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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024	L\$191.7405/US\$1.00	L\$193.6277/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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# Scaring & terrible!

**P11**



Mr. Simeone Freeman

**--Simeon Freeman terms Boakai's proposed budget**



# Your voices must be heard

**P11**

**- U.S. Ambassador-at-Large urges Liberians**

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# Continental News

## Senegal election: Voters choose new president after political crisis

After weeks of political unrest, people in Senegal are voting for a new president. Seventeen candidates are on the ballot, each hoping to replace President Macky Sall who is barred from running

democracy in West Africa. Seven million people are eligible to vote in Sunday's election. Among those in the running for Senegal's top job is the governing BBY coalition's candidate, former Prime Minister Amadou Ba, 62.



Seven million people, some seen here queuing in Ndiagianao, are eligible to vote

again after reaching the two-term limit. The election had been due to take place last month but Mr Sall postponed it, triggering deadly opposition protests and a democratic crisis. Senegal had until then been praised as a bastion of

His strongest challenger is seen as Bassirou Diomaye Faye, 44, who was released from jail just last week, after being detained since April 2023 on charges of insurrection, which he said were politically motivated. Popular firebrand Ousmane Sonko, who was also imprisoned

until last week on what he said were trumped-up charges, is not allowed to stand. He and his now-disbanded Pastef party are backing his close ally, Mr Faye.

On Friday, former President Abdoulaye Wade and his PDS party threw their support behind Mr Faye, after his own son Karim Wade was forced to withdraw over his dual French-Senegalese citizenship.

For the first time in over a decade, a female candidate is in the race. Anta Babacar Ngom, 40, leads the ARC party. Results are expected within days and a second round is likely, because of the large number of contestants. A candidate needs more than 50% of the vote to be declared the winner.

The eyes of the world will be watching to see if the election process goes some way to restoring Senegal's now-bruised reputation.

The eyes of the world will be watching to see if the election process goes some way to restoring Senegal's now-bruised reputation. BBC

## Chad Court Bans 10 Candidates from Presidential Vote

Authorities in Chad said on Sunday they had barred 10 candidates, including two fierce opponents of the military regime, from standing in the presidential election on May 6.

The constitutional court said the candidates' applications – namely those of outspoken opponents Nassour Ibrahim Neguy Coursami and Rakhis Ahmat Saleh – had been rejected because they included "irregularities."

Ten other candidates remain in the race – most prominently the current junta leader Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno and his prime minister Succes Masra.

General Deby Itno was proclaimed president by a junta of 15 generals in 2021 following the death of his father Idriss Deby Itno, who had ruled the Sahel country with an iron fist for more than three decades.

The new president promised

"candidates who will accompany the head of the junta during the presidential election" had been approved.

The constitutional council also announced it was opening a preliminary investigation for alleged forgery and use of forged documents against Coursami over suspicions with papers in support of his candidacy.

"All the arguments used do not hold up," Rakhis Ahmat Saleh, representing the Party for Democratic Renewal in Chad, said.

He accused the constitutional body of "manoeuvres" to rule out candidates "without good reason".

Constitutional expert Ahmat Mahamat Hassan said that, effectively, there would not be an election.

"In reality, it's about choosing candidates who accompany the junta chief for the confirmation of maintaining the dynasty in power through" Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, he told AFP.

A member of the constitutional council registry, speaking under

## Kuriga kidnap: Nigerian pupils taken in mass abduction freed

Nigerian pupils taken by gunmen in a mass abduction in the north-western town of Kuriga earlier this month have been freed "unharmless", officials say. Kaduna state governor Uba Sani said they had been rescued thanks to the courage of the security forces.

The school authorities had said more than 280 children were taken, but the army said 137 hostages had been freed.

It said the operation took place in the early hours of Sunday morning, days before a ransom deadline.

Officials have not yet commented on the discrepancy in numbers.

In previous cases, hostages have been able to flee from their captors as they trek for days to forest hideouts.

A top government official, who asked not to be named, has told BBC Hausa that one of the teachers taken from Kuriga died in captivity. The group was held for 17 days in total.

Kidnap gangs, known as bandits, have seized thousands of people in recent years, especially in the north-west.

Six mass abductions this month have rocked parts of northern Nigeria, despite an overall fall in the number of such attacks over the past year. Those kidnapped are usually

freed after a ransom is paid.

The kidnapers had demanded \$690,000 (£548,000) for the release of the Kuriga children aged between eight and 15. The government had said it would not pay any ransom.

