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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2024	L\$191.4365/US\$1.00	L\$193.2582/US\$1.00

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

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Protest on terror attacks



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Continental News

Ghana president delays decision on anti-gay bill

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has said he will not assent to an anti-gay bill until the Supreme Court rules on its

The proposed tough new legislation - The Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values bill - was backed by both of Ghana's main political parties.

described it as regressive.

President Akufo-Addo had previously said that he would sign it if the majority of Ghanaians wanted him to do so.

But he is now seeking to assure the diplomatic community that Ghana is committed to upholding human rights.

He acknowledged that the bill had "raised considerable anxieties in certain quarters of the diplomatic community and amongst some friends of Ghana" that the country may be "turning her back on her, hitherto, enviable, longstanding record on human rights observance and attachment to the rule of law".

"I want to assure you that no such back-sliding will be contemplated or occasioned," he added.

On Monday, the country's finance ministry said Ghana could lose a total of \$3.8bn (£3bn) in World Bank funding over the next five to six years. Ghana is suffering a major economic crisis and last year had a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is unlikely that the Supreme Court will rule on the case before presidential and parliamentary elections due in December.



President Akufo-Addo sought to assure the diplomatic community that Ghana was committed

constitutionality. Earlier, the finance ministry warned that billions of dollars in World Bank funding could be lost if it became law. Passed by MPs last week, it imposes a jail term of up to three years for identifying as LGBTQ+ and five years for promoting their activities. The Supreme Court challenger says there was no quorum when the bill was passed. Gay sex is already against the law in Ghana, and carries a three-year prison sentence.

But lawyer Richard Dela Sky, who has filed the application with the Supreme Court, says there were not enough MPs in the chamber when the vote took place. According to parliamentary rules, at least half of Ghana's 275 MPs must be in parliament and take part in the vote for a bill to be passed on to the president to sign into law. It has not been reported in the Ghanaian media how many MPs took part in the vote last Wednesday. The bill has been widely condemned by the UK and the US - and rights groups have

Parliamentary bid to lift ban on FGM in The Gambia

A bill aimed at lifting the ban on female genital mutilation (FGM) has been tabled in The Gambia's parliament by an independent lawmaker. It was outlawed in the mainly Muslim nation in 2015 when Yahya Jammeh was president.

He said it was not required in Islam. But influential Muslim clerics have been pushing for the ban to be repealed, while women's rights activists have vowed to campaign for it to remain in place. Mr Jammeh's 22-year authoritarian rule came to an end in 2016.

More than three-quarters of Gambian females aged between 15 and 49 have undergone FGM, according to the UN. What is FGM, where does it happen and why?

In the procedure's most severe form, after removing the sensitive clitoris, the genitals are cut and stitched closed so that the woman cannot have or enjoy sex. Followers of an outspoken Muslim cleric, Abdoulaye Fatty, rallied in support of the bill shortly before it was introduced in parliament on

Monday. They chanted: "Female circumcision is my religious belief, Gambia is not for sale." Last year, the cleric helped pay the fines of three women who were convicted of carrying out FGM on young girls. At the time, The Gambia Supreme Islamic Council, the main body of Muslim clerics in the country, called for the ban to be scrapped.

There are different views in Islam over the practice, with some leading scholars, like those in Egypt, opposing it.

The Gambian lawmaker who is championing the bill, Almammeh Gibba, said it sought to "uphold

religious purity and safeguard cultural norms and values", the privately owned Point newspaper reported.

He said the practice could not be described as mutilation if done properly. The head of The Gambia's Female Lawyers Association, Anna Njie, said that repealing the ban would be a backward step.

"We have no authority to tell the National Assembly what to do, but we have rights reserved in the constitution to take legal action when certain fundamental rights are violated."



Some of the risks of FGM include severe pain, infections, excessive bleeding and urine retention

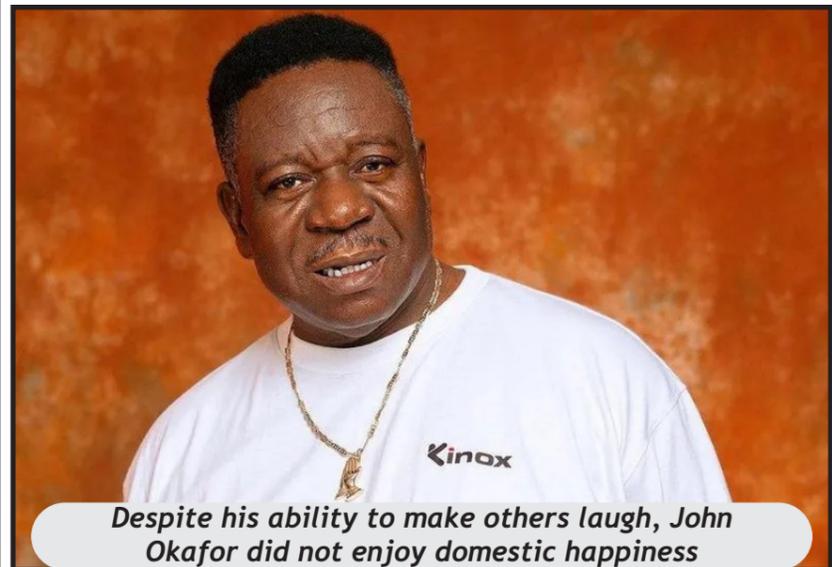
Mr Ibu - the man who made Africa laugh

Such was the comic genius of Nigerian actor John Okafor, popularly known as Mr Ibu, that he often didn't even need to open his mouth to make people laugh. "I was chosen to play a doctor in a film one time and when I came to the set dressed as one, even without saying anything, all the crew just burst out laughing," he recalled. His death at the age of 62 has left family, friends and fans of Nigeria's film industry Nollywood across Africa in mourning. He burst onto the scene in 2004 with the movie Mr Ibu, which tells the story of the eponymous single father and his son as they journey through life, getting into a series of tricky, and hilarious, predicaments. "His facial expressions and his body were his biggest selling points," film director Babangida Bangis told the BBC, contrasting him to most comic actors who use words to make people laugh.

"Mr Ibu was different as he doesn't even have to talk to

been known as Mr Ibu ever since. He will also be fondly remembered in northern Nigeria, as he was one of the few Nollywood actors to cross over into the film industry based in the northern city of Kano, known as Kannywood, which is generally looked down on by those from the south. His best known Kannywood film was the Hausa language comedy Hajiya Babba about two lost sons from southern Nigeria who traced their father in the north and began a new life with him. "He was one of those who helped bridge the gap and bring unity between Kannywood and Nollywood by going to the north to act," Bangis noted. Born on 17 October 1961, the actor hailed from the south-eastern Enugu state, which has produced a long list of Nollywood stars. Okafor didn't have an easy childhood, moving to another town early on in his life to live with his brother, and doing menial jobs to survive and support his family.

After trying his hands in professions from hair styling to



Despite his ability to make others laugh, John Okafor did not enjoy domestic happiness

elicit laughter, as his face just like Mr Bean [Rowan Atkinson] will do the trick," he said. Indeed, one of Mr Ibu's most iconic scenes and the one which introduced him to African audiences, was one in which he hardly said a word.

In the film Mr Ibu, he and his son were returning home from a farm where they worked and they had a single bicycle. At first, the father let his son ride the bicycle while he walked. But passers-by stopped them to ask why the son didn't show respect to his aged father by letting him ride. So they switched places.

Then another passer-by said the father was wicked for allowing his young son to walk while he was taking it easy.

So they both decided to walk. Then people called them senseless for walking while they had a bicycle.

The film was so successful that there have been four sequels and Okafor has simply

photography, he went to a film audition where he was spotted by legendary actor Pete Edochie who saw his talent and opened the doors of Nollywood to him. Since the announcement of his death, tributes have been pouring in. Popular Nigerian comedian Bovi described Mr Ibu as one of the greats. "The passing of John Okafor aka Mr. Ibu is a sad chapter in Nigerian entertainment history. Let's take solace in the fact that his works will live on and will inspire generations unborn. RIP to one of the greats" Bovi posted on X. Nigeria's Culture Minister Hannatu Musawa described him as a household name who had made families smile throughout his career. The actor's ill-health first came to public attention last year. One of his legs was amputated in November after fans donated to a crowd-funding scheme to pay his medical bills.

It is believed that the actor suffered from diabetes, but no cause of death has been announced by his family. BBC

EDITORIAL

The MRU basin and roads connectivity

News that the Government of Liberia and the African Development Bank over the weekend signed two loan agreements in Monrovia, totaling US\$40 million to enhance road infrastructure and boost inter-community trading within the Mano River Union Basing is both welcoming and laudable.

