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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024	L\$191.6547/US\$1.00	L\$193.5645/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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P11

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P11

Morlu surfaces in new group

Former CDC chairman Morlu

-Joins War Crimes Court champaign

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Continental News

Customers withdraw millions after cash machine glitch

Ethiopia's biggest commercial bank is scrambling to recoup large sums of money withdrawn by customers after a "systems glitch".

Long lines formed at campus ATMs, with a student in western Ethiopia telling BBC Amharic people were withdrawing money until police officers arrived on campus to stop them.

The statement on Sunday saying "a glitch" had occurred during "maintenance and inspection activities".

The statement, however, focused on the interrupted service that occurred after CBE froze all transactions. It did not mention the money withdrawn by customers.

Mr Sano did not say exactly how much money was withdrawn during Saturday's incident, but said the loss incurred was small when compared to the bank's total assets. He stated that CBE was not hit by a cyber-attack and that customers should not be worried as their personal accounts were intact. At least three universities have released statements advising students to return any money not belonging to them that they may have taken from CBE.

Anyone returning money will not be charged with a criminal offence, Mr Sano said. But it's not clear how successful the bank's attempts to recoup their money has been so far.

The student from Jimma University said on Monday he had not heard of anyone giving the money back, but said he had seen police vehicles on campus. An official at Dilla University said bank employees were on campus collecting money that some students were returning voluntarily. BBC



More than 38 million people hold accounts at Commercial Bank Ethiopia

early on Saturday that they could take out more cash than they had in their accounts at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE). More than \$40m (£31m) was withdrawn or transferred to other banks, local media reported.

It took several hours for the institution to freeze transactions. Much of the money was withdrawn from state-owned CBE by students, bank president Abe Sano told journalists on Monday. News of the glitch spread across universities largely via messaging apps and phone calls.

Jimma University Institute of Technology, said he "did not believe it was true" when his friends told him at around 01:00 local time (22:00 GMT) that it was possible to withdraw large amounts from ATMs, or transfer the money using the bank's app.

Another student, at Dilla University in southern Ethiopia, said a number of his peers retrieved money from CBE between midnight and 02:00 local time. More than 38 million people hold accounts at CBE, which was established 82 years ago.

Ethiopia's central bank, which serves as the financial sector's governing body, released a

New suspect charged in disappearance of South African girl

A new suspect has been charged over the disappearance of a six-year-old South African girl last month.

The search for Joslin Smith has transfixed the country since she went missing near her home in Saldanha Bay, 110km (70 Miles) north-west of Cape Town, on 19 February.

A 32-year-old woman was on Monday charged with kidnapping and human trafficking in the Vredenburg Magistrates' Court in the Western Cape province.

Joslin's mother Kelly Smith, her boyfriend Jacquen Appollis and another suspect are also in custody and face kidnapping and trafficking charges.

Last week, the court freed a traditional healer due to a lack of evidence.

The new suspect will be up for a bail hearing on 25 March while Ms Smith and the other suspects will be back in court on 13 May.

Joslin is yet to be found and her whereabouts remain unknown.

Ms Smith had previously told local publication The Daily Voice that she had not given up hope of finding her daughter.

"My motherly instincts are telling me my daughter is still alive and in this area. We will find her, I will walk on foot to find her. I

will look in every little shack, I'm going to do it by myself if I have to."

Joslin was left in the care of Ms Smith's boyfriend before she went missing. He has denied any involvement.

On average, a child goes missing every five hours in South Africa, but most are found.



The search for Joslin Smith has transfixed South Africa since she went missing on 19 February

Heatwave shuts schools and cuts power in South Sudan

All schools have been ordered to close in South Sudan, as it prepares for a heatwave in which temperatures could reach an exceptional 45C (113F). Authorities said children should stay indoors and that the extreme weather could last for at least two weeks.

Deaths "related to excessive heat" have already been reported, officials said on Saturday.

Residents in parts of the capital Juba sweltered without electric fans on Monday as the heat sparked power cuts.

The streets of Juba, home to over 400,000 people, were largely quiet in the afternoon as local media reported temperatures of 41C (106F). It is exceptionally early for South Sudan to experience such heat - temperatures often exceed 43C (109F) but only in the summer months, according to

on Monday. "This heat is very serious and it's really affecting our work," Wadcon Saviour Lazarus, who runs a national NGO, told the BBC.

"Because of this heat, we are not able to move from one place to another. We come to the office early and leave late in order to avoid the heat," he said. Juba resident Ayaa Winnie Eric said: "I take a lot of water to keep me hydrated. I also wear light clothes that do not absorb heat, and I avoid walking in the hot sun." Muslims, who make up around 6.2% of the country's population, have been hit especially hard as many are observing Ramadan - a month of fasting. They are therefore not permitted to drink water or any other liquids to stay hydrated during the day.

South Sudan is the latest in a long line of African countries to experience blistering and, in many cases, record-breaking heat.



Children have been turned away from school in the capital, Juba

the World Bank's Climate Change portal.

Children in uniform could be seen walking back to their homes, having been turned away from school on Monday.

The ministries of education, health and environment said on Saturday that all schools would be closed from Monday due to the "serious health hazards" posed to students. The ministries' statement did not say when schools would open again, but after a briefing with authorities on Monday, two teachers told the BBC that their classes would resume on 3 April. Medical charity MSF told the BBC it had seen an increased number of admissions to one of its hospitals since the temperatures started to rise.

Residents of South Sudan, whose independence from Sudan in 2011 makes it the world's newest nation, described difficult conditions

El Niño, a natural weather phenomenon, has been a big driving factor. It has caused unusually warm waters in the east Pacific Ocean - disrupting global weather patterns and driving up temperatures.

However, El Niño is occurring against a backdrop of wider climate change. Meteorologists across the world have been documenting an increasing number of temperature extremes, with 2023 becoming the world's hottest year on record.

South Sudan could experience a few storms in its southern region next week, which could bring some relief amid the blazing heat. And in the longer term, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has forecast wetter-than-normal conditions in the country over the coming months.

While this will cool temperatures and bring relief in drought-hit areas, it may also cause flooding. BBC

EDITORIAL

The powerful few hate war and economic crimes court

Liberia seems to be heading on a path where a few handfuls of individuals who terrorized the entire population with arms, committing mayhem and killing thousands of civilians, including women and children, believe that they can still hold the country hostage with the barrel of the gun, against current calls for the establishment of war and economic crimes court to punish them for their deeds.

The few handfuls of citizens, predominantly warlords, some of whom are in the legislature, believe that they can shield themselves from accountability through court and have begun to issue threats of returning to the bush if such court comes into being and they were summoned to appear.

In their state of mind, they owe the population no explanation for the carnage they committed during the brutal civil war and should be business as usual, or they should continue to have their will.

But clearly, the rebel generals and leaders need to be told brutally that time has caught up with them, and their days are numbered to appear before an international criminal court to account for atrocities they committed against innocent and peaceful citizens.

They seem to be living in utopia, believing that they can challenge both the people of Liberia and the international community to escape justice while their victims continue to wallop in pain and tears with justice eluding them. No! There has to be a bus stop, and we believe now is the right time.

For obvious reasons, disbanded INPFL and MODEL rebels' leaders, Senators Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba County and Thomas Yaya Nimely of Grand Gedeh County, are beating the war drum the loudest, raining threats and kicking against the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia because they are afraid of their past deeds.

All 98 individuals listed for prosecution by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report should know that President Joseph Nyuma Boakai is not the author of the report but is demonstrating leadership by doing what the report says: the need for accountability, not a witch-hunt, as some quarters are claiming.

The character or mark of a good leader is to stand and speak for the majority. President Boakai has embarked upon this fearlessly amid threats from those who see themselves in the mirror, saying that they cannot survive the war crimes court because their deeds are overwhelming.

The souls of fellow citizens who were murdered in cold blood in Kpolokpaila in Bong County, Mahed River in Grand Cape Mount County, Voinjama, Lofa County, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe counties, and other areas across Liberia are still crying for justice. Not only Liberia but the entire world is listening to the cries daily, while those who tormented them to death through summary executions and massacres live comfortably in impunity with no remorse for their actions.