"This is indeed a day of joy," Governor Sani said in a statement in which he praised Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu for ensuring that the abducted schoolchildren had been "released unharmed".

The president, who welcomed the news in a tweet, said it showed the importance of the government and state authorities collaborating "especially on matters of security".

Military spokesman Maj Gen Edward Buba said 76 girls and 61 boys had been rescued from Zamfara state, which borders Kaduna to the north-west.

The military has also released

photos of some of the children, showing them sitting in buses looking dusty and exhausted.

A security source told Reuters news agency the students had been freed in a forest and were being taken to Kaduna for medical tests before being allowed to see their families.

The mass abduction occurred on the morning of 7 March during assembly in a compound housing a junior and senior school.

According to witnesses, the pupils were in the assembly ground around 08:30 (07:30 GMT) when dozens of gunmen on motorcycles rode in, eventually taking away 187 students from a secondary school and 125 from the local primary school. It is not clear how many teachers were abducted. Twenty-five students later returned. BBC



The pupils, some seen here after being freed, were in a school compound assembly ground when the gunmen rode in



to hand power back to a civilian government within 18 months and told the African Union he would not stand for election as president.

But he then extended the transition period by two more years and on March 2 officially announced he would run for the top office.

Succes Masra, a former opposition leader, signed a reconciliation deal with the junta leader earlier this year.

The opposition says his candidacy is a ploy to give a veneer of pluralism to an election that Deby Itno is certain to win, since his main rivals are dead or in exile.

Masquerade

"Those in power don't want to face a credible opposition in the polls," Coursami, a candidate for the GCAP, one of the main opposition platforms in Chad, told AFP.

He said only the names of

anonymity, told AFP that the body had strictly applied provisions of the constitution and electoral code.

Wakit Tamma, another of the main opposition platforms in Chad, on Saturday called for a boycott of the presidential vote, denouncing it as a "masquerade" aimed at upholding a "dynastic dictatorship."

The barring of the opposition candidates comes less than a month after general Deby's main rival Yaya Dillo Djerou was shot dead in an army assault on his PSF party headquarters.

The PSF said he had been assassinated at point-blank range to prevent his standing against the general, his cousin. The government denied the accusation. VOA

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# EDITORIAL

## We must bring our people from Ghana

The plight of Liberians being driven from the Budumburam refugee camp in Ghana with their homes demolished, leaving them with nowhere to stay, should claim the immediate attention of the Government of Liberia.

Regardless of whether they are no longer refugees or the other way around, no responsible government should sit and watch its citizens endure such humiliation in another country.

Since Tuesday, February 28, 2024, demolition of the Budumbura camp by people believed to be ordinary Ghanaians, the affected Liberians have been without food, water, or shelter, according to the report. This is an act of cruelty against humanity!

Officially, the Government of Ghana has not filed any complaints about the Liberians violating the laws of that country or engaging in acts that could undermine the peace and security of Ghana.

Whatever might have necessitated this action, we are even disappointed more that Ghanaian authorities appear to be silent on the matter that has left more than 11,000 Liberians stranded in that country, including women and children, crying of starvation, more than 20 days after unexpected demolition of their homes.

We have gathered that in 2022, the Government of Liberia, through the Liberia Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), held a multi-stakeholders meeting in Monrovia and subsequently dispatched a team to Ghana at the time to profile Liberians in the camp when it was established that there was one thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine (1,539) former Liberian refugees in Ghana, and of that number, at least 500 accepted to be repatriated.

They were brought home with an initial amount of US\$240,000 provided out of a total of US\$1.5 million budgeted to bring back Liberians.

We call on the Boakai administration to identify resources to address this matter urgently and save fellow Liberians' dignity in Ghana. We think the most expedient option is repatriating them to Liberia, where they can regain their dignity and respect as citizens.

This is the time to demonstrate leadership in such matters, and President Joseph Nyuma Boakai should rise to the occasion not only to redeem the country's image but also to restore the pride of fellow Liberians.

It is quite unfortunate that since the February incident, the Boakai administration has not publicly spoken to restore confidence and hope in our brothers and sisters in Ghana who have been affected.

Even if they no longer enjoy refugee status, where does the ECOWAS treaty speak of the free movement of people and goods among borderless member states?

The Liberian government should work with its counterpart in Ghana to resolve this matter amicably to maintain regional solidarity and brotherhood among member countries.