Lack of road connectivity among member countries of the MRU has impeded both movements across borders and trade, subjecting citizens within the subregion to poverty, misery and disease.

Specifically, the loans seek to support upgrading of 48.5 kilometers road in Liberia and 39 kilometers road in neighboring Sierra Leone, respectively, along with feasibility studies for an additional 97 kilometers stretch of roads on Liberia.

Liberia and Sierra Leone are one of the three founding members of the MRU. Guinea and Liberia gave birth to the subregional bloc. Ivory Coast joined subsequently, bringing the membership to four neighboring countries that continue to collaborate in many areas, including common security, economic cooperation and good neighborliness, among others.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Boimah Kamara, who signed on behalf of the government, described the agreement as a landmark endeavor to extend infrastructure support that Liberia urgently needs to have an enabling environment for the expansion of growth and betterment of its people.

"We think that this is an expression of support from the MRU between the two nations; this will also finance feasibility studies for building 97 kilometers of roads in Liberia and other projects components include rehabilitating cross-border infrastructure between Liberia and Sierra Leone, development of social economic infrastructure, and provide support to the development agenda of the two countries", Minister Kamara said.

The Country Manager of the AfDB, Benedict Kanu, who signed on behalf of the Bank, underscored the timeliness, and relevance of the agreement, noting that the program will upgrade the ongoing phase that is aimed at boosting regional integration and trade within the MRU Basing.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is very passionate about road connectivity in Liberia and beyond, announcing his ambitious goal of "NO CAR STUCK IN THE MUD" 100 DAY DELIVERABLE to make all major primary corridors across the country pliable.

"Our flagship road delivery program will include the Freeport to St. Paul Bridge Road. Having received funding through the Government of Japan, we will begin construction of a 4-lane road from the Gabriel Tucker Bridge to the Freeport of Monrovia. Additionally, the Government of Japan is expected to provide funds to expand the Gabriel Tucker Bridge to 4 lanes. The Government has also secured additional support from Japan for the conduct of feasibility studies for the expansion of the Freeport to St. Paul Bridge corridor. My Government will allocate funds to complete the 6.5 km Freeport to St. Paul Bridge Road", the President in his first State of the Nation Address, immediately after taking office in January.

It is in this vein that we hail the signing of the loan agreement with the AfBD to improve movement and trade within the MRU Basin just as President Boakia is determined to make roads across the country pliable for easy access and promotion of economic activities.

COMMENTARY

By Roselyn Fosuah Adjei

Carbon Credits Hold the Key to Combating Deforestation

ACCRA - Over the past few years, intense media scrutiny has prompted a growing number of companies to pursue high-quality carbon credits. Seeking to avoid accusations of "greenwashing," many of these firms are no longer content with merely offsetting their emissions and have been actively seeking credits that deliver tangible benefits to local communities.

The Ghanaian government is prepared to help. We have devoted more than 15 years to developing a robust forest-conservation program. After extensive planning and preparation, we are ready to offer high-integrity credits to buyers in the Global North who are eager to demonstrate their commitment to fighting deforestation.

To be sure, several forest-protection schemes have come under fire in recent years. Critics argue that instead of reducing deforestation, these offsets are primarily aimed at serving the interests of corporations seeking carbon credits to meet their climate targets and validate their claims of carbon neutrality.

But jurisdictional programs like Ghana's are different. Designed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, these initiatives cover vast areas while addressing some of the problems facing individual projects. For example, they mitigate the risk of illegal deforestation outside of designated conservation zones.

The concept is not new. Article 5 of the 2015 Paris climate agreement encourages developed countries to offer results-based payments to developing countries for achieving emissions reductions. Over the past two decades, jurisdictional forest-protection efforts have been largely funded by public donors, while corporate support has flowed toward specific emissions-reduction projects through the voluntary carbon market. But this is now changing, and countries like Ghana are leading the way.

Ghana's High Forest Zone, located within the Guinean Forests of West Africa, is recognized as one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. In 2008, an alarming increase in deforestation rates prompted the Ghanaian government to join the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and develop its forest-conservation program with the goal of harnessing carbon finance to halt and reverse deforestation.

With financial support from the FCPF, the World Bank, and the Green Climate Fund, we identified five critical commodity-linked areas for intervention.

Through community engagement, our teams devised benefit-sharing strategies tailored to the diverse needs of various stakeholders.

They also developed specialized measurement technologies, enabling more accurate monitoring of the carbon stored in Ghana's forests.

After spending nearly two decades laying the necessary technical groundwork and establishing relationships with local communities, Ghana recently entered the voluntary carbon market. We are preparing to issue jurisdictional carbon credits through the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) process, thereby enabling domestic and international companies to support our conservation efforts.

Our objective is to transform carbon credits into a long-term revenue stream. To this end, Ghana recently became one of the first countries to sign an emissions-reduction agreement with the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition. As part of the deal, Ghana is set to receive \$50 million for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by up to five million tons.

While buyers in the Global North may view carbon credits as instrumental in meeting their climate targets, in Ghana, they represent a more profound shift. The revenue generated from these credits translates into tangible income for local communities, enabling households to benefit financially from forest preservation. These credits are more than a financial resource; they are a testament to years of dedicated work and commitment to environmental stewardship.

But for this program to be effective, buyers must recognize that integrity and impact require substantial investment. High-quality credits should do more than bolster corporate climate strategies; they should also contribute to preserving the world's forests.

In essence, this means providing communities with financial incentives to conserve trees instead of cutting them down. While the LEAF agreement, which values CO2 emissions at \$10 per ton, represents a positive first step, it is not enough, because the returns on illegal deforestation are higher.

Given that carbon pricing appears to have been designed by and for those on the demand side, Global North buyers should consult countries like Ghana to understand the true cost of producing high-integrity credits. Based on our extensive experience fighting deforestation, prices should account for the necessary preparatory work and, crucially, exceed the rates paid to illegal loggers and miners.

Carbon credits are not like aid funds, which are distributed by donor countries according to their own assessments of what they can or should give.

Rather, they are payments for emissions reductions that issuers like Ghana have worked hard to achieve - and that are crucial to limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius.

Potential buyers should visit, see for themselves the challenges we face in fighting deforestation, and then discuss pricing that reflects the real value of our accomplishments.

OP-ED

By Wempi Saputra

Banking on the World Bank's Knowledge

WASHINGTON, DC - Amid a cascade of intertwined challenges, including public-health emergencies, climate change, and violent conflict, that threaten to reverse decades of hard-won development progress, the World Bank has introduced an Evolution Roadmap to boost efforts to reduce poverty and inequality. Crucially, the unified and scaled response called for by Bank President Ajay Banga includes leveraging knowledge to help countries make more informed and effective decisions.

While best known for its financial services, the World Bank has a long history of researching and disseminating the lessons of development. In 1996, then-President James D. Wolfensohn, recognizing the potential of the information-technology revolution, urged the institution to function as a "Knowledge Bank." He emphasized that the World Bank's relationships with governments and international organizations would allow it to play a leading role in new global partnerships for creating and sharing knowledge. So long as it invested in the necessary systems, the Bank would be able to make more and better information available to its client countries.

Since then, the World Bank has offered both financial support and knowledge services, including technical assistance, training, capacity-building, policy advice, and data analysis. In fact, many clients consider these services - which capitalize on the Bank's vast experience, sectoral expertise, and wide array of data sources - to be as valuable as the financial assistance provided by the institution, if not more so.

But, to become a fully-fledged Knowledge Bank, the World Bank still needs to build these services into its operating processes and develop a model that supports the creation and dissemination of information as a standalone activity. This is crucial to improving the effectiveness and relevance of its knowledge initiatives.

Moreover, the Bank must ensure that it is providing client countries with the knowledge they need. After visiting 14 countries over the past year in my capacity as an executive director of the Bank, I have identified three areas in which clients could use more guidance. Fortunately, the Bank can mostly fill these gaps with its existing knowledge services and products.

For starters, client countries need to know how to use financial resources more efficiently to create projects or programs that have the largest multiplier effects and serve as many beneficiaries as possible. For example, a successful mangrove-rehabilitation project in Indonesia could be a model for other countries seeking to improve the welfare of local communities, support small and medium-size enterprises, and generate revenue through carbon credits in a transparent way.

Countries also require a better understanding of how to align domestic priorities with climate and development goals, which is essential for accelerating the green transition, broadening crisis-response toolkits, and strengthening climate resilience. According to the International Monetary Fund, delaying the transition to a low-emissions economy could impede GDP growth. But so far, striking the right balance between meeting environmental and social targets and pursuing an agenda for domestic development has been a challenge for many of the Bank's clients.