One thing is sure. However, they are not in the majority, and their empty threats cannot scare away the international community that is resolved to bring justice to Liberians and put impunity to an end.

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COMMENTARY

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Appoint Not Disappoint

There is still plenty talk about GOL appointments to the point where it is clouded with disappointments. The appointments turn into disappointments when the Rule of Law is not followed. For example, the is he tenure problem. Many persons are getting appointed and are sent an office to be Officer-in Charge (OIC) when there is nothing in the Law that calls for OIC. But the prevailing powers that be say that such is a part of good governance.

Good governance is about changing the bad into the good. This is why it is called good governance. The governance of any institution can be good when persons working with the institution are chosen on the basis of their good records. Therefore, it is bad to chose any person for a position who has served a sentence for being a rogue. It is bad to remove a rogue from one position and place him/her in another position. To do such is to promote the prevailing corruption.

To promote the prevailing corruption i to promote the prevailing poverty that has now become the pretext for violence. The violence has taken on the forms of coup d'etat and civil war in Liberia and in other countries. The experience with these forms of violence in Liberia has taken the lives of over 300,000 people and injured many more people. Due to this experience, the people of Liberia have concluded that Liberia is headed in the wrong direction (Afrobarometer, 2022).

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The new direction of the the new State regime is the wrong direction. It is the wrong direction because it promotes corruption and poverty. Logs continue to be exported while Liberian students continue to sit on bare floors at schools. National Legislators continue to have access to at least LD200,000 a day and their foreign partners have access to at least LD300,000,000 a day while nearly all of the people of Liberia have access to at most less than LD300 a day (The Annual reports of CBL, LISGIS. MFDP, MCI, WB, IMF, ADB and UNDP).

The right direction calls for the use of awareness raising for helping to solve the problems non-violently, through the Rule of Law. The right direction calls for the change of the bad Legislators. The right direction calls for relevant action like the action taken to remove almost all of the Legislators who wanted to be re-elected. It is through the transformation of the prevailing unfair electoral system into the enduring fair electoral system that the removal of bad national decision makers can take place. With the transformation of the unfair electoral system, through awareness raising, persons with good records can be elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

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OP-ED

By Gordon Brown

For Nigeria's Schools, Safety Must Come First

EDINBURGH - Last Thursday, more than 280 Nigerian students were kidnapped from their school in Kuriga, a town in the northern state of Kaduna - the second mass abduction of young Nigerians in the span of a week. The international community must urgently act to secure the release of these children, some of whom are as young as eight years old. But equally important is creating safer schools for students throughout Nigeria's 36 states, so that all children can pursue an education without fear of abduction or violence.

The kidnapping in Kuriga was even larger than Boko Haram's infamous raid on a girls' secondary school in Chibok, a town in northeastern Borno State, in 2014. The Islamic militants kidnapped 276 girls; a decade later, nearly 100 of them are still missing. Armed groups have targeted many schools in the intervening years, although not on the scale seen in the Kuriga attack, which took place only days after militants seized dozens of displaced people, reportedly including many young women and girls, in the Borno town of Gamboru Ngala.

The international community can and must help. First and foremost, the Nigerian government needs surveillance support to locate the abducted pupils. As the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, I am in contact with governments and urging them to help determine the students' whereabouts, with a view to their quick release.

But, more broadly, as terrorism continues to plague the region, and as the risk of kidnapping and violence climbs, more and more parents may decide to keep their sons or daughters at home. This is unacceptable. No child should have to fear going to school, and no parent should have to worry that their child may never return.

As my experience has shown, there are ways to ensure that students can continue to attend school safely. I have been involved in numerous initiatives around the world focused on improving school safety, not least in Nigeria after the Chibok kidnapping. In response to the growing number of attacks, I visited the country on numerous occasions to advise successive presidents. Moreover, I worked with a coalition of Nigerian business leaders and the Global Business Coalition for Education to launch the Safe Schools Initiative at the World Economic Forum in May 2014. It aimed to implement best practices, based on global standards, including school- and community-level actions and special provisions for schools in high-risk areas.

I believe that these same measures must be reintroduced, reinvigorated, and supercharged at the federal, state, and local levels in Nigeria. Technical support and national and international funding must be increased and made widely available to ensure that schools receive significant security and safety upgrades. This will allow us to reassure Nigerian parents that schools can be safe places to learn.

Four broader initiatives, which together serve as a comprehensive blueprint for safe schools, should be implemented urgently. For starters, the international community must engage Nigerian governors and intergovernmental forums to enhance intelligence sharing and security ties. Second, state-by-state school-safety plans, including detailed proposals for building walls and fencing and introducing state-of-the-art telecommunications connections and security alarms that can be easily implemented, must be developed and presented publicly.

Third, investment in community outreach and engagement programs will be essential, as will close collaboration with community and religious leaders to explain how schools are being better protected, and how important it is for children to continue to attend. Lastly, policymakers must empower local people to form school-based management committees and make their own decisions about how best to protect students and teachers according to local circumstances and needs.

Many Nigerian parents are currently facing a no-win situation: send a child to school and risk them being abducted, or keep a child out of school and risk them forgoing a better future. That is why my message to these children - and their parents - is that if you make the effort to come to school, we will strive to ensure that your learning environment is more secure. Nigerians have suffered greatly from school interruptions caused by terrorist attacks and threats. It is now time for the international community to show solidarity and support efforts to make schools safer. That is the only way to realize the promise of a high-quality education for all.

OPINION

By Connie Hedegaard

Unity Is Europe's Greatest Asset

COPENHAGEN - With the approach of June's European Parliament elections, the grand coalition of the European People's Party (EPP), the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), and Renew Europe faces a watershed moment. The EPP's recent decision to nominate European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for a second term, far from being merely procedural, could have profound implications for Europe as it confronts internal and external challenges of unprecedented magnitude.

Together with its coalition partners, the EPP has steered the EU through multiple shocks over the past five years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, heightened tensions with China, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the subsequent energy crisis. The EU's achievements during this period have highlighted not only the bloc's resilience of the European community but also the crucial role of unity and the need to preserve the current coalition.

Moreover, these challenges have underscored the importance of upholding the intergenerational contract and foundational values that underpin the EU. This is particularly important in the face of mounting pressures from extremists and populists who advocate simplistic, short-term fixes instead of tackling long-term, complex challenges.

Looking ahead, the EU's agenda will likely remain dominated by persistent crises, necessitating a unified and thoughtful approach. The EPP-led coalition could play a crucial role, fostering stability and economic development while navigating the challenges Europe must face.

One of the main challenges will be the fight against climate change. Over the past few years, European leaders have worked together to protect the environment for future generations while striving to boost economic competitiveness. This collective effort has led to a significant reduction in transport-sector emissions and the adoption of the ambitious Fit for 55 plan, a comprehensive legislative package aimed at reducing the EU's net greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 55% from 1990 levels by 2030. The plan includes binding targets for boosting renewable-energy production, reducing energy consumption, and lowering emissions in key industries.

Moreover, today's geopolitical crises have brought security back to the top of Europe's agenda, with EU member states aiming to de-risk energy value chains by focusing on renewables and efficiency measures. This strategic pivot reflects a broader commitment to sustainability that resonates beyond Europe's borders, influencing energy policies around the world.

But this shift is not just about achieving climate goals. By focusing on renewable energies and de-risking supply chains, the EU also aims to shield European citizens and industries from the volatility of global energy markets, which are often influenced by geopolitical uncertainties. The bloc's commitment to renewables is exemplified by Germany's Energiewende (energy transformation) policy, as well as robust government investments in renewable energy in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden. These strategic investments have also bolstered the competitiveness of these countries' energy industries.

This is important because Europe is not alone in pursuing a sustainable future. Following the establishment of the EU's Emissions Trading System, countries like Japan and Brazil have set up their own carbon markets. This global sustainability drive, while commendable, also means increased competition, again highlighting the need for unity as European countries seek to capitalize on the opportunities created by the green transition while striving to meet ambitious climate targets and tackle the complex challenges that come with implementation.