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# COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

## Japan's Self-Inflicted Decline

**M**ILAN - Japan should be doing well. It boasts a well-educated and disciplined workforce, and outdoes most other industrialized countries on both investment and spending on research and development. In fact, at 3.3% of GDP, Japanese R&D expenditure was higher even than that of the United States until recently. And yet, Japan's relative decline continues.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Japan was the world's second-largest economy, not least because of its seemingly unbeatable industrial sector. Today, however, it is the world's fourth-largest economy, with data showing that it recently fell behind Germany, a country with a much smaller population - 83 million, compared to 123 million - that is subject to unfavorable demographic trends, much like those seen in Japan.

To understand Japan's economic decline, consider the story of the videocassette recorder (VCR). Requiring very small and reliable mechanical elements, these technological marvels were once the pride of Japanese precision manufacturing. Japan had a near-monopoly in the global VCR market, as there were no American producers, and European firms could not compete with Japan on quality-to-price ratio. In their heyday - the mid-1980s - many millions of units were produced and exported, with Japanese exporters charging relatively high prices and earning a good margin.

But the VCR's analog technology could not compete with the digital substitutes that emerged in the 1990s and became ubiquitous in the early 2000s. Production of VCRs declined, forcing firms to lower prices and shave profit margins until, one after the other, they abandoned the product altogether. Today, not a single company in Japan produces VCRs. Many other consumer electronics, like tape recorders and the Walkman, followed a similar trajectory.

Consumer electronics were a cornerstone of Japan's export industry. But the new solid-state digital consumer electronics did not require the precision engineering at which Japan excelled. So, it was cheaper to produce their components elsewhere in Asia and assemble the products in China, with the US providing the software. Meanwhile, demand for - and prices of - Japanese exports continued to fall.

Economists tend to look at a country's export prices not in isolation, but relative to its import prices - the so-called terms of trade. Japan is an outlier among developed economies, in that its terms of trade - which stood at nearly 160% in the mid-1980s - declined through the late 1990s and crashed in the early 2000s. By 2008, the ratio had fallen below 100%. For comparison, the terms of trade in both the European Union and the US remained at a

roughly constant level (around 100%) over this entire period, almost always remaining within a narrow range of plus or minus ten percentage points.

Factors like the deterioration of Japan's terms of trade have played a far larger role than unfavorable demographics in the country's relative economic decline. Yes, the Japanese population is aging and shrinking. But the US population has increased by only about a quarter more than that of Japan since 1995, and yet its GDP has expanded by over 300% more.

While Japanese living standards have continued to improve, the pace is slow, and Japanese consumers are doing less well overall than their counterparts in other developed economies. Take per capita GDP: if you adjust for the cost of living, Japan has lost some ground to Europe, which has tended to follow the US closely.

The big question is why Japanese producers did not abandon - and were not urged by the government to abandon - products like VCRs sooner or attempt to lead on the cutting-edge technologies that were replacing them. Path dependency is undoubtedly part of the answer: when firms have acquired know-how in a particular area, they often find it more profitable to further improve their skills in that area, rather than moving into a new field.

But psychological factors probably also played a role. The top Japanese firms - and, indeed, Japanese society at large - were proud of their engineering prowess, so they found it difficult to accept that these admirable capabilities were losing value. The same was true of government bureaucrats, including those in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, an institution that had gained an almost mythical reputation for its success in piloting Japan's growth.

Japanese leaders and producers effectively chose economic decline over admitting that their key technical competence had become worthless.

This brings us to the first key lesson from Japan's experience: an economy, no matter how successful it has been in the past, must be ready to adapt to new ideas, technologies, and circumstances. A second key lesson is that relative decline, even if well managed, leads to a loss of global influence.

Europe - with its aging population and weakness in emerging technologies - should take note. For almost 20 years, the EU has sought to increase spending on R&D to 3% of GDP and support investment. But reaching Japanese levels on these two measures might not solve Europe's growth problem, if the resources go toward sunset industries.

# OP-ED

By J. Bradford DeLong

## The Mystery of US Interest Rates

**B**ERKELEY - In the United States, the long-term real safe interest rate - the inflation-adjusted return on low-risk investments such as Treasuries - is, in addition to "financial conditions," the key mechanism influencing both the incentive to build and the balance of net exports (owing to its effect on the exchange rate).

From early March to mid-May 2022, this metric jumped by more than one percentage point as the bond market realized that the US Federal Reserve would soon curtail its efforts to promote a speedy recovery in employment following the pandemic. Then, from late August to early October 2022, it jumped again, this time by an annualized 1.5 percentage points, as bond traders speculated that the Fed might have to tighten monetary policy to avert persistent inflation in an economy that had returned to full employment.