Lastly, there is the question of how to sustain strong, balanced, and inclusive economic growth by mobilizing private capital and boosting investment. To address this challenge, the Bank could provide systematic country assessments and international comparisons of good practices or lessons learned, which would likely contribute to poverty alleviation and shared prosperity.

Over the past 25 years, the World Bank has developed the capacity to address such questions. Its World Development Report, published in 1998, recognized that knowledge, not capital, is the key to sustained economic growth and focused on two main issues: knowledge gaps (the unequal distribution of know-how within and across countries) and information gaps (incomplete knowledge of products, processes, and institutions). The Bank's inaugural report assessing the state of its knowledge services, published in 2011, provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's efforts to overcome these problems. Later, in 2021, the Bank established a strategic framework for knowledge.

Last year's annual report summarized the World Bank's knowledge achievements to date, showcasing how far it has come. Examples include the launch of the Utility Knowledge Exchange Platform in 2022, which helps countries improve the performance of their electricity systems through policy, regulatory, institutional, and governance reforms. This initiative was complemented by more than \$27 billion in Bank-financed projects supporting utilities between 2018 and 2022.

In 2023, the Bank also supported 510 employment-related projects, totaling around \$87 billion, while conducting job diagnostics and facilitating global knowledge-sharing and research. And in Kenya, a youth-empowerment program that combined classroom learning with on-the-job experience significantly increased the number of young Kenyans in paid work.

When Wolfensohn first proposed the idea of a Knowledge Bank, he aptly noted that lessons from economic development are part of the "global commons," and that the cultivation and dissemination of this expertise requires international cooperation. Banga has inherited an even more daunting development challenge in this context, given the corrosive effects of contemporary geopolitics on multilateralism.

Even so, with the new playbook developed under Banga's watch, the World Bank can continue its shift toward becoming a Knowledge Bank. Now more than ever, the Bank must make its expertise more widely available, use its convening power, and deepen its partnerships to meet the needs of its client countries.

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OPINION

By Junaid Nabi

How AI Could Reshape Medicine

BOSTON - On a recent international trip, I found myself running late to the airport. Not being fluent in the local language, I used a translation app that enabled me to convey the urgency of my situation to the taxi driver. The app's camera feature also allowed me to understand the road signs, providing real-time updates.

This is just one example of how digital innovations, particularly artificial intelligence, are reshaping our world. With recent studies showing that AI models can now identify early signs of health complications such as sepsis, these technologies are poised to revolutionize medicine, too.

These rapid technological advances also underscore the urgent need for AI regulation. The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, which is expected to be approved in the second half of 2024, is a prime example.

This pioneering law classifies AI systems according to their risk levels and explicitly bans specific high-risk applications, such as social scoring and emotion recognition, that pose a threat to personal safety, civil liberties, and democratic governance. It also highlights the importance of transparency and explainability, so that users can access information about AI-generated decisions.

The EU's ambitious legislation offers a good starting point for a global discussion on how not to use AI. But given these technologies' vast potential to transform health care, it is equally crucial to explore how they can be used to augment the human-centric aspects of medicine.

For starters, AI has the potential to make medicine more compassionate. For example, a recent study published in JAMA Internal Medicine compared responses from ChatGPT to health-related questions with those provided by human doctors. Interestingly, a panel of licensed health-care professionals preferred ChatGPT's answers 79% of the time, viewing them as more empathetic toward patients.

Previous studies have shown that greater empathy and compassion can improve patient outcomes and expedite recovery.

In recent years, health-care providers have become increasingly overwhelmed by managerial and administrative duties, constraining their ability to establish clinical rapport with patients. This "documentation burden" often leads to burnout and undermines the quality of care.

By providing automated answers to routine questions, scheduling appointments, and managing paperwork, AI-powered platforms could streamline administrative processes and free up physicians to spend more time with patients.

But AI's applications extend well beyond rationalizing administrative tasks. A growing body of clinical evidence suggests that deep-learning algorithms - trained on vast datasets of medical images and patient records - can analyze X-rays, MRIs, and other medical scans with remarkable accuracy, frequently surpassing the diagnostic capabilities of human physicians. These innovations could revolutionize precision diagnostics, facilitating the early detection of diseases like pneumonia and cancer and supporting global health efforts, particularly in remote areas with limited access to specialized care.

Policymakers worldwide are increasingly recognizing the importance of preventive health care, largely owing to its economic benefits. AI is central to this shift, interpreting data from wearable devices and sensors to identify early signs of pathology, particularly cardiac conditions, and thus preventing minor health issues from becoming catastrophic crises.

Moreover, smartwatches and fitness bands use AI-powered tracking systems capable of detecting potential sleep apnea and prompting users to seek medical advice before they develop severe health problems.

To be sure, integrating AI into health care poses significant challenges and raises numerous ethical questions. In addition to ensuring fairness, combating algorithmic bias, and maintaining data privacy and security, it is crucial to recognize that AI cannot replace the personal touch that is essential to clinical practice.

Medical professionals ought to lead this transition, using new technologies to augment their skills. While chatbots are unlikely to replace doctors and nurses anytime soon, AI tools are already supporting health-care providers by improving diagnostic accuracy and facilitating more personalized, data-driven care.

Given that persistent health challenges, especially chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension, often stem from inadequate investment in public health and a lack of social cohesion, addressing them requires more than just technological solutions. In such cases, comprehensive reform of national health policies is needed.

By adopting the emerging digital technologies in a responsible and ethical manner, we can transform the ways we diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases, ushering in an era of data-driven medicine in which health professionals and AI systems work together to deliver better care for all. But while machines can help, the ability to forge a healthier future is ours alone.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How Gov't kills local businesses in Liberia

Monday, March 4, 2024:-Ideally, business failure means a company ceasing operations because of its inability to make a profit or to generate enough revenue to cover its expenses. Equally so, a profitable business can fail if it does not generate adequate cash flow to meet expenses.

In Liberia, the failure of businesses is not only the presence of the conditions listed above but lack of government support is the main reason why businesses failed here. The country's dual currency regime, tax incentives, and laws protecting investments make it an appealing destination for investors.

However, political interests, corruption, and the country's weak legal system influenced by government actors continue to kill off small businesses and some foreign investments.

Ideally, to grow their economies, countries put in place regulations and laws to protect local industries, small businesses, and or indigenous businesses which are the engines of economic growth in any society, but in Liberia, those laws and regulations only exist on the books, while politically motivated interests take precedent.

The Liberian government on paper appears to put in place some protective clow for indigenous businesses, but in practice, government actors are the canker worms that undermine these indigenous businesses for their selfish interests or kickbacks.

Take for example the Liberianization policy which reserved certain businesses for Liberians only. There are sixteen businesses exclusively reserved for Liberians. Those businesses are Supply of sand, Block making, Peddling, Travel agencies, Retail sale of rice and cement, Ice making and sale of ice, Tire repair shops, Auto repair shops with an investment of less than USD 550,000, Shoe repair shops, Retail sale of timber and planks.

The rest are the Operation of gas stations, Video clubs, Operation of taxis, Importation, or sale of second-hand or used clothing, Distribution in Liberia of locally manufactured products, and the Importation and sale of used cars (except authorized dealerships, which may deal in certified used vehicles of their make.

The reason for these exclusive reserves is to protect Liberians from competing with foreign investors in these sectors so that they do not become spectators in their own country due to the belief that the foreign investors who are mostly Indians and Lebanese have financial capacity as compared to the Liberian businessman or woman. Unfortunately, these exclusive businesses are being taken over by foreigners authorized by government agencies and ministries who grant them such licenses to operate, thereby pushing Liberians off their businesses.

A typical example is the supply of sand or sand mining. Today, the Chinese are supplying sand and crushed rocks all over the place with the blessing from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, while Liberians who once spearheaded this supply chain are now at the beg and calls of the Chinese who are siphoning millions of US Dollars out of the country.

A ten-tyre load of sand that was once sold between US60 to 75 USD is now being sold for between US 250 and US300, making it difficult for a poor man to build a concrete house.

Not only are the Chinese engaging in sand and crushed rocks supplies, but they are also into block making as well. These are proudly patronized by not just government officials but even government agencies as well during construction.

Next comes the Lebanese and Indians who are into retailing almost everything from used clothing to rice and cement. As if that was not enough, the Lebanese now control the auto repair industries with their garages on every street corner.

But these are supposed to be businesses reserved by laws for Liberians. However, these are the very businesses government officials will patronize over Liberian ones. In the Printing industry, for example, the Liberia Revenue Agency and other revenue-collecting agencies will squeeze taxes out of these businesses just to pay government officials.

In return, these government officials and agencies take their printing contracts to Ghana and China to businesses that pay no dime in taxes to the Liberian government.

