from a bygone, yet not forgotten, era.

The Liberation of Liberia awaits its fulfillment. Embark on this mandate with fervor and determination.

Our future a vibrant, democratic, and inclusive Liberia - depends on it.

Let Liberia arise and turn the page toward an empowered future where justice, peace, and prosperity reign supreme.

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Boakai marks first one month in office

By Lincoln G. Peters

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai on Thursday, 22 February 2024 completed his



Pres. Boakai

first month in office following his inauguration on 22 January this year, but no sign of his 100-day promises yet.

Questions as to whether he will meet his deliverables having gone one month before commissioning his cabinet and other officials of his administration on Thursday, February 22, remains to be seen.

President Boakai slowly formed his cabinet weeks after he was inaugurated and there is hope that with their commissioning, he could begin to work on his 100-day promises but whether he will fulfill them is another argument for another day.

The commissioned officers are part of a set up of a team he relies on to achieve the hundred-day deliverables that he promised the Liberian people. The 26th Liberian President democratically succeeded former President George Manneh Weah following the 14 November 2023 Presidential runoff election.

Boakai and his government have been criticized for how slow they have been in forming the government since the Unity Party (UP) was declared winner of the election last year. Others believe that this level of delay could affect the

achievement of the hundred days deliverables.

The Executive Summary of the hundred-day deliverables states the government's plan to safely prepare the pathway to rescue the country. It seeks to put the country back on a trajectory that will build a stronger, more robust, responsive economy driven by accountability as its hallmark.

It further seeks to provide opportunities and prosperity for all Liberians regardless of political and religious affiliations.

Copy of the UP-led government's Hundred Days deliverable plan is in the possession of this paper.

The document discloses that the goal of the 100-Day Plan is to demonstrate short-term progress that will lead to a one-year plan, a National Development Agenda underpinning the President's vision articulated in the "ARREST" agenda and building momentum for an integrated, transparent, and transformative nationwide agenda. One of the key targets in the first 100 days of the new administration is the fight against corruption. The document suggests that the nation's first action to rebuild the economy and reduce the cost of living is the fight against corruption.

"In this light, the following needs to be done to realize this objective, commission comprehensive audit of all MACs. Conduct Forensic Audit

across the government beginning with MFDP and CBL and Introduce Fiscal Rules and Travel Ordinances," it said.

The government seeks to commission audit of budget allocations and implementation, review income and expenditure across all ministries, agencies, and commissions (MACs), and ensure effective strengthening of anti-corruption institutions.

The government further seeks to review human resource personnel hiring processes across all MACs.

President Boakai's hundred days deliverables also seek to address Payroll of Civil Servant, Salary disparities, Overstaffing, Salaries Arrears, and Transfer the existing payroll management system (i.e., Alternative Temporary Automated

Payroll System- ATAPS) to the Civil Service Module (CSM).

The Unity Party government plan also aims to retrieve all government assets from former government officials and unauthorized users.

Importantly on roads, the government's hundred-day deliverables seek to ensure that all primary corridors remain pliable during all weather along with all drainage systems being kept clean during all weather and the revision of contract performance, and assessment of corridor.

It aims to develop output Performance Base Contract (OPRC); identify funding sources and secure Single Source Contract (PPCC), for the deployment of contractors.

Protest at NaFAA

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Employees of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) on Bushrod Island adjacent to the Freeport of Monrovia have protested against the administration there, demanding the dismissal of Director General, Madam Emma Metieh Glassco, for alleged malpractices.

They accused the Glassco-led administration of

one of aggrieved employees, Patrick T. Wisseh, narrated that salary is as low as US\$300 without transportation and feeding.

Mr. Wisseh says he is a professional who is trained to collect scientific data and monitor vessels that are fishing in Liberian waters.

He says NaFAA is a quality institution but when scholarships are available to enable them pursue further studies abroad, they are denied, adding that they have written

both the House of Representatives



systemic malpractices that have denied them available opportunities to pursue studies abroad.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN on Thursday, February 22nd,

and the Senate, highlighting such treatment by Glassco administration.

According to him, their immediate bosses are dancing to the tone of the

administration in denying them

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

RED CROSS' ADVERTISEMENT

1.0 FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF M&E ASSISTANT:

The Liberia National Red Cross Society is seeking applications for the position of **M&E ASSISTANT**. The M&E Assistant when recruited will report directly to the PMER Officer. The M & E Assistant will work closely with the PMER Unit and programs teams to ensure the efficient and effective planning, monitoring, and reporting of the **LNRCs / SRC** interventions. The M & E Assistant is responsible for supporting the training of staff and volunteers at both field levels in reporting. He/she will also be responsible for data quality presentation and analysis in the project life-cycle.