It was these two spikes that created the current interest-rate configuration. Rates today are far higher - around two percentage points - than the level anyone five years ago (before the pandemic) would have estimated the "neutral" rate to be.

The neutral rate, John Maynard Keynes explains in *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*, is the level necessary to "bring about an adjustment between the propensity to consume and the inducement to invest." An interest rate that everyone considers to be above the neutral level therefore reflects markets' confidence that a recession - or at least a substantial slowdown - is only a matter of time. When that time comes, all will depend on whether the Fed recognizes the approaching weakness in time to cut rates and achieve a "soft landing." This interest-rate configuration has now held for seven months.

The situation has not been fully static, of course. There was another one-point surge between June and October 2023. But that wave soon receded as speculation shifted to questions of when and how fast the Fed would start cutting rates. The 30-year Treasury rate thus is back to where it was in October 2022.

The landing has indeed been smooth. But the pilot has not dared to shift from reverse into neutral. Apparently, the Fed is concerned that nonfarm payrolls keep rising. On a seasonally adjusted basis, there were 275,000 more jobs in February than in January, which is only slightly higher than the average of 250,000 over the past six months. I suspect that the Fed is profoundly uncomfortable with interest rates substantially above what it confidently believes the neutral rate to be, especially now that inflation is very close to its 2% target. But it will not dare to shift out of reverse until it sees signs of slower job growth.

Three explanations could clarify the current situation. The conclusion that interest rates are in excess of the neutral rate could be based on an erroneous analysis. Or there could be an error in how we measure the state of the economy. Or, third, the Fed may have committed the Wile E. Coyote error.

Taking these explanations in reverse order, if economic weakness is indeed coming, the Fed will soon wish that it had started cutting rates in January 2024. Remember, private-sector decisions to cut back on building, and to re-source purchases to overseas suppliers, were paused in 2022 and delayed until 2023 as people waited to see how much the Fed would tighten. If firms then followed through on those postponed decisions between May and October 2023 - as the ten-year Treasury yield ran up temporarily from 3.53% to 4.93% - the impact on employment patterns should start to hit the economy right about now.

In pursuit of the roadrunner, Wile E. Coyote (a classic Looney Tunes character) always runs off the edge of the cliff but does not begin to fall until he looks down and realizes he's running in air. I was fairly confident that this was where the Fed stood six months ago. But as time passes without anything happening, I become more torn.

What if the measurements are wrong? The consensus has long been that the US payroll survey is superior to the household survey. But in the past couple of years, a gap has emerged between these two surveys. While the payroll survey records 2.7 million more jobs than a year ago, the household survey records only 700,000 more people working in those jobs than a year ago.

If the labor market is as weak as the household survey suggests, that weakness should have already shown up in consumer spending. It has not.

That leaves the possibility of a faulty analysis. The near-consensus since the start of the pandemic has been that there are powerful fundamental factors keeping the neutral interest rate very low, and that there have been no major changes to those fundamentals. The neutral rate therefore should still be very low, implying that the high policy rate is inappropriate to an economy at full employment with inflation near its target.

But if there is one lesson that I have learned in more than 40 years of trying to understand the business cycle, it is that there is no empirical regularity in the macroeconomy that can be trusted not to crumble beneath our feet in a remarkably short time.

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## ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Why the Corporate Coup failed at NASSCORP

**M**onday, March 4, failed corporate coup at the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), led by Unity Party Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh, two senators, a commerce minister, and two seasoned layers, leaves much to be desired of the much-touted UP rescue mission.

The event inspired by what had taken place at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was reminiscent of Herald's brutal Biblical execution of Jesus's disciples as told in the account of Dr. Luke in Acts 12:1-2.

Herald had executed a few of Jesus' disciples, including James, the brother of John; when he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.

Before the failed coup at NASSCORP, members of the Unity Party had succeeded in ousting Prof. Wilson Tarpeh from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe's running mate in the October 10, 2023, Presidential election, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, wasted no time in taking over at the EPA in a Hollywood-style hours after it was announced that he had been appointed officer-in-charge at that entity.

Without prior notice to his predecessor, who was at this time coming under immense pressure from some aggrieved former staff believed to be UP partisans who were staging a series of protests that displayed characteristics of gangsterism, he immediately seized power at the entity.

However, Prof. Tarpeh will soon run for the Supreme Court, but that is an entirely different argument for another day.