The Liberian businesses are not alone. Policies to protect local industries and promote manufacturing are lacking and if they exist, the laws protecting them are weak. Yet government will want you to believe that it is bent taking the economy from being import-driven to consuming locally manufactured goods.

The rubber industry is a good example. Last year, former President George Weah, like his predecessor, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf put a moratorium on the exportation of unprocessed rubber.

The aim is to ensure that local rubber manufacturing companies here whose existence depends on unprocessed rubber have the supply to continue doing business.

As good as this intention is, the possibility of it being revoked to satisfy just a few political interests over the greater good of the country's economy is most likely. The question then is how can the country grow its local industries when raw materials needed are being allowed to be sold to companies operating outside of its borders with no Liberian in their employ.

Until, the new administration, takes an inner look, and puts in place appropriate policies that stop the killing of Liberian businesses and prioritize the same, the Liberian economy is bound to be stagnant forever.

DATE WITH THE NATION
WITH D. WAHNE, JR.

By D. Wa Hne, Jr.

Pursue Constructive Engagement- Not Mass Protests

The days and months ahead might be challenging for both the Government and the Opposition CDC, and by extension, the nation in whole. Unless both the Government and the Opposition begin to sit at the table to discuss how this nation should proceed, Liberia could stand still on April 6, 2024 and be dragged into prolonged crisis.

As protestors and government are engaging in bloody faceoff, there are more potential dissensions and possible outbreak of more bloody violence that may leave this nation wrecked if the CDC commits itself to its planned protest on April 6. Both parties could avoid unfortunate occurrences by putting in place a constructive engagement policy that utilizes the Henry Kissenger's Dente strategy and the Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroika and Glasnost methodologies.

Liberia's democracy is still fledging, and there is no need to stretch it beyond its capacity to endure. Political parties are governments in waiting and must be interested in maintaining peace, stability, and promoting national unity and development, and not just the urge to obtain or maintain power.

Though the CDC endured six years of harsh criticisms and mass actions from rival parties during its reign, that should not lead to an adoption of a vicious cycle that may paralyze economic and social opportunities and lead Liberia into catastrophic events.

As the former ruling party, the CDC is in the best position to teach the lessons of what mass action (protest) does to the economy, and how the opposition actions led to hatred and almost pushed Liberia into another civil war. Thanks to former President George Weah for his endurance and his peaceful nature. But all presidents may not have the nature and abilities to respond to pressure and mass actions as former President Weah did.

It is therefore important that the Coalition set up a dialogue team to always sit with the Government to discuss national issues just as they were willing to sit with the opposition during their reign to discuss critical matters and find common grounds. The UP Government also needs to adopt a kind of "glasnost" policy (transparency, openness) and be willing to meet with the opposition at all times.

Liberia can model its democracy in a way that produces politics with a human face rather than politics with a demon face. The opposition can become more powerful and meaningful when they, unlike the opposition of the past, invest their time and energy debating policies, making recommendations, working with citizens groups to maintain peace and bring investments that will help provide job opportunities for Liberians and make its democratic commitment enviable.

The CDC has already experienced what the UP is experiencing now. It is easy to govern when you are not seated in authority. It is easy to criticize when you are an observer. Governance is complex. It is the convergence of many interests and dealing with them could be very challenging.

Some of CDC's major challenges were power brokering, accessibility problems amongst institutions and officials, and supremacy competitions which created inner circles and domineering attitudes that erected barricades between the President and other officials. President Boakai must seek to terminate these from his Government. But CDC strength was in its commitment to infrastructural development and protection of democratic rights at its own peril of existence.

Channels must be opened at all times to access different or critical thoughts without plans of persecution and prosecution. When the channels of communication are opened and citizens are accessible to the powers that be, there would be the free flow of views, the buy-in of citizens and acceptability of policies.

On the contrary, when government becomes so self-protective, self-righteous, and critical voices are violently silenced, conflicts will take the center stage and crisis will ensue. Guns and bloodshed can oppress views, but cannot unite a nation and develop a people.

The Cape Mount violence and that of the University of Liberia students protest have generated so much negativity politically and have damaged Liberia's democratic image. This is not a good success story.

We can succeed and achieve better results at the negotiation table rather than in violence and bloodletting. Through negotiations, we build our democracy credibly and demonstrate political maturity. Through bloodshed, we show ourselves as the intolerant people who almost wipe themselves from the face of the Earth.

The recent bloodshed in the Bea Mountain Concession Area and the University of Liberia is the result of democratic rights exercised through protest. But moving forward, we can avoid further bloodshed when we constructively engage than when we seek to make the nation ungovernable.

Protest is however a democratic right, but should be the last recourse when all dialogues and negotiations failed. Government must therefore be sensitive and swift at addressing problems that might lead to protest and bloodshed.

In the same vein, we must avoid a vengeful protest that only seeks to provoke and achieve a payback. The CDC needs to help guide the democratic process and protect the peace by utilizing its strength in the Legislature and its six years of experience. April 6 might not be needful as it might end up as the Bea Mountain and UL Students protests.

We need to reform our political and democratic approaches. Mikhail Gorbachev called his, the Perestroika Movement and Glasnost. Richard Nixon called it Détente and Constructive Engagement to manage crisis in the world, but we can call it the New Agenda to safeguard our peace and democracy.

Think Liberia, Love Liberia, Build Liberia.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Scrap dealers to review government policies affecting them

The scrap dealer association here has inducted a new leadership team that is charged with reviewing government policies affecting the sector.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Scrap Dealer Association (LSDA) is expected to embark on a total review of all government and public policies that the sector

sector. "We will [review] all public policies of government that are hurting and hunting the scrap economic and general interest of the common who rely on the scrap industries for

the past administration, he said there was failure and neglect to look at the prices of scrap in the country. He promised to ensure that those working in the scrap sector adhere to the rule of law, adding that he will make sure nobody violates any policy or regulation governing the acquisition and processing of the scrap in Liberia. "Let me use this opportunity to thank President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Senator Jeremiah K. Koung, now Vice President," he said. He said they would work with the Liberian government under President Boakai to bring in investors to improve the country's economic sector.

The Liberia Scrap Dealer Association of Liberia over the weekend officially inducted and certificated Mr. Ayouba Kamara and his co-workers as the new leadership of the institution.

The program, which brought together several partners and well-wishers, marked the 5th inaugural program of the organization.



considers as "harmful."

LSDA says these policies are affecting the economic growth of the scrap sector.

Over the weekend, the president of LSDA Mr. Ayouba Kamara said the association will be looking into the government's policies that are hindering the growth of the

their daily needs and survival of their families," Mr. Kamara assured.

According to him, the Inter-Agency Scrap Regulator Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Mines and Energy which is responsible for the coordination and enforcement of the scrap regulations. Under

UP clarifies NASSCORP drama

-UP Chairman clarifies NASSCORP drama

Cllr. Molfie Kanneh, accompanied by ruling Unity Party officials and other top government officials, faced a setback on Monday when he went to meet with NASSCORP's senior management team to present his appointment letter from the Executive Mansion as NASSCORP Officer-in-Charge.

By Lincoln G. Peter

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2024: Ruling Unity Party (UP) Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh has clarified accusations that top UP officials were seeking to invade the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) to install a new institutional head.

Tarpeh addressed a press conference Tuesday, 5 March 2024 following a drama at NASSCORP Monday in which presidential nominee Cllr. Molfie Kanneh, accompanied by UP officials and other top government officials, was seen in a video meeting with NASSCORP's senior management team presenting his appointment letter from the Executive Mansion.

But the head of the senior management team told Cllr. Kanneh that the institution still has a Director General, Mr. Dewitt vonBalmoos, who is said to have about three years before his tenure expires.

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai recently appointed Molfie to NASSCORP while the current Director General Mr. Dewitt vonBalmoos still has

about three years ahead of the expiry of his tenure.

In his press conference, Chairman Tarpeh termed as false and misleading, the allegation that UP officials were seeking to forcefully take over NASSCORP. He explained that he and other top officials of the government didn't go to the institution to forcefully take jobs as alleged.

"We did not go there to forcefully take [a] job as it is insinuated in the public. We only went there to present them a letter to the leadership that had been holding the ground since [the] managing director is on sick leave," said Chairman

Tarpeh.

"It was just a presentation of a letter from the President of Liberia. But people insinuated that we went to forcefully take jobs. That is a complete lie and has no truth," he clarified. According to Rev. Tarpeh, they were later told to leave the place and that the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs should place the nomination on the Executive Mansion Website. He said that they immediately walked out, adding that if that is the procedure they are abiding by it. But he said it was very

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Maryland County: 3-Yrs-old missing child found dead

Maryland County, Liberia, March 5, 2024 - Residents of Zone#2 community in Pleebo Sodokan district, Maryland County are still mourning the loss of a 3-year-old lad, who reportedly missing on Sunday, 3 March during heavy downpour.