The M & E Assistant will work closely with LNRCs counterparts to strengthen the capacity of Field staff of the National Society through on-the-job training. The M & E Assistant in collaboration with the PMER Officer, will provide support in organizing, analyzing and consolidating progress reports and in carrying out assessments and evaluations that are intended to improve and promote the works of the LNRCs.

Associate degree or equivalences in Social Sciences, Health Sciences, data management with research experience and proficiency or diploma/technical qualification in data management and analysis especially in the use and experience of SPSS, STATA or other research and or data analytical tools can qualify any applicant for the position. Please read on the Liberia HR Job website or visit www.lnrcs.org.lr for details on the advertisement. Interested candidates can submit applications, CV and other relevant documents to lnrcs.recruitment2016@liberian-redcross.org with the subject: **M&E ASSISTANT**. The deadline for the submission of application is February 27, 2024.

2.0 RECRUITMENT OF SALES AGENT:

The Liberia National Red Cross Society is seeking applications for the position of **SALES AGENT**. The Sales Agent is responsible for securing first aid trainings, sales of products from new and existing customers to meet monthly sales targets. This includes identifying potential customers, meeting customers, and negotiating sales commitments. The Sales Agent will work closely with the Workplace First Aid Business Manager to create and implement promotional activities for the Workplace First Aid business and contribute to business growth plans.

The Sales Agent does not supervise staff or volunteers and has no budget responsibilities. The Sales Agent's line manager is the Workplace First Aid Business Manager. The Sales Agent will build effective working relationships with First Aid staff and volunteers, and with other departments, particularly the finance and communications departments and with chapters and branches of the national society.

Interested candidates must have a degree and experience with a proven track record of generating income from sales in a competitive price driven environment. Please read on the Liberia HR Job website or visit www.lnrcs.org.lr for details on the advertisement. Interested candidates can submit applications, CV and other relevant documents to lnrcs.recruitment2016@liberian-redcross.org with the subject: **SALES AGENT**. The deadline for the submission of application is February 27, 2024.



BRANCH OF LIBERIA



BEFORE HIS HONOR: QUOSMAN F. FEIKA, ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITIONER OF HAWA M. ZINNAH PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE CHANGED, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "MAIMA VINCENT"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME 00012251

The Petitioner filed a Petition requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from HAWA M. ZINNAH to "MAIMA VINCENT".

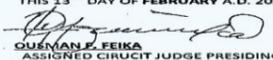
During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute.

After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of her name proposed by her is therefore it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on July 7, 1967 in Gbama, Gbarpolu County, Republic of Liberia, unto the union of MR. MOMO VINCENT AND MRS. ENYNA VINCENT and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly, and being satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the Petitioner having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name HAWA M. ZINNAH be changed to MAIMA VINCENT beginning this 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2024. THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2024



QUOSMAN F. FEIKA
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

COURT SEAL:

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 02-024 PAGE(S) 00012251

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House demands clarity on Boakai's travel

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has voted to invite the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning next

called on the august body to invite the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs to give clarity about the presidential travels.

It all started when Margibi County Electoral District #5

Both lawmakers had argued that the communication should not be open for discussion because as lawmakers, they do not have the right to question the President's travel.

Gleekia Fahnbulleh said they would be ready to vote if lawmakers could understand the importance of the President and the role he played.

Rep. Fahnbulleh said for a lawmaker to walk up in session and question the travel of the President is below the belt.

Fahnbulleh however provoked members of the opposition Congress for Democracy Change (CDC) and the matter into a heated exchange among lawmakers.

The tense debate leads the Presiding Officer, Deputy House Speaker Thomas P. Fallah to ask Nimba Rep. Gleekia to get outside of the Chambers.

For his part, Montserrado County Electoral District #9 Representative Saah Foko said for the last time, President Boakai informed the Liberian People that he had been living on loan and he did not have money.

Foko said in less than a month of his presidency, President Boakai was able to leave the



Speaker J. Fonati Koffa

Tuesday to update lawmakers about President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's travel.

The vote on Thursday, 22 February 2024 was triggered by controversial Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah's communication.

In his communication, Kolubah who supported Boakai's presidential bid,

Representative Clarence Garr made a motion for Kolubah's communication to be opened for discussion.

That motion didn't go down well with Nimba County Electoral District #6 Representative Dorwohn Gleekia and Representative Foday Fahnbulleh of Bong County Electoral District #7.

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