While unity is the EU's greatest asset in the fight against climate change, the EPP's leadership, in particular, must continue to play a central role in advancing the EU's climate agenda. This is no time to backtrack. The expansion of the EU carbon market into new sectors like maritime transport, and the bloc's prominent role in international climate negotiations, are prime examples of its proactive approach. Faced with the existential threat of climate change, EPP, S&D, and Renew leaders must draw on their experience, knowledge, and ambition to defend the bloc's core values against rising populism and guide Europe through the challenging times ahead.

Far from a distant threat, climate change is already wreaking havoc across Europe. At this critical juncture, Europe requires unity, vision, and bold leadership more than ever. The future of the bloc, the welfare of its citizens, and the success of its industries are in our hands. For responsible political parties, now is no time to make Europe a victim of partisan paralysis.

Connie Hedegaard served as European Commissioner for Climate Action (2010-14), and as Denmark's Minister for the Environment (2004-07) and Minister for Climate and Energy (2007-09).

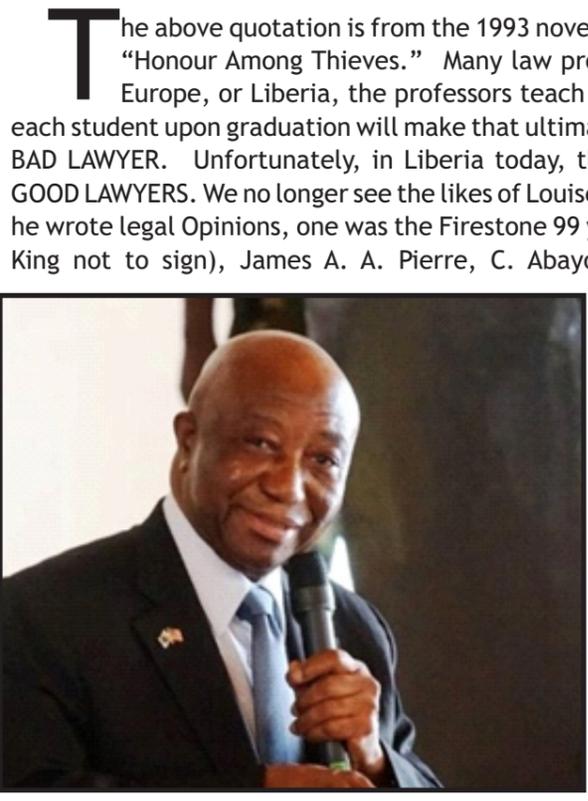
ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia, The Good Lawyers, and Bad Lawyers

By Hun-Bu Tulay

Cell #+231777111032/886517356; Email: ntevoma@gmail.com
 "Here, we teach you the laws and if you are lucky to graduate, you would know the laws, but you have a choice to be a good lawyer or a bad lawyer."



The above quotation is from the 1993 novel by the author Jeffrey Archer titled: "Honour Among Thieves." Many law professors, be it in the United States, Europe, or Liberia, the professors teach you the laws, and often or not, and each student upon graduation will make that ultimate choice to be a GOOD LAWYER or a BAD LAWYER. Unfortunately, in Liberia today, there are many BAD LAWYERS THAN GOOD LAWYERS. We no longer see the likes of Louise Arthur Grimes-(as Attorney General he wrote legal Opinions, one was the Firestone 99 years Contract, he advised President King not to sign), James A. A. Pierre, C. Abayomi Cassell, James Jenkins Dossen (Supreme Court Opinion, Case-Ditchfield vs. Dossen, 1907, Justice Dossen read the opinion- The organic and Statutory Laws of Liberia in legal matters put everyman on equal footing in securing to himself the right guaranteed not only by laws of the land as such but by international treaties with the nations of the world), Henry Reed Cooper, Winfred Smallwood, S. Raymond Horace, Frederick K. Tulay-RL vs. Anderson and others murder cases. This case was on the Maryland Court Docket for more than five years; no judge had the Willpower

to hear it because of the father's position in the TWP, government, Freemasonry (33 Degree), as well as relation to the then president-Tubman. Judge Tulay called the case for hearing, Anderson other were found GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO DEATH), and the list goes on. These are just a few examples. These were lawyers who knew the laws and gave candid legal opinions to their clients and some to the Presidents. They were not after saving their lobs. Unfortunately, today, lawyers are interested in saving their jobs, particularly those working for the government. As a result, they tell their bosses what the bosses want to hear, not what the law says.

There is a story which goes as follows: "Once upon a time, a president of a country wanted to prosecute one of the interim presidents of that country. The Ministry of Justice was asked to prosecute the interim president for corruption. The Minister forwarded the case to the Solicitor General, who was the country's Chief Prosecutor. After reviewing the file, the president was advised against the prosecution. The advice was ignored. The Minister, who wanted to save his/her job, prosecuted the case. The government lost the case in court. The government lost thousands of United States Dollars. The Minister was a BAD LAWYER AND THE SOLICITOR GENERAL was a GOOD LAWYER. This Solicitor General was the first Solicitor General in the post war period at the time of that country. This Solicitor General is/was a GOOD LAWYER". Because there are many BAD LAWYERS than GOOD LAWYERS, our judiciary has been alleged by different people and institutions as corrupt, even the former Chief Justice, an Ambassador and Civil Society organization have alleged the same.

With reference to the cabinet decision advising the President to appoint individuals to all tenure positions, we wonder whether the legal adviser really explained the laws to the Cabinet. This is because according to him, it was a Cabinet decision and in the absence of the Minister of Justice/Attorney General, who is the Chief Legal Adviser to the President and the Cabinet, the Legal opinion of the Legal Adviser to the President and the Cabinet is relied upon to make key decisions/policy statements. And when the Legal Adviser spoke at a Press Briefing, he quoted an Article during the Cabinet meeting. The Legal Adviser's reliance was Article 56 of the Constitution for the appointment to positions that are currently occupied by individuals as per their tenure. However, let us go back to Article 54 which gives the list of positions that the President nominates and with the consent of the Senate appoint and commission (a-f). Article 56-a only repeated these positions. In fact, it reads "All Cabinet Ministers, Deputy and Assistant Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, Minister Consuls, Superintendents of Counties and other government officials both military and civilian, appointed by the President pursuant to this Constitution shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the President." The Legal Adviser said during the Press Briefing that this Article 56-a reads "that all individuals appointed in the Executive Branch hold the offices with the pleasure of the President". We do see this in Article 56-a. The legal Adviser said during that Press Briefing, "All Autonomous Agencies and Commissions." Is this Legal Adviser telling us that this would affect the Civil Service Commission, Elections Commission, General Auditing Commission, and the Central Bank of the country? If it does, then the country would be moving on a wrong path.

But let us take you back to Chapter X, Article 89 Which reads thus, "The following Autonomous Public Commissions are hereby established:

- A. Civil Service Commission
- B. Election Commission And

C. General Auditing Commission
 The Legislature shall enact laws for the governance of these Commissions and create other Agencies as may be necessary for the effective operations of the government. The question is, did the Legal Adviser read this Chapter/Article 89 to the Cabinet during the discussion on the tenure positions? If he did not, this would have been very unfortunate. This reminds us of the case of Assistant Minister Prince Brown of the Coast Guard, Colonel Saydee, and Colonel & others during the Treason Trial during the Tolbert Administration. The Justice Minister at the time read a law during the trial. The Minister was asked by one of the defended Councils to read the paragraph that followed what the Minister read. The Minister refused. One of the defense councils read the paragraph that followed, and it started with the word "but". We say this to say that you do not only cite an article or chapter in the Constitution and give an opinion that might affect thousands of people. If the Constitution wanted all appointed people in the Executive Branch to hold their offices at the pleasure of the President, it would have been clearly stated in Chapter X, Article 89. But it is stated that the Legislature shall enact laws for the governance of these Commissions and other agencies to be created as may be necessary for the effective operation of government. It is these enacted laws that give tenure to the individuals in these positions.