Little Oumar Dukuly's lifeless body was discovered on Monday, 4 March following vigorous search by residents and family members.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County Following a massive search in Zone#2, Pleebo Sodokan district, Maryland County, a 3-year-old lad, Oumar Dukuly, who reportedly went missing has been discovered dead in a swamp.

The remains were discovered on Monday, March 4, 2024, after

the late Oumar lived with his parents in the Zone#2 community up to the unfortunate incident surrounding his death. Community chairman Samuel Natt said the situation caused worry in the community, leading residents to join family of the boy to search for him.

"Let's be frank, the whole news got us worried, as community members thought we had tried searching but we didn't see him", Mr. Natt explained.

An uncle of the deceased, Ali Dukuly, said he received news about his little nephew going missing on Sunday while entering Pleebo.

Mr. Dukuly noted that following the information, he quickly ran to community radio stations to alert residents about the situation.

According to him, the child's father wasn't around, but he couldn't allow only the mother to



the victim reportedly went missing on Sunday, amidst heavy downpours.

Speaking to reporters Monday after the body was exhumed, Raphael Klah, youth leader of Zone #2 community said, he received a call from Zone Chairman Samuel G. Natt, during morning hours about the discovery of Little Oumar's lifeless body.

Raphael said though residents of the community had tried searching when news broke about the child going missing, their efforts didn't materialize initially until the corpse was found the following day in the community.

According to the youth leader,

have gone through such situation.

Little Oumar Dukuly's lifeless body was discovered floating early Monday afternoon when officers of the Liberia National Police, County Health Team, and local leaders went on the scene to examine the corpse.

Meanwhile, a 15-man jury comprised of local leaders and County Health Team after thorough examination of the corpse reported no foul play.

Family members, including community dwellers, are regretting the sudden death of the three-year-old boy, whose remains were turned over to family members for burial, while police continue with investigation. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Boakai launches Mobile Police Station

Amid recent criticism against Police brutality leading to deaths, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai commissioned a Mobile Police Station here to help the Police fast-track crime investigation. President Boakai applauded SAVVY Group of Companies, for the initiative which will buttress the police operations, while affirming his government's commitment to supporting the Police in whatsoever they need to protect citizens and keep the nation safe.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Paynesville, Liberia, March 5, 2024 - To enhance capacity of the Liberian National Police (LNP) in fast-tracking criminal investigation, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has

The station is a project initiated by SAVVY Group of Companies that initially brought in the country 25,000 booths for deployment across 15 counties.

Sam Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), said

Police to get feedback on crimes, as they go about their operations.

At the commissioning ceremony, President Joseph Boakai described the initiative as dawning of a new police force that is committed to serving the country and protecting its citizens, as well as bringing back the dignity and pride of Liberia.

President Boakai applauded SAVVY Group of Companies for the initiative which will buttress the police operations, while affirming his government to support the Police in whatever they need to protect citizens and keep the nation safe.

The President also urged citizens to respect the Police, who he described as dedicated servants, with a clear mandate to protect the state.

Meanwhile the Inspector General of Police Col. Gregory Coleman, describes the project as first of many smart initiatives by the Police to safety of Liberians.

Col. Coleman revealed that mobile stations will be electrified by solar system-based radio, among other infrastructure worth approximately US\$8,000 with plan to replicate such facilities across the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne



commissioned a mobile police station at Boulevard Junction, Paynesville.

The modern police mobile booth which contains a 360° CCTV camera and based phone will enable the LNP to investigate crimes expeditiously and enhance smooth communication among officers in the field, as they adhere to mandate of protecting lives and properties across Liberia.

the idea of building a mobile police station is to enhance police operation and promote community policing.

"It is a big step for Liberia; it is big step for our Police, which will enhance the force to combat crimes and boost community policing", Mr. Griffiths, said during the launch Tuesday.

He told reporters the 360° CCTV Camera installed at mobile station will help the

EPA fines 3 businesses

-East International, Fengshou International, and Quetz mining

Over the past years, poor regulatory practices here have emboldened businesses to abuse Liberian laws with impunity at most times.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 6, 2024: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has fined three private business institutions for different violations, ordering them to pay the imposed fines in government revenues.

The affected institutions are road construction company East International which faces a US\$55,000 fine; Fengshon International Company, a US\$2,999 fine; and Quetz Mining Company, US\$ 2, 999, to be paid within 72 hours, respectively.

EPA Acting Executive Director Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo told a press conference on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 that East International company's current EPA permit has expired.

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo stated

that the company has a series of occupational health and safety issues.

He added that there is no record of quarterly and terminal monitoring reports submitted by the company to the EPA.

The EPA Acting Boss explained that East International company has not put in adequate personal

protective equipment for the workers, among other violations. He added that East International does not follow regulations, lamenting that the company emits three times particulate matter 2.5 which is a dust particle that can easily be inhaled and causes some respiratory problems, more

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CHAP wants Wetlands Protection Law enforced

-discloses expansion of Urban Rice Project

Bishop Robert Bimba, CHAP Executive Director Agriculturalist wants Liberia's wetlands protected; call on the country's Environmental Protection Agency to enforce law on wetlands protection.

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Liberia: March 5, 2024 - The Executive Director of the Community of Hope Agriculture Project (CHAP), Bishop Roberts Bimba is calling on the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) and other land-related agencies in Liberia to enforce the law governing the protection of wetlands.

Bimba said wetlands in the country are constantly being faced with the issue of construction of houses and other environmental degradation issues.

The Environmental Protection Management law of Liberia states that no person in relation to the protection of wetlands shall carry out any form of construction.

However, the CHAP Executive Director said he has observed that individuals are still using

of lowland in the community. Experts have said that if such a lowland rice project is fully supported by the government, it has the potential to produce several metric tons of rice for Paynesville and its environs.

It aims to promote urban and peri-urban agriculture; which was launched in Liberia in 2003 to create jobs for women and youths.

Bimba mentioned that people are aware of the laws governing the protection of wetlands, but they choose to continue to violate them.

He wants the EPA to take immediate actions so as to protect the rice project.

Bimba has also complained about residents around the community areas using the swamp to dispose of their waste materials.

He said this is affecting the yield of the rice project and there is a need for the Paynesville City Corporation to come in to sensitize the residents on garbage control



the wetlands to construct houses which is a complete violation of the Environmental Protection Management law of Liberia.

He further argued that construction in the wetlands undermines food security improvement efforts.

According to him, the wetlands can be used for agriculture purposes to raise additional incomes for community dwellers in urban areas.

His concern comes following the continuous encroachment by some unscrupulous individuals on projects like the Zubah Town swamp rice project located in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

The Zubah Town rice project covers 12.5 hectares (32 acres)

within the community.

"We can't have people continue to violate the law governing the protection of wetlands. The EPA and other land-related agencies need to enforce the law. We also want the Paynesville City Corporation to help in the control of the garbage," Bimba said.

At the same time, the CHAP Executive Director said the Zubah Town rice project is expected to increase the production of rice this year to supply the market.

According to him, with support from the Jubilee Justice Foundation based in the United States of America, his organization is currently working to develop the entire swampland, using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method.

SRI is a farming methodology

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Français

Cour des crimes de guerre : l'approbation des législateurs est nécessaire – Ministre de l'Information

La population libérienne reste divisée sur la question de la création d'une cour chargée des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques. En effet, la demande de justice

crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques, mais a souligné que les législateurs doivent d'abord adopter un projet de loi.

Lors d'un entretien en direct avec des journalistes le lundi 4 mars 2024, M. Piah a affirmé

sur le président.

Le nouveau ministre de l'Information a rappelé que la Constitution stipule clairement que les législateurs doivent soumettre les questions au débat.

M. Piah a précisé que la



pour les victimes de ces crimes suscite souvent l'agitation de certains individus liés au passé trouble du pays.

Le ministre libérien de l'Information, Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, a déclaré que le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai est déterminé à créer une cour chargée des

qu'une fois que les législateurs auront adopté un projet de loi instituant la cour, le président Boakai n'aura d'autre choix que de signer le document.

M. Piah a assuré que le gouvernement n'a pas oublié son engagement à créer la cour, mais que les Libériens devraient se concentrer principalement sur le rôle du corps législatif et non

Chambre des représentants doit débattre de la question et la transformer en projet de loi avant que le président ne la signe.

Il a averti que si le corps législatif continue de faire la sourde oreille, peu importe ce que fait le président, la situation restera inchangée.

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Le gouvernement du Libéria et la BAD signent des accords de prêt de 40 millions

Le gouvernement du Libéria et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) ont signé deux accords de prêt d'un montant total de 40 millions de dollars américains pour la construction de routes au Libéria et en Sierra Leone, respectivement. Selon les responsables, ces accords visent à améliorer les infrastructures routières et à stimuler le commerce intercommunautaire au sein de l'Union du fleuve Mano.