If this was the case, what would be the essence of the laws enacted by the Legislature? And what is very interesting is, these laws governing these Commissions and Agencies given tenure to some of them were enacted, when the current President was Vice President, and as Vice President he signed on those acts/laws before they were sent to the President for approval. What was his position on these institutions at the time? How does this help to fight the war on corruption and transparency in the country? How does this help the RESCUE AGENDA? If this is done, there will be NO PROTECTION for the employees of these institutions as it is now. When with the protection, we saw one of the heads of an institution, who had tenure telling us that he would put aside the act and do what the



President wants. This individual is an educated fool. He wanted to protect his job. We do not protect our jobs by violating the laws and doing the wrong things.

We believe there was a reason why President Weah did not sign the Bill that would have repealed tenure positions. Any Act to nullify these positions would eventually return the country to Tubmanism or imperial presidency. This is not what we want for this country in the 21st century. We need an open and transparent government. Our Constitution of 1986 says all power resides in the citizens, who elect officials to exercise this power on their behalf. Article 56-b calls for the elections of Paramount, Clan, and Town Chiefs by the registered voters in their respective localities to serve for a term of six years. It also states that the Legislature shall enact laws to provide for their qualifications as may be required. The Legislature enacted the Local Government Act and was signed by the President in 2018. Since then, we have not had elections as per the Constitution. This is what the people voted for not nullifying the tenure positions. In fact, if we do according to the Legal Adviser, the government would pay those in these positions for their unexpired terms. This will cost approximately US\$3.0 MILLION. This is enough to buy five or more Fire Trucks or provide chairs/teachers for over 100 schools or provide drugs and medical equipment for five referral hospitals or construct rehabilitation centers in eight Counties for the DRUG ADDICTED YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY which is currently the greatest threat to the country's democracy because they are uneducated and undisciplined.

When you are on a RESCUE MISSION, you do not act in a way that calls for attraction, because if you do not, your mission might fail or might be delayed. We do not want this RESCUE MISSION to fail or delay, because the people have waited too long, and their lives hang in the balance and waiting on you to RESCUE THEM. They want immediate results and the current Court actions in respect of the tenured officials will delay the Mission. This could have been avoided. Many of these people have only two years remaining on their tenure; we should have waited. Spending approximately US\$3.00 million just to give jobs to some individuals does not solve our problems.
 What Liberians need immediately?

CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U.S. government donates uniforms to Police

The United States Government has donated two thousand sets of uniforms to Schniegel, said the donation is the U.S. Government's way of enhancing officers' appearance while carrying out

impartially discharge its duties and responsibilities.

Receiving the uniform on behalf of the LNP, Inspector General of Police Gregory Coleman, applauded the U.S. Government for its donation and promised to ensure that officers will continue to remain professional in the discharge of their law enforcement duties while wearing said uniforms.

IG Coleman re-emphasized his commitment to upholding fundamental rights of citizens and impartially discharging the rule of law.

He appreciated the U.S. Government for always supporting the works of the Liberia National Police and its regular follow-ups in ensuring that rights are respected and the law is impartially discharged.

With such donation, IG Coleman added that it will enhance decent appearance of officers while performing their duties across the country. Press Release



the Liberia National Police.

their law enforcement duties.

Making the presentation Thursday, March 14, the head of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Association (INL), Sally

Madam Schniegel used the occasion to applaud the LNP for its diligent services and urged the Police administration to continue to

Cllr. Gongloe blames ignorance for Liberia's corruption

Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has been troubled by a recent incident in which authorities impounded three unauthorized trucks loaded with rice and arrested several suspects linked to the consignment's exit from the Freeport of Monrovia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 18, 2024: Renowned Liberian human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has squarely blamed ignorance as the root cause of corruption and bad governance across Liberia.

The former presidential candidate's statement was in response to a recent incident in which authorities impounded three unauthorized trucks loaded with rice and arrested several suspects linked to the consignment's exit from the Freeport of Monrovia.

The National Port Authorities (NPA) on Monday, 11 March 2024, informed the public that it had arrested seven of its employees and had them charged for collusion and facilitation of the unauthorized exit from the port of three trucks loaded with rice.

The trucks allegedly exited the Freeport of Monrovia through the Bravo gate at about 3:22 a.m. on March 6, 2024.

At a packed news conference held at its national headquarters on Bushrod Island, the NPA said it will leave no stone unturned in implementing President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's ARREST Agenda.

NPA Corporate Communication Manager Malcolm W. Scott named the

suspects charged as Robert Yeah, Shift Commander, Charles Weah, Deputy Commander, and Ezekiel Kollie, Duty Officer.

Other suspects charged are Zwannah Haines, Duty Officer; George Boakai, Gate Commander; Michael Johnson, Gate Drop Officer; and Abraham Z. Tului, Recording Officer.

But in a brief remark over the weekend at a program in Monrovia, Cllr. Gongloe said he agreed with former President Williams R. Tolbert's description of Liberia's three major enemies: poverty, disease, and ignorance.

According to the former Liberian People's Party (LPP) political leader, if Liberians can kill a president because of bad governance largely rooted in corruption, Liberians should have no reason to engage in corruption.

"President Tolbert said

Liberia's three enemies are poverty, ignorance, and disease. But, he concluded by saying the worst is ignorance. Because Liberians are ignorant, that's why they repeat the things ...," said Cllr. Gongloe.

"If a whole President was killed and 13 others executed and many more because of corruption, why should any Liberian engage in corruption?" Cllr. Gongloe wondered.

The former LPP political leader further asked why Liberians should engage in corruption if the country's civil war killed thousands of people because of bad governance largely rooted in corruption.

"What was wrong yesterday is still wrong today, irrespective of status, time, and actors. If we don't know our history, we will keep doing the wrong things, and ignorance does that," he concluded.



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

Gov't dedicates modern TVET facility in Maryland County

With plans to offer training in multiple areas, including agriculture, auto mechanics, and electricity, the vocational school in Maryland County is open to all those seeking to acquire trade skills.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland Count

School authorities in Maryland County have dedicated a modern Technical and Vocational Training Center (TVET), which is said to be an annex of Cape Palmas High School. Authorities said the center, which will be built in Harper, will offer training in multiple areas, including Agriculture, Auto Mechanics, Electricity, Computer Science, Carpentry, Plumbing, and Masonry. The vocational school is opened to all those seeking to acquire skills in trade in the county. During the dedication exercise on Friday, 15 March 2024, several school administrators and students in Maryland County jointly paraded the principal streets of Harper City, celebrating the modern TVET facility.

Schools participating in the program were Sarah Elizabeth Gibson Elementary, Harper Demonstration School, Yoàkpê

graduate institution.

"So, if there's a mindset from citizens, they should change such plans," Madam Sleweon warned.

The Cape Palmas High School (CPHS) principal lauded the school faculty and the public for allowing their children and students to participate in the dedication ceremony. "Let me say to all of you [who] gather here today, this is a golden opportunity for our people, and we need to embrace it by encouraging our citizens to see this institution as our own," she said.

The Youth Rising project aims to support TVET in Liberia, and it is funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The program is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO). Youth Rising aligns with Liberia's National TVET policy.

The project contributes to youth employment by improving access to quality technical and vocational



Foundation High School, John Hillary High School, E. Othello Gongar School, and Cape Palmas High School, among others.

Addressing the gathering in Lake Shepherd Community, Madam Annie Sleweon, principal of Cape Palmas High School, disclosed that the vocational school is an annex of Cape Palmas High School. She said that while her school has direct supervision over the TVET school, its doors are open to all the schools across Maryland, including people who are not in school but desire to learn a trade. The Cape Palmas High School principal told county residents that vocational training services are not free like those at other institutions around the country.

She pointed out that the entrance registration for the trade school was scheduled to begin Monday, 18 March 2024, but Cape Palmas High School students are exempted from the entrance.

She explained further that the institution is not a come let go

education and training for young men and women, promoting entrepreneurship, and connecting education with the private sector.