Les prêts visent spécifiquement à soutenir la modernisation de 48,5 kilomètres de route au Libéria et de 39 kilomètres en Sierra Leone voisine, ainsi que des études de faisabilité pour un tronçon supplémentaire de 97 kilomètres de route au Libéria.

Parmi les autres composantes du projet figurent les infrastructures transfrontalières entre le Libéria et la Sierra Leone, le développement des infrastructures socio-économiques et le soutien aux associations de femmes et de jeunes pour promouvoir l'entreprise privée

indispensable.

La cérémonie de signature s'est tenue au cours du week-end au 10ème étage du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement à Monrovia.

Le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Boimah Kamara, qui a signé au nom du gouvernement, a qualifié la cérémonie d'entreprise historique visant à étendre le soutien aux infrastructures dont le Libéria a un besoin urgent pour créer un environnement favorable à la croissance et à l'amélioration des

conditions de vie.

Selon le ministre Kamara, la phase quatre du projet est une étape très importante qui va au-delà de ce que l'on pouvait voir avec l'intention de moderniser les routes standard dans les deux pays de l'UMR.

“Nous pensons qu'il s'agit d'une expression de soutien de l'UMR entre les deux nations ; cela permettra également de financer des études de faisabilité pour la construction de 97 kilomètres de routes au Libéria et d'autres

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Éditorial

Ministre du commerce du Liberia : Joueur et arbitre – Un nouveau cas ?

Il est difficilement compréhensible que le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai ait choisi Amin Modad, président émérite du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party, comme ministre du Commerce et de l'Industrie. M. Modad est propriétaire et exploitant d'une chaîne d'entreprises au Liberia, y compris des hôtels. Ce choix du Président soulève de sérieuses questions concernant la transparence et la responsabilité de son gouvernement, en particulier son engagement à rompre avec les pratiques habituelles.

Comment un homme qui est un acteur actif du secteur commercial peut-il être chargé de superviser et de réglementer à la fois lui-même et ses concurrents ? Il ne s'agit pas seulement d'un conflit d'intérêts, mais d'un pur népotisme, que le président Boakai et l'Unity Party affirmaient pourtant vouloir éradiquer.

Nous pensons que le Président ferait bien, non seulement pour lui-même, mais aussi pour le pays, de revoir cette nomination afin de garantir l'équité, la responsabilité et la transparence.

Il est très décevant pour le peuple libérien qu'un parti qui a siégé dans l'opposition et prêché l'équité pendant six ans arrive au pouvoir et commence à faire exactement ce qu'il dénonçait auparavant. Ce n'est pas le style de leadership que les Libériens attendent de la “mission de sauvetage”.

Prenons l'exemple du secteur de la sécurité, qui a contraint le nouveau ministre de la Défense, le major général à la retraite Prince C. Johnson III, à démissionner. Le non-respect des droits des hommes et des femmes en armes est un grave préjudice à l'État, comme nous l'avons vu dans le cas de l'ancien ministre Brownie Samukai.

Le ministre Johnson III a fait ce qu'il fallait en démissionnant immédiatement, car c'est la première fois dans l'histoire récente que la célébration de la Journée des forces armées a été annulée de force en raison du mécontentement des soldats, exprimé par leurs épouses.

Nous ne savons pas ce qui attend le commerce de notre nation avec la nomination d'un acteur pour arbitrer entre les différents acteurs et concurrents du secteur. Y aura-t-il fair-play et transparence ? Ce ne sont là que quelques-unes des questions qui taraudent l'opinion publique alors que le ministre Modad se rend quotidiennement au travail.

Il est important que le gouvernement cultive et maintienne un environnement commercial équitable, mais aussi très concurrentiel, afin d'attirer les investissements étrangers directs qui ont échappé à l'économie au cours des six dernières années.

Cela ne sera possible qu'avec la mise en place de politiques propres à stimuler l'économie et à attirer davantage d'investisseurs pour une concurrence et une croissance saines.

Nous soulevons ces préoccupations, non pas que nous ayons quelque chose de spécifique contre le ministre Amin Modad, mais pour que les compromis et les intérêts personnels soient mis de côté afin que les bonnes choses soient faites pour le bien général du pays, qui a un urgent besoin de viabilité économique.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Cour des crimes de guerre :**

Il a souligné que la création de la cour chargée des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques implique de nombreux facteurs, notamment l'adoption de lois par le corps législatif et l'engagement de la communauté internationale à soutenir le processus.

Il a indiqué que ces éléments sont nécessaires car le maintien de la cour représentera un défi important.

À l'heure actuelle, a-t-il dit, le gouvernement se concentre sur la résolution des principaux problèmes auxquels le pays est

confronté, en attendant l'adoption de la législation.

Par ailleurs, M. Piah a déclaré que l'administration Boakai est attachée à la question de la responsabilité en général, y compris la création d'une cour des crimes de guerre. Malgré tous les processus nécessaires pour y parvenir, il a déclaré qu'il y aura des possibilités de travailler dans cette direction.

“Le président reste totalement attaché à la responsabilité, et la responsabilité va au-delà de la question de la Cour des crimes de guerre”, a-t-il conclu.

Starts from page 8 **Le gouvernement du Libéria**

composantes du projet, notamment la réhabilitation des infrastructures transfrontalières entre le Libéria et la Sierra Leone, le développement des infrastructures socio-économiques et le soutien au programme de développement des deux pays”, a déclaré le ministre.

Le directeur pays de la BAD, Benedict Kanu, qui a signé au nom de la Banque, a souligné l'actualité et la pertinence de l'accord.

M. Kanu a noté que le programme permettra d'améliorer la phase en cours qui vise à renforcer l'intégration régionale et le commerce au sein de l'UMR.

Il a également indiqué que 67 % de l'aide financière au titre desquels les accords sont signés couvrent le coût total du programme de l'Union du fleuve Mano et des infrastructures de transport.

Selon le directeur pays de la BAD, la phase quatre du programme est estimée à 60 millions de dollars américains, et le programme sera mis en œuvre de 2024 à 2027, date à laquelle les infrastructures seront prêtes à être utilisées.

En conséquence, il a souligné que la durabilité du projet de

transport est essentielle, c'est pourquoi la Banque attend avec impatience l'initiative de réformes sectorielles du Libéria qui se termine en 2030.

M. Kanu a également révélé que le programme vise à améliorer les routes reliant Beudu à Koindu en Sierra Leone, reliant le Libéria et la Guinée et la section de John Davies Town à Zwedru sur l'axe Fish Town-Zwedru à l'intérieur du Libéria.

La BAD indique que le projet permettra d'autonomiser les femmes dans la zone du programme en stimulant la production et la commercialisation agricoles, ainsi que les activités génératrices de revenus.

M. Kanu a également souligné les résultats indirects, notamment la création de plus de 2 000 emplois pendant la phase de construction, dont 30 % seront des femmes.

La cérémonie de signature a réuni des dizaines de représentants du gouvernement issus de ministères et d'agences spécialisés, dont le ministre des Travaux publics Roland Giddings, le vice-ministre des Finances chargé de la gestion économique Dekpue Zao et la direction du ministère, ainsi qu'une délégation de haut niveau de la BAD, entre autres.

Le directeur général de la LEC s'engage à éradiquer l'obscurité à travers le Libéria



En butte à de vives critiques du public pour la mauvaise qualité des services d'électricité, le directeur général de la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Monie Ralph Captan, a raccordé plus de 23 communautés au réseau électrique, s'engageant à éradiquer l'obscurité au Libéria. Cette électrification s'inscrit dans le cadre du projet d'électrification des communautés du GAP (GAP Community Electrification Project, G-CEP). Monrovia, Liberia, 5 mars 2024 - Le directeur général de la Liberia Electricity Corporation, Monie R. Captan, s'est engagé à éradiquer l'obscurité à travers le Libéria. Lors de son discours prononcé ce week-end à l'occasion de l'inauguration et de l'éclairage du projet d'électrification des communautés du GAP (G-CEP) à Law's Island Community, Banjor, Brewerville, M. Captan a déclaré qu'il ne voulait pas voir un pays plongé dans le noir. Selon lui, il est heureux d'avoir éclairé les plus de 23 sous-communautés de Law's Island Community, qualifiant cela de promesse tenue. “C'est notre travail ; nous voulons que chaque foyer de ce pays ait de l'électricité. Nous ne voulons pas voir un pays dans le noir. Je m'engage envers la communauté voisine qui nous a sollicités pour avoir du courant. Sachez que nous vous apporterons l'électricité”, a

assuré M. Captan.

Révoquant la volonté et la vision du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai en matière d'électricité pour l'ensemble du pays, il a déclaré aux habitants qu'il avait rencontré récemment le président Boakai, qui s'est engagé à soutenir la LEC pour garantir l'accès de tous les résidents à l'électricité.

“J'ai rencontré le président Boakai et nous avons parlé d'électricité. Il m'a dit qu'il voulait que je m'assure que notre population ait de l'électricité parce que c'est très important pour elle. Il s'est également engagé à nous soutenir. Il m'a dit qu'il nous fournirait l'aide nécessaire pour que tout le monde ait du courant. Nous tenons à le remercier pour cet engagement qu'il a pris au nom de son gouvernement”, a ajouté M. Captan.

Actuellement sous le feu des critiques en raison de l'irrégularité de l'approvisionnement en électricité de la ville, M. Captan a pris ses fonctions de président du conseil d'administration et de directeur général de la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) en 2021, avec la promesse de restaurer le secteur énergétique du Libéria. Depuis lors, il a accompli un travail remarquable en connectant les communautés grâce au projet d'électrification des communautés du GAP (G-CEP), mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire, car de nombreux foyers et communautés sont toujours sans électricité. Le vendredi 1er mars 2024, la Liberia Electricity Corporation.

L'université Nimba met plus de 80 étudiants en probation pour mauvais rendement scolaire

L'université Nimba de Sanniquellie, la capitale provinciale, l'une des nombreuses universités communautaires du Libéria, a mis plus de 80 étudiants de dernière année et de première année en probation, pour ne pas avoir atteint une moyenne cumulative minimale de 2 points. Comté de Nimba, Liberia, 5 mars 2024 - Plus de quatre-vingts (80) étudiants de l'université du comté de Nimba, à Nimba, ont été mis en probation pour mauvais rendement scolaire, selon l'administration. L'administration de l'université a pris cette décision à la suite des résultats du semestre 2023, où un grand nombre d'étudiants n'ont pas été en mesure d'obtenir une moyenne pondérée cumulative de 2,00 ou plus. La plupart des étudiants avaient une moyenne de 1,00 point.

Cependant, certains étudiants ont accusé l'administration et le personnel enseignant de demander des faveurs sexuelles en échange de bonnes notes, tandis que les étudiants de sexe masculin ont allégué que les enseignants leur demandaient constamment de l'argent.

Ce journal a rassemblé des informations selon lesquelles la plupart des étudiants touchés sont des seniors et des freshmen. L'administration a refusé de répondre aux allégations de faveurs sexuelles en échange de notes, qui seraient de plus en plus courantes dans l'établissement, après que notre correspondant se soit rendu à



l'université pour obtenir des commentaires. Au lieu de cela, les membres de l'administration ont renvoyé le NEW DAWN d'un bureau à l'autre. Le vice-président aux affaires académiques, le Dr Samuel Duo, a refusé de répondre aux allégations portées contre l'administration et a plutôt renvoyé notre correspondant au chef de l'admission, M. Lee Yarzule, qui n'a pas répondu au téléphone. Cependant, s'adressant à un journaliste dans son bureau, le professeur assistant Emmanuel A. Donseah, doyen du Collège d'ingénierie et de géosciences de l'université du comté de Nimba, a attribué l'échec massif des étudiants à de très faibles bases académiques.

Le Dr Donseah note que la plupart des étudiants viennent d'écoles privées et publiques qui manquent d'enseignants qualifiés pour avoir un impact sur la vie des personnes considérées comme les futurs dirigeants du Libéria. Selon lui, l'administration a constitué une équipe pour s'occuper des étudiants ayant de tels problèmes, notant que la plupart des étudiants de l'université se plaignaient du manque de nourriture dans leurs foyers respectifs.

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Warlords in trouble!

“It will be better you give us at least one week for us to go back to our people who we represent to hear what they have to say on this matter,” said Rep. Koon.

Out of the nine Representatives of Nimba County where Senator Prince Yormie Johnson hails from, only Representative Taa Wangba signed the resolution. The others kicked against the resolution seeking to establish a war and economic crimes court.

Senator Prince Yormie Johnson (PYJ) is a major anti-war and economic crimes court Liberian politician and a longstanding political godfather of Nimba County. His brutal defense of his Nimba kinsmen against alleged enemies during Liberia’s civil crisis has made him the ‘political godfather of the County. Since 2005, Johnson’s presidential picks have won the nation’s highest seat, and he also dominates the local politics in the vote-rich Nimba County. Like Senator Johnson, his loyalists dislike the call for war and economic crimes court.

He backed President

Boakai’s 2023 presidential bid, but both men are not on the same pitch when it comes to establishing a war and economic crimes court for Liberia. The resolution to establish a war and economic crimes court is sponsored by Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah and other members of the House of Representatives. The sponsors of the instrument have backed their decision with recommendations from the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to provide a forum that will address issues of impunity.

The TRC recommended that both victims and perpetrators of human rights violations should have the opportunity to share their experiences to get a clear picture of the past to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation.

The Liberian legislature enacted the Act to establish the TRC in 2005, formally creating the forum with a mandate to promote

national peace, security, unity, and reconciliation by investigating gross human rights violations and violations

of humanitarian law, sexual violations, and economic crimes that occurred between January 1979 and October 2003.

The resolution added that the Liberian TRC submitted its final report to the Legislature on 19 December 2009, recommending the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Court of Liberia. It noted that the forum called for the establishment of an international domestic court with the authority to prosecute individuals accused of gross human rights violations, serious humanitarian law violations, and certain domestic crimes. Members of the House of Representatives are recommending the full implementation of the TRC recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Court in Liberia.

They have committed to working with President Boakai for the court’s establishment.

After the signing of the resolution, members of that body were seen in a joyful mood chanting ‘War Crimes Court, War Crimes Court, War Crimes Court, War Crimes Court.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Start from page 7 **CHAP wants Wetlands**

that aims to increase the yield of rice while using fewer resources and reducing environmental impacts.

Liberia is among several countries in West Africa using the SRI method to increase the production of rice.

Bimba said his organization intends to use the Zubah Town rice project to grow more rice for the communities.

Rice is Liberia’s main staple, but the country is yet to reach domestic supply to feed its citizens. Every year, Liberia spends close to US \$200 million on rice importation.

“The goal of the rice project is to ensure the availability of local rice for the communities. The rice when harvested is going

is also a part of the RICOWAS Liberia program.

RICOWAS Liberia is a regional rice project that was launched last year in the country to help scale up rice production.

Bimba said that the program is in six counties helping the farmers to increase rice production.

Meanwhile, the CHAP Executive Director who is also the head of RICOWAS has disclosed that his organization is expected to benefit from assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture Partners’ projects grant program.

He said the grant when disbursed is going to provide machinery, additional processing equipment, and funding to assist more farmers develop their farms.

“We are going to upgrade

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Protest or terror attack?

Internal Affairs, Ministry of Mines & Energy, the National Bureau of Concession, and the Liberia Land Authority.

There are photos and or documents available to prove the exhaustive process carried out involving community representation and participation.

Fast forward, after the elections in October 2023, almost all the members of the Legislators from Cape Mount were replaced. In other words,

all the members who went to elections lost.

The new lawmakers have never met with company despite all efforts made by the company to reach out to them.

However, it is alleged that Representative Mohammed Dosii and other lawmakers including Senator Dabbah Vaplah approached the communities and ignited them to raise issues with the company.

They are said to be on

record telling the people that the Company’s operations must stop until they meet several demands.

For obvious reasons lawmaker Dosii moved to Kinjor and other parts of the Cape Mount to transport violent protestors - who destroyed several properties and other valuables owned by BMMC. Dosii is seen on recording inciting the people against the company and other Liberians who worked for the company in Cape Mount.

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EPA fines 3 businesses

than the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended limit. Meanwhile, East International is also requested to renew its expired permit and follow all the environmental protection laws of Liberia.

In the same development, the EPA investigated the activities of Fengshou International, an affiliate of East International, which operates a rock quarry in Ben’s

Town, Margibi County.

The report from the investigation showed that Fengshou has unsustainably backfilled a portion of the Marshall wetland without reference to the EPML. According to the Acting EPA chief, these acts by Fengshou International violate Part VI Section 76 of the EPML, which calls for the protection of rivers, lakes, and wetlands. He therefore ordered Fengshou International closed until a

more sustainable method is approved by the EPA.

The EPA also investigated the Quetz Mining Corporation which is involved in the illegal mining of black sand or zircon within the New West Point community in Brewerville, Montserrado County.