The project objectives maintained that the Government of Liberia recognizes that the transition towards inclusive growth will not happen unless human capabilities are enhanced. It further noted that the quality of education and vocational training are improved to match the demands of the labor market.

According to the CPHS principal, the aim and objectives of the Government of Liberia have taken progressive policy commitments to prioritize youth employment and the strengthening of labor market skills.

She disclosed that the European Union has invested 25,250.00 EUR, while the Swedish Government contributed 55,000.00 SEK to the project's construction from 1 September 2018 to 2024.

The project will be a total relief to many county citizens, particularly high school dropouts and people who are not interested in tertiary education.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LNBA alarms humiliating condition of Public Defender

Many public defense lawyers assigned to remote counties are said to travel long distances via motorbike before accessing court facilities. The Liberia National Bar Association wants to provide incentives to these lawyers to enhance their work.

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has expressed frustration over the appalling and humiliating conditions of Public Defenders across the country.

Speaking over the weekend, LNBA President Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie explained how public defenders assigned in remote counties travel long distances on motorbikes before accessing courts.

Rennie recalled that Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh launched a five-year strategic plan and spoke of recruiting an additional 30 lawyers to serve as Public Defenders in the 15 counties.

He said the Bar endorsed the Chief Justice's pledge to rebrand the Judiciary with the launch of the five-year strategic plan.

However, Cllr. Rennie said

"This condition is humiliating," the Bar president lamented, according to Cllr. Rennie, the records show that the last time some Public Defenders ever benefitted from assigned pick-ups was in 2014, provided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

"The Bar is appealing to the Judiciary to see reasons to incentivize the Public Defense Sector under the five (5) five-year strategic plan," he urged.

Additionally, Cllr. Rennie lamented that for judicial independence, the Judiciary must be financially vibrant to meet its existing activities.

Accordingly, he suggested that in the absence of a financially viable Judiciary, access to justice will remain an illusion, thereby defeating the whole purpose of justice.

"The lack of adequate budgetary funding has greatly impacted our courts around the country. You will recall that



humiliating condition of public defender must be addressed.

"While this announcement is laudable, the need to provide incentives such as vehicles and other workable equipment that will enhance the smooth operation of the work of the Public Defenders is also encouraged," said Rennie.

"Presently, many of the Public Defense Lawyers who are assigned in various counties outside of the bailiwick of Montserrado County have to use motorbikes to travel from Bong County to Voinjama, Lofa County, or from Ganta, Nimba County to Grand Gedeh County, River Gee County, or Maryland County," he lamented.

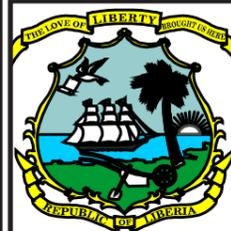
He added that Public Defenders assigned in River Cess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, or Maryland Counties have to ride motorbikes from Grand Bassa County to these venues only to ensure that justice is served.

the previous administration harmonized the judiciary's Budget, which affected the entire Judiciary," he said.

"Our Judges and Magistrates have yet to recover from this financial shock to their income, yet they are performing their duties. This financial shock caused by the harmonization has lowered the morale and respectability of our Judges and Magistrates," he continued.

But Cllr. Rennie believes that judicial independence should not be limited to mere paper, saying it must be translated into words to meet the spirit and intent of the paper.

"The Bar supports the tripartite meeting with the three (3) branches of government but also hastens to state that the call by the Judiciary should not be seen as begging the other two (2) branches of Government for their entitlement, as financial support to the Judiciary is ordered by law," he said.



Republic of Liberia
Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission
Behind Lonestar Cell MTN Headquarters
Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town
Monrovia, Liberia



National Competitive Bidding
Scratch Cards

IFB No: LERC/SBA/NCB/002/24
Publication Date: March 7, 2024

Deadline for Submission: April 4, 2024

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission intends to apply part of its funds towards payment under a contract for **Scratch Cards**

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible Vendors for the Supply of Scratch Cards. Details are in the Table Below.

Package Number	Description of Goods	Deadline for Submission
IFB #: LERC/NCB/001/24	Scratch Cards	April 4, 2024

The Bidders shall quote for the complete requirement of the services specified in the bidding documents. The Price for a Set of Bidding Documents is **20 USD**

A complete set of bidding documents, in English, may be picked up by interested eligible bidders from the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00PM, April 4, 2024. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of bidders designated representatives at 2:05PM, April 4, 2024, at the address below.

Interested Parties desiring clarity may also call the number below, write an Email to the Email address below, or visit the address below between 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Address referred to for clarity, bid pick-up, and bid submission is:

Procurement Office
Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission
Behind Lonestar Cell MTN, Congo Town
Tel:0777-471-572
E-mail: onyah@lerc.gov.lr



Republic of Liberia
Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission
Behind Lonestar Cell MTN Headquarters
Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town
Monrovia, Liberia



National Competitive Bidding
Stationery

IFB No: LERC/NCB/001/24
Publication Date: March 7, 2024

Deadline for Submission: April 4, 2024

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission intends to apply part of its funds towards payment under a contract for **Scratch Cards**

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible Vendors for the Supply of Stationery. Details are in the Table Below.

Package Number	Description of Goods	Deadline for Submission
IFB #: LERC/NCB/001/24	Scratch Cards (Assorted. Details in the Bidding Document)	April 4, 2024

The Bidders shall quote for the complete requirement of the services specified in the bidding documents. The Price for a Set of Bidding Documents is **20 USD**

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Français

Le ministre des Finances sortant menace de représailles les chefs de guerre

L'ancien ministre des Finances, David Farhat, défie les chefs de guerre et les Libériens opposés à la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques au Liberia, affirmant qu'ils n'ont pas le pouvoir d'empêcher la création d'un

de guerre et les crimes économiques au Liberia. Il a déclaré que le chef rebelle, le sénateur Prince Johnson, et d'autres chefs de guerre seraient décapités et leurs corps démembrés s'ils entreprenaient une quelconque action ignoble pour empêcher la création dudit tribunal.

Le sénateur Johnson, chef de

que cela pourrait conduire à la violence.

L'ancien chef de guerre devenu évangéliste, s'exprimant lors de son culte dominical habituel en janvier de cette année, a déclaré que les hommes qui se sont battus pour lui pendant la guerre civile libérienne dans les années 90 ne resteraient pas les bras croisés et ne le laisseraient pas être arrêté et traduit devant ce tribunal pour être jugé, bien que la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation du Liberia mentionne le sénateur Johnson comme l'un des acteurs qui ont commis des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité pendant la crise civile, et qui devrait donc être poursuivi.

"La guerre est finie ; nous avons besoin de développement ; quelle est votre contribution ? Vous pensez que les garçons qui ont combattu auparavant viendront vous permettre de venir nous chercher ?" a demandé l'ancien chef de guerre.

Mais, répondant à PYJ dans une interview accordée aux journalistes après la célébration du 95e anniversaire de la naissance de la défunte dirigeante Mary Brownell, M.

▶ CONT'D page 9

Éditorial

Les puissants redoutent le tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques

Le Liberia semble s'engager sur une voie où une poignée d'individus qui ont terrorisé la population entière avec des armes, semant le chaos et tuant des milliers de civils, y compris des femmes et des enfants, pensent toujours pouvoir prendre le pays en otage par la force des armes, face aux appels actuels à la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques afin de les punir pour leurs actes.

Cette poignée de citoyens, principalement des chefs de guerre, dont certains siègent au parlement, pensent pouvoir échapper à la justice par le biais d'un tribunal et ont commencé à proférer des menaces de retour dans la brousse si un tel tribunal venait à être créé et s'ils étaient convoqués à comparaître.

Dans leur esprit, ils ne doivent aucune explication à la population pour le carnage qu'ils ont commis pendant la brutale guerre civile et devraient pouvoir continuer comme si de rien n'était, ou imposer leur volonté.