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo said the investigation was based on a media alert and complaint filed at the EPA, relative to the unsustainable mining activities, and its likely impacts of

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UP clarifies NASSCORP drama

frustrating that people would be accusing them of forcefully wanting a job. “UP don’t have that kind of character. We are a civil political institution. We went there to carry on a responsibility,” he argued.

“I got angry when one of

them said that they don’t know where the signature is from when the person is seeing me, the party chairman,” he noted. He said as their tradition has always been, whenever a leader is taking over an entity, the chairman of the party and

other well-wishers go to wish them well. Chairman Tarpeh added that he was at the Freeport of Monrovia when he received a call that Cllr. Kanneh was taking over and so they needed him to grace the occasion.



to be sold right here in Paynesville at a price affordable to the residents,” he recently explained to this reporter.

The CHAP Executive Director further said several residents from various communities are currently using the Zubah Town rice project to earn additional income.

“Several women come here every day for daily hire jobs. We also allow them to own plots during the dry season to grow fresh and healthy vegetables for the market,” he explained.

According to him, the project

processing and purchase a truck to transport paddy rice as well as to procure a power tiller and tractor,” he disclosed.

“Since the establishment of this project, this is going to be the first time that we have ever gotten such an assistance. We will use the assistance to employ more women and young people from the various communities,” he explained.

Bimba has disclosed plans to get involved in developing lowlands in other communities within Monrovia and its surroundings. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Implement TRC report

Protest or terror attack?

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has been asked to offer a State Apology, set up a Trust Fund for worst-affected war victims, and restart a Palava Hut Program instead of

According to Chie, the Liberian Senate gave its advice to the former President through a twenty-two-page report. he said the Senate advised former President Weah that

TRC, the President of Liberia should offer an apology on behalf of the State to the many victims and the people of Liberia in general for its role in the conflict and the injuries and losses sustained by individuals and communities. "That also as recommended by the TRC, the Government should without further delay set up a Reparation Trust Fund for victims and communities worst affected by the conflict," he continued.

He noted that the TRC report suggested that the worst-affected victims should benefit through direct financial assistance or development programs and projects.

He detailed that the National Palava Hut Program and other programs for national healing, peacebuilding, and reconciliation aimed toward restorative justice, started by the Government of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, should recommence.

"Distinguished Colleagues: while the Senate awaits His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai to seek its opinion on the feasibility of establishing a criminal tribunal for us to have our say for the second time, my communication is intended to draw our attention to the expediency and imperativeness of the Presidential apology," Chie stated. He said his communication was also to draw his colleagues' attention to the setting up of the Reparation Trust Fund, a continuation of the Palava Hut and other national healing and reconciliation programs, and the implementation of activities that will bring economic benefits to victims and worst-affected communities in the civil crisis.

He asked President Pro-tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence and his colleagues to mandate the requisite budgetary appropriations, beginning with the 2024 National Budget, to facilitate the implementation of the above tasks by the President of Liberia.

the call for the establishment of an extraordinary criminal tribunal for war and economic crimes committed during the period of the civil conflict must be examined within the context of the implication of the Constitution.

He said the Senate also talked about examining the process through the laws and processes to determine their compatibility and feasibility of establishing such a tribunal.

He noted that the Senate suggested that constitutional and other legal prohibitions may not easily permit the establishment of said criminal tribunal for war crimes on Liberian soil.

He particularly noted the Senate's observation that Liberia had acceded to the Rome Statute after the end of the civil war. He added that the Senate's advice was that domestic economic crimes committed during the period of the civil crisis could only be adjudged and litigated in domestic criminal courts under Liberia's

domestic jurisprudence, and cannot be the subject of an international criminal tribunal. Chie stated that this is besides the fact that the statute of limitations has since tolled, by the laws of Liberia.

He said in line with one of the recommendations of the



establishing a war and economic crimes court.

Liberia's immediate past Senate President Pro-tempore Albert T. Chie, a re-elected Grand Kru County Senator, wrote the Liberian Senate on Monday, 4 March 2024 detailing why the court cannot be established here.

"In respect of the foregoing, I kindly request that Plenary authorizes the Senate Secretary to communicate to the President of Liberia, within a reasonable time frame, offer said State apology, set up the Trust Fund, restart the Palava Hut Program, and commence the implementation of development projects in the highly victimized communities," Chie wrote.

His communication comes in the wake of President Boakai's declaration that he has decided to set up an office to explore the feasibility of establishing a war and economic crimes court for Liberia.

In the letter, Chie reminded his colleagues that on 19 September 2019, Boakai's predecessor Mr. George Manneh Weah sought the Senate's advice through a communication on how to proceed with the

implementation of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

The recent protest at the Bea Mountain Mining Company in the Western Liberian town of Kinjor in Grand Capemount County has left lots of unanswered questions. With reports of some protesters allegedly armed with locally made single barrel guns and Petro bombs raises questions as to whether it was a mere protest or act of terrorism.

By Othello B. Garblah
At least two persons have been confirmed dead, while several others were left injured, when the protesters allegedly armed with locally made single barrel guns, petrol bombs, and batons attacked the concession town setting ablaze a school, police station, and company equipment.

They had no pending demand to press home before the protest, according to the company's management.

BMMC said it received no petition or grievance from the community prior to the violent protest.

Sources say the protest began at Matambo, another community where MMMC is currently carrying on

community for the latest protest. "Currently, there have been no new demands since the last protest over labor issues. So, we did not see this other protest coming. It was after the protest before we saw a letter making other demands which are not on the table." BMMC Serhan Umurhan said.

So, what's in the BMMC MDA? Bea Mountain Mining Corporation entered MDA with the Government of Liberia in September 2013. Under the MDA the Company is permitted to conduct exploration and mining activities with 537 square kilometers.

However, Section 10.2 of the MDA required, that if the company intends to conduct its activities on private property, the Company to negotiate with private landowners.

The recent protest started in Matambo, a town within the Company



exploration.

Sources say the primary reason for the protest among other things is the alleged delay in relocation of citizens from the area, something the company is said to have clarified in several stakeholder meetings.

Authorities say unlike previous protests led by the host community over labor and demand that BMMC live up to its mineral development agreement signed in 2013, the latest protest was carried out before the protesters could put forward their demands.

The protesters used petrol bombs to set the police station, school, and some company equipment on fire. The protesters erected roadblocks as they confronted security forces in what was seen as a cat-and-mouse battle as live bullets were fired.

On Monday, local traditional leaders, and citizens of Kinjor wrote a letter denying their involvement in the recent brutal protest, blaming citizens from outside the host

MDA area, where the company has engaged in exploration activities for gold. But in Matambo, the deposit is close to the village thus requiring the relocation of the village.

In early 2023, BMMC entered into a land lease agreement with the Bangoma community for 3000 acres of land in Matambo. Before entering the lease, the company facilitated the survey of the Bangoma land and financed the processing of the customary deed. The lease is for five (5) years renewable for another five (5) years. As part of the consideration, the Parties agreed to a relocation plan.

Contrary to the lease agreement, the community asked the company to purchase additional land from another town to carry out the relocation. All documents were signed.

The community was represented by their lawyer, Cllr. Sinufu Sheriff. The entire process (determination of the relocation site, houses designs, and compensation) was monitored and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of

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Warlords in trouble!

-As House passes resolution for War and Economic Crimes Court

Decades of brutal civil war killed over 250,000 Liberians, displaced many others, and destroyed properties worth millions of dollars, but war and economic crimes suspects here have not accounted for their cruelty through any court over 20 years since peace was restored.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, Liberia, 6 March 2024: Trouble is looming for Liberia's former warlords as more than 40 lawmakers from the House of Representatives have signed a resolution for the

crimes. It's been over 20 years since peace was restored in the West African country that was destroyed from the 90s through the early 2000s in a senseless civil war. Yet, most of those accused of waging carnage here have not faced any court trial for

so far in the 55th Legislature. Members of the 53rd and 54th Legislatures received presentations to establish the War and Economic Crimes Court, but those petitions did not pass the Liberian Senate for action.

In the wake of the latest development in the House, Grand Bassa County Electoral District #5 Representative Thomas Goshua suggested Tuesday, 5 March 2024 that the resolution be passed and sent to the Liberian Senate for action.

But that suggestion didn't go down well with some members of the ruling Unity Party who did not sign the resolution.

Montserrado County Electoral District #11 Representative Richard Koon and Independent Representative of Electoral District #7 Emmanuel Dahn argued that the resolution should not be passed now. According to them, they needed time to go and reach out to their people before passing the resolution.



establishment of a war and economic crimes court. If legislation grows out of this resolution and is passed by both legislative chambers, it will boost President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's quest to establish war and economic

their cruelty, and some of them have even assumed lucrative elected positions on the national level. Over 40 Representatives have already passed a resolution for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia

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