Mais il faut dire clairement aux généraux et chefs rebelles que le temps les a rattrapés, et que leurs jours sont comptés pour comparaître devant une cour pénale internationale afin de répondre des atrocités commises contre des citoyens innocents et pacifiques.

Ils semblent vivre dans une utopie, croyant qu'ils peuvent défier à la fois le peuple libérien et la communauté internationale pour échapper à la justice, alors que leurs victimes continuent de se lamenter dans la douleur et les larmes, la justice leur échappant. Non ! Il doit y avoir une limite, et nous pensons que le moment est venu.

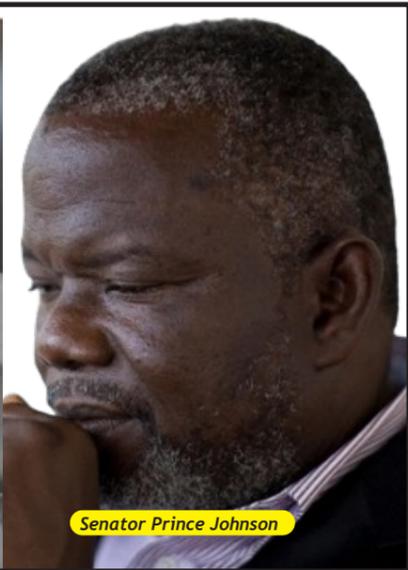
Pour des raisons évidentes, les chefs des rebelles dissous de l'INPFL et du MODEL, les sénateurs Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba et Thomas Yaya Nimely du comté de Grand Gedeh, sont ceux qui battent le tambour de la guerre le plus fort, proférant des menaces et s'opposant à la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques au Liberia parce qu'ils ont peur de leurs actes passés.

Les 98 personnes identifiées pour être poursuivies par le rapport final de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation doivent savoir que le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai n'est pas l'auteur du rapport, mais qu'il fait preuve de leadership en mettant en œuvre ce que le rapport préconise : la nécessité de rendre des comptes, et non pas une chasse aux sorcières, comme le prétendent certains milieux.

La marque d'un bon dirigeant est de se lever et de parler au nom de la majorité. Le président Boakai s'est lancé dans cette entreprise sans crainte face aux menaces de ceux qui se voient dans le miroir, affirmant qu'ils ne pourraient pas survivre au tribunal pour crimes de guerre car leurs actes sont accablants.

Les âmes de concitoyens assassinés de sang-froid à Kpolokpaila dans le comté de Bong, à la rivière Mahed dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, à Voinjama, dans le comté de Lofa, dans les comtés de Grand Bassa et de Sinoe, et dans d'autres régions du Liberia, continuent de pleurer justice. Non seulement le Liberia, mais le monde entier entend leurs cris chaque jour, tandis que ceux qui les ont tourmentés à mort par des exécutions sommaires et des massacres vivent confortablement dans l'impunité sans aucun remords pour leurs actes.

Une chose est sûre. Cependant, ils ne sont pas majoritaires, et leurs menaces vides ne peuvent effrayer la communauté internationale qui est résolue à rendre justice aux Libériens et à mettre fin à l'impunité.



Former Minister of Finance David M. Farhat

Senator Prince Johnson

tel tribunal chargé de rendre la justice et de mettre fin à l'impunité.

L'ancien ministre des Finances, David M. Farhat, s'en prend à ceux qui s'opposent à la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes

de l'ancien groupe rebelle INPFL, a vivement averti l'administration du président Joseph Boakai d'abandonner son projet de création du tribunal tant attendu pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques, menaçant

Le Liberia s'apprête à criminaliser les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF)

Une décision importante a été prise au Liberia pour mettre fin aux mutilations génitales féminines (MGF). Une députée a annoncé que ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, peuplé de 5 millions d'habitants, s'apprête à criminaliser la pratique des MGF.

Dans une démarche significative vers la protection des droits et du bien-être des femmes et des filles, Moima Briggs Mensah, députée de la circonscription électorale n° 6 du comté de Bong, annonce ici que le Liberia est sur le point d'adopter une loi criminalisant les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF).

Cette annonce intervient après de longs efforts de plaidoyer et de sensibilisation, mettant en lumière les effets néfastes des MGF sur la santé physique et mentale des femmes et des filles.

Lors d'un atelier consultatif régional de deux jours sur le rôle des leaders traditionnels, culturels et religieux dans la lutte contre la violence sexiste (VSG) qui

s'est tenu le lundi 11 mars 2024 à Monrovia, la députée Mensah a souligné l'engagement de la 55e législature à mettre fin à cette pratique, tout en soulignant que le soutien des chefs traditionnels était crucial à cet égard.

Selon la députée, il est nécessaire que les chefs traditionnels, y compris le chef Zanzan Kavar, la reine de la culture Judy Andy et tous les autres Zoes du pays, fournissent à la législature un document de pétition exprimant leur accord pour criminaliser cette pratique.

Elle exhorte ses collègues à

inclure dans la pétition des dispositions relatives au financement budgétaire visant à aider les Zoes à obtenir la formation nécessaire pour abandonner leurs pratiques néfastes.

Actuellement, 31,8 % des femmes et des filles libériennes vivent avec les conséquences de cette pratique néfaste, et beaucoup d'autres sont à risque. Ces femmes et ces filles n'ont guère le choix en la matière, et les mutilations forcées sont

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Rep. Moima Briggs Mensah



Français

Starts from page 8 **Le ministre des Finances**

Farhat a déclaré que les anciens soldats ou combattants ne sont pas stupides au point de recommencer des actions insensées dans le pays.

“Laissez-moi vous dire quelque chose ; il peut y avoir d’anciens soldats, ils ne sont pas stupides pour faire quoi que ce soit, vous comprenez. Ils ne sont pas stupides. S’ils font quoi que ce soit, on leur coupera la tête et on leur découpera le corps en morceaux. Ils devraient arrêter ces bêtises sur la guerre et les anciens soldats dans la brousse. Ils ont peur maintenant et c’est pour ça qu’ils courent”, a souligné l’ancien ministre.

M. Farhat, qui a servi sous l’administration du président assassiné Samuel Doe, estime que le Liberia doit créer ce tribunal car il servira d’exemple et de norme pour la jeune génération, car le pays compte un grand nombre de jeunes.

Il affirme que les anciens soldats ont du bon sens et c’est pourquoi ils s’enfuient, ils

n’ont donc pas les moyens de faire la guerre ou d’empêcher la création du tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques au Liberia.

M. Farhat a ajouté : “Sauf si le gouvernement n’est pas fort. Sauf si le gouvernement est stupide face à ce que le Prince Johnson a dit qui allait se passer. Le tribunal n’apportera pas de division, mais plutôt l’unité. Vous avez tué mon peuple, ce n’est pas la division, mais la justice est la division.”

Il insiste pour que le tribunal soit créé car c’est ce que lui et de nombreux Libériens attendent depuis longtemps, afin que les chefs de guerre puissent répondre de leurs actes.

“Vous pensez que ce que ces gens ont fait dans ce pays était quelque chose de facile et de petit ? Certains d’entre nous en souffrent encore ; c’est pourquoi nous travaillons toujours dur parce qu’ils ont tout détruit de ce que j’avais. Avec ce pays, c’est une occasion pour les gens d’être libres et pour ceux qui ont été reconnus coupables de répondre devant la justice.”

Starts from page 8 **Le Liberia s’apprête**

courantes.

Cependant, la députée du district 6 a révélé qu’un projet de loi se trouvait actuellement en salle de commission à la Chambre en attendant son adoption, mais a fait remarquer que l’absence d’un document de pétition des chefs traditionnels exprimant leur

consentement à l’adoption de la loi et à l’allocation de fonds pour la formation est le seul obstacle à son adoption.

Bien que le Liberia reste l’un des trois pays d’Afrique de l’Ouest à ne pas avoir de loi criminalisant les MGF, alors qu’il a signé et ratifié des instruments régionaux et internationaux de

Proposition d’évaluation de la sécurité par la CEDEAO et l’ONU au Liberia



Madame Olubanke King-Akerele, ancienne ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères, a proposé que la CEDEAO et l’ONU évaluent la situation sécuritaire du Liberia, qu’elle considère comme une menace pour le pays et la sous-région.

L’ancienne ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères, l’ambassadrice Olubanke King-Akerele, a proposé que le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai demande une évaluation externe de la sécurité du Liberia en raison des menaces qui pèsent sur le pays et la région.

Elle souhaite que la Communauté économique des États de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (CEDEAO) et la Mission des Nations Unies en Côte d’Ivoire (ONUCI) entreprennent cette évaluation et analyse de la sécurité du Liberia.

L’ambassadrice King-Akerele a proposé l’évaluation de la sécurité lors du 95e anniversaire de la naissance de feu Madame Mary Brownell, le mardi 12 mars 2024 à Central Monrovia.

“Étant donné la menace sécuritaire dans la sous-région et celle qui pèse également sur notre nation et nos voisins, et compte tenu de l’impératif entourant le Liberia, nous croyons fermement et exhortons la nouvelle administration du président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à envisager sérieusement et à demander à la Mission des Nations Unies en Côte d’Ivoire et à la CEDEAO de venir effectuer une évaluation et une analyse de la sécurité du Liberia”, a exhorté Mme King-Akerele.

Selon elle, il y a tout simplement trop de discours de haine, de violence et de haine dans tout le pays, ce qu’elle a qualifié de provocateur et inacceptable. Elle estime que ces facteurs ont le potentiel de ramener le pays sur une voie qu’il ne veut pas emprunter.

“Tous les partis, en particulier l’opposition, doivent en être conscients. Nous les exhortons à garder à l’esprit le respect et la reconnaissance que le monde et l’Afrique accordent à l’ancien président George M. Weah pour la façon dont il a reconnu la victoire du président Boakai”, a-t-elle souligné.

Elle a également exhorté l’ancien président Weah à ne pas

perdre le respect accordé à lui et au Liberia. Elle a déclaré que le parti de l’ancien président Weah, le Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), promeut des messages de haine et se livre à la provocation.

“Nous l’exhortons à parler. Je suis allée en Ouganda et au Rwanda trois fois pour les Nations Unies et je sais donc de quoi je parle. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre des discours de haine et des messages provocateurs qui détruiraient à nouveau notre pays”, a-t-elle conclu.

Mardi, des dizaines de citoyens, en particulier des descendants congolais ou américano-libériens, se sont réunis à la résidence de feu Madame Mary Brownell pour célébrer le 95e anniversaire de sa naissance. Ce rassemblement a réuni d’éminents hommes et femmes d’État d’hier et d’aujourd’hui, dont Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, Dr. H. Boimah Fahnbulleh, Aunty Mitta Fahnbulleh et Dr. Emmanuel Urey-Yarkpawolo, entre autres.

Ils se sont réunis pour réfléchir au rôle de Madame Brownell dans la promotion et la pérennisation de la paix, de la démocratie et de la sécurité. À cette occasion, plus de douze personnes ont reçu la médaille de la juge Emma Shannon Walser pour la bonne gouvernance, l’État de droit et le patriotisme, en reconnaissance de leurs services précieux à l’humanité, à la société et au pays.

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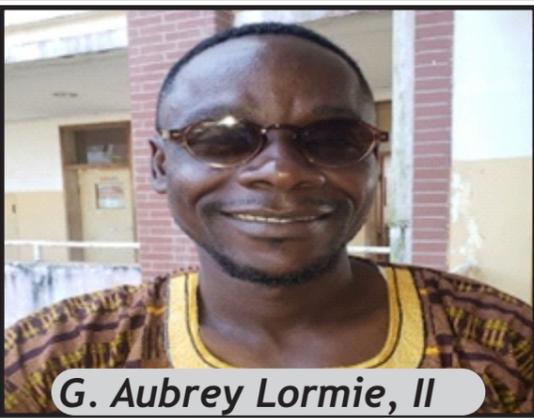
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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Jefferson Kojee's defiant statement

By Naneka Hoffman

Former ruling party secretary general Jefferson Kojee's defiant stance against the Assets Recovery Taskforce is greeted here with disappointment from some ordinary Liberians, as you may read below. Speaking over the weekend when the Congress for Democratic Change announced Mr. Janga Kowo, as its Acting Chairman, Kojee called on all CDCians, whether former officials or those currently in government not to adhere or comply with the government's assets recovery exercise that is meant to retrieve stolen state assets.



G. Aubrey Lormie, II

informing his colleagues that they shouldn't adhere to the President's mandate on the assets recovery committee. I think it is total dissection. It just clearly justifies that indeed, they stole sufficiently in the past and they don't want to be brought to book. He should be booked for that because he served in government. So encouraging his men from CDC to not make themselves available for investigation is a total contradiction to democracy and to the terms of democracy that we practice in Liberia, though he is the Secretary General of the party but I know the committee of the party must likely condoned it, if they don't then it means that they are in total adherence to that statement of Jefferson Kojee."

"I think the were acquired by statement is past government erroneous; it is officials. Upon wrong because the hearing this, the government set up Secretary General assets recovery of the former ruling committee to see party Jefferson how best they can Kojee, decided to track all of those have a press illegal assets that conference,

"The statement Jefferson Kojee made was wrong and it undermines the assets recovery team, because he shouldn't defy the President's mandate as a leader and a young man. Mind you, some youth are following Jefferson Kojee as their role model, so he should show good precedent as a young man."



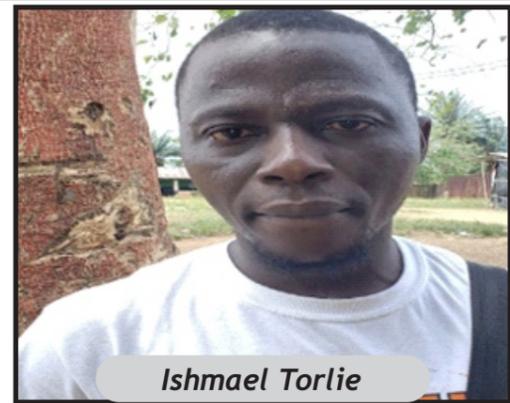
Hellen D. Neufville

seeing some of our Liberian brothers are insisting so that the country can go backward. But we say no to that. Jefferson Kojee is a Liberian, because they thought that they were going to be in power until Jesus Christ come and now, he is saying that no CDCian or rat will go for assets recovery. So it means that what they were doing to us, it means that they meant it. They knew that they were stepping on us in Liberia. I pray that God gives strength to those that are on the assets recovery team, so that they will call those guys and whatever they did to the Liberian people, they will pay the prize."



Richard Kpehe

"Well, you see this country, we just have to be real, if we want for this country to move forward not by leaders, but to put Liberia first. I am saying this because we all have been crying 10 - 15 and 20 years, right after the war. Our country still remains the same and we're hoping that President Joseph N. Boakai to put Liberia on the path, and we're



Ishmael Torlie

"His statement was trying to undermine the Boakai administration, telling CDCians not to respect the President's mandate in Executive Order #126 on the assets recovery. Jefferson maybe want to undermine the government, that's what I see. His statement was very bad. I think he needs to retract his statement."

"From a student perspective, the students have been very independent in a quest for national development like the CDC and other national parties all have interest. And so we all will not necessarily give our input on their views about the assets recovery, for as students, we see it as a good thing. It will set a path for good governance, transparency and integrity, so for the fact the President has issued an Executive Order that is constitution for us. We believe that no one can resist the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, it can be whoever, so if the court

mandates you and you refuse, I think there other means of getting you. I don't think that should be a center of discussion. I think that was just another statement from him, maybe based on sentiment or whatever, but the law is the law."



Odecious Mulbah

indecent. It wasn't necessary for him to talk or God not gave you mouth because you want to talk. Based on his statement, in fact, they will hold all CDCians because they say justice should prevail. CDCians are very corrupt; they brought the hardship that is now in the country. I think you're seeing what is going on now in the country. We need the assets recovery team to rescue us."



Joshua Gaye

"Looking at Jefferson Kojee's statement, it is

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Morlu surfaces in new group

Before exiting the ex-ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Mulbah K. Morlu had a prolonged sour relationship with former President George Manneh Weah.

By Lewis S. Teh

Opposition Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) former Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu has surfaced as chairman of a new political group named Solidarity and Trust for a New Day (STAND).

speech Sunday when the group was formally launched. Morlu said the historic assembly of thousands of Liberians at the 'Unification Park' to launch STAND signified the beginning of a profound era. "The significance of this occasion is profoundly

Liberia's moral fabric suffered a profound alteration, unlike any other West African country, with the systematic rape of its daughters, exploitation and forced conscription of its youth into the merciless killing, and the destruction of billions of dollars worth of valuable infrastructure.

He said that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process was initiated, executed, and concluded in the pursuit of truth, reconciliation, and justice, yielding significant recommendations.

While some pillars of these recommendations were acted upon, Morlu said the imperative quest for justice through the establishment of a hybrid war crimes court to prosecute senior perpetrators of atrocities remains unfulfilled.

Morlu noted that STAND will continue to embody the collective conscience of Liberia's critical grassroots sector, representing the marginalized population that remains excluded from the fair distribution of the nation's wealth.

"Their efforts will lead to the transformation of our nation-state through civil society advocacy, establishing it as a stronghold of freedom and economic prosperity for all," he noted.

He described the recent incident in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County, as arbitrary and senseless for the police to use live bullets on peaceful protesters.



Former CDC chairman Morlu

Morlu has vowed to be a strong voice in seeking justice for war victims and crimes against humanity in Liberia.

"As you have given me the mandate to lead you in this fight, we want to assure you that we will fear no foe in seeking the justice you deserve," he said Sunday, March 17, 2024, at the newly constructed PHP sports park in central Monrovia.

"I, Mulbah K. Morlu, have accepted your request to serve as your chairman. I'm not against UP or CDC. Instead, I will seek justice for you," Morlu said in an acceptance

intertwined with the tragic history of these sandy shores, where senior members of the deposed William R. Tolbert regime were apprehended, restrained, and mercilessly executed under the orders of Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe," he said.

Chairman Morlu revealed that following the murder and decapitation of President Doe and numerous of his associates, the violence persisted, plunging once-peaceful Liberia into a state of terror, death, destruction, and unimaginable chaos.

Accordingly, he noted that

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Trade will boost Africa's economy

the audience.

Koffa expressed concern over the slow pace of regional initiatives towards a single currency and stressed the need to accelerate progress to unlock economic opportunities.

His reservations about the slow pace of the regional single currency initiative, especially from the ECOWAS perspective, stem from the backdrop that the Western region of the continent has postponed five times the conversion to single currency.

"The bigger economies like Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Ghana could not meet the inflation requirement," he said.

"Nigeria, which will account for 65 percent of this conversion, has yet to own it and take leadership of it, and Francophone West Africa is still unwilling to relinquish its dependence on a colonial-era monetary system," Koffa continued. "But we must say a single African currency is indispensable in building resilient African economies."

According to Speaker Koffa, without the need to buy foreign currency to trade with each other, Africans will travel around the continent more, buy more goods and services from each other, and boost internal tourism.

He highlighted the benefits of open borders in facilitating trade and fostering closer ties among African nations.

Though progress is being made in signing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), experts say full benefits will not be reaped unless land borders are opened and intra-African trade is facilitated.

In the absence of open borders, the many horror stories from entrepreneurs who face endless demands for informal payments as they try to trade between our countries will continue to linger. "We must continue our move towards open borders.

Facilitating the free movement of goods and services across the continent cannot be overemphasized, and even ECOWAS is experiencing the benefits of that," said Cllr. Koffa.

"We must turn to each other, trade with each other, and develop an African bond that makes us closer, in fact, and not just in theory. Open borders will do that." Cllr. Koffa was the winner of the African Leadership Magazine Persons Of The Year Awards last year. Held annually, the event brings together leaders from various sectors across Africa and focuses on discussing important issues related to the continent's socio-economic growth and development.

It also celebrates individuals who embody people-centered leadership and promotes a pan-African agenda. In his speech, Koffa underscored the role of technology in bridging infrastructure gaps and driving economic growth on the continent.

Return all diplomatic and service passports now!

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia has directed the immediate return of all diplomatic and service passports while announcing the immediate suspension of Revised Passport Regulations instituted by the previous administration. The move is said to be in connection with national security concerns

By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia announces suspension of Revised Passport Regulations instituted by the former Weah administration in July 2023.

In a move aimed at addressing national security concerns, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, has announced the immediate suspension of the July 2023 Revised Passport Regulations by the Government of Liberia.

Speaking at the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism weekly briefing on Monday, March 18, 2024, in Monrovia, Madame Nyanti noted that the reinstatement of the March 2016 Passport Regulations will take effect immediately. She said under the new directive, all individuals holding Diplomatic, Official, and Service passports with a

the extra passports revoked immediately. Those with justifiable reasons for holding multiple passports are advised to contact the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for clarification." She noted She indicated that reissuance of Diplomatic, Official, and Service passports will be subject to eligibility criteria, with the replacement costs to be covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "free of charge to citizens."

However, for individuals residing outside the country, the Liberian Foreign Minister emphasized that the directive instructs them to report to the nearest Liberian embassy or consulate for passport replacement.

While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledges potential inconvenience resulting from this action, Minister Nyanti further emphasized its necessity for national security, urging that compliance with the directive is strongly encouraged to avoid complications during travel.

She underscores the importance of



Liberia's Foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti

validity exceeding two years are required to return them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, starting Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Deadline for the return of these passports is set for April 18, 2024.

Additionally, the Minister warns that all Liberian citizens and non-Liberians ineligible for Diplomatic, Official, and Service passports, regardless of validity period, are instructed to return their passports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adding that failure to comply will result in the immediate cancellation of these passports.

"Individuals found to possess multiple Diplomatic, Official, and Service passports will have

cooperation from all citizens and residents in adhering to the directive, reaffirming the government's commitment to safeguarding national security interests.

"This suspension of the July 2023 Revised Passport Regulations reflects the government's proactive measures to address security challenges, with a focus on maintaining the integrity of Liberia's passport system and enhancing border security measures."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs assures the public that it remains committed to facilitating a smooth transition process and providing necessary assistance to affected individuals throughout the passport replacement procedure. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Trade will boost Africa's economy

-Speaker Koffa

Liberia's House Speaker, Cllr. Fonati Koffa hopes that leaders on the African continent, which has 1.2 billion people, will begin taking concrete steps toward building a resilient economy instead of waiting for a perfect system to move beyond talk and commitment.

Monrovia, Liberia, 19 March 2024: Liberia's House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa has proposed that to boost Africa's economic

growth, the continent with 1.2 billion people should prioritize intra-trade and investments among its countries and people. "We as leaders on the African continent need to not wait for a perfect system but move beyond talk and commitment to concrete first steps," he said at the African Leadership Awards conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has also proposed

that African leaders embrace open borders and a single currency and that the continent should depend on trade and not borders, embrace, invest, and leverage technology, and move faster towards a single African currency. According to Koffa, these measures would help create resilient African economies capable of adapting to challenges like climate change, global security concerns, and democratic setbacks.

He suggested that a borderless Africa, a single currency, and technology are needed to build resilient African economies that can anticipate crises, adjust, and learn from them. At the same time, he called for maintaining direction and momentum even if Africans had to change routes and do new things or old things in different ways. To achieve these, Cllr. Koffa believes that the strategy of having regional currencies first before a continent-wide convergence seems logical.

"And I am sure there are good reasons for this approach, but it is simply too slow, and we are missing out on great opportunities," the Speaker told



aid. He further advocated for open borders, a single currency, and leveraging technology as key factors in promoting trade over aid on the continent. At the 12th African Leadership Magazine Persons Of The Year Awards ceremony held in Addis Ababa on Friday, Cllr. Koffa submitted that for leaders to build resilient African economies, they need open

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