At NASSCORP, the officer-in-charge designate, Cllr. Molffie Kanneh selected top government and party officials, including his sister, Senator Gboto Kanneh, and brother, Cllr. Boakai Kanneh, UP Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh, Commerce Minister Amin Modad, and senior party steward Sen. Prince Moye, among other partisans, as he led the failed coup at the entity under the guise of a take-over shamelessly, too.

The UP rescue mission campaigned on the mantra of change, which encompasses doing things differently from the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC). However, enlisting top government officials, lawmakers, and lawyers just for an acting position without prior notice to the management team at the entity only shows desperation.

It was not only embarrassing but also disgusting to see such highly-rated personalities in society being paraded and made fools of.

But why the UP corporate coup failed at NASSCORP?

President Joseph N. Boakai appointed Cllr. Moiffie Kanneh on February 27, as an officer in charge at NASSCORP. Apparently, following his appointment, things changed within the corridor of the Executive Mansion, especially when it was revealed that NASSCORP Director General Dewitt vanMaboos still had about three more years on his tenure.

President Boakai, not wanting to cause another public stir about the tenue position and being aware that Cllr. Kanneh's name had not been placed on the Executive Mansion's website, decided to withdraw his appointment quietly.

Apparently, after watching the Executive Mansion website for days and not seeing his name anywhere, the learned Counsellor decided that a stage corporate coup would have worked because it had worked at the EPA and other places weeks before his appointment.

Thus, Cllr. Kanneh, dressed in a pink suit, and apparently holding a prepared take-over speech, marched with his entourage at NASSCORP after placing a telephone call to the management team hours earlier.

Cllr. Kanneh apparently believed that by taking with him two senators, one of whom is his sister and the other a high-ranking Unity Party steward, party chairman, and host of other senior government officials, including past and current party officials, would have intimidated the NASSCORP management team, to cede power. But it didn't work.

This shameful and bravado show of power had only been synonymous with the CDC, and that the UP will follow a similar path makes them no different.

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## Invitation for Bids [IFB]

### Goods

### (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: NIC/AfDB/SAPZ/OCBI/001/24  
Purchaser: National Investment Commission  
Project: Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone  
Contract title: Procurement of Rice Milling, Oil Palm Extraction Machines and Power Generator  
Country: Liberia  
Loan No.: 2100150042703  
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International)  
OCBI No: NIC/AfDB/SAPZ/OCBI/001/24  
Issued on: February 29, 2024

- The Republic of Liberia through the National Investment Commission has received financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) hereinafter called the Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds toward the cost under the for the procurement of Rice Milling, Oil Palm Expeller Machines and a Diesel Generator through the SAPZ project for the Grand Bassa Community College in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

#### Schedule of Requirement

No.	Description	Quantity	Delivery Schedule	Delivery site
1	5 Ton Rice Mill 3500*2600*2900mm, 380V 1340KG	1	Twelve (12) weeks After contract signing	Grand Bassa University College, Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County
2	65KVA (Diesel Generator)	1	Twelve (12) weeks After contract signing	Grand Bassa University College, Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County
3	Small-Scale Oil Palm Extraction Machine 125 -175kg	1	Twelve (12) weeks After contract signing	Grand Bassa University College, Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County

- The National Investment Commission now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for procurement of Rice Milling & Oil Palm Extraction Machine Including 65KVA Diesel generator as indicated in the Schedule of Requirement stated above.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank's [Procurement Framework](#) beginning February 29, 2024 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Project Implementation Unit, National Investment Commission (NIC), Andrew Anderson, Project Coordinator, Email: [aanderson2024@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson2024@gmail.com) or Boimah Gibson, Procurement Officer, Email: [boimahgibson@gmail.com](mailto:boimahgibson@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 0900 to 1700 hours GMT at the address given below
- The bidding document in English may be obtained by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding document will be sent by Project Implementation Unit through Electronic means
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 14:00 Hrs. GMT April 11, 2024. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on April 11, 2024 at 14:30 Hrs. GMT.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration," form found in Section IV page 94 under Bidding Forms.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Andrew Anderson (Project Coordinator)  
National Investment Commission  
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)  
P.O. Box 9043, UN Drive  
1000 Monrovia 10 Liberia  
Email: [aanderson2024@gmail.com](mailto:aanderson2024@gmail.com) or [boimahgibson@gmail.com](mailto:boimahgibson@gmail.com)  
Tel: +231-770120493/+231-886-976983/+231-888-409194

# COMMENTARY

By Stuart P.M. Mackintosh

## China Doubles Down on Green Tech and the Energy Transition

WASHINGTON, DC - Amid an onslaught of grim climate news, China's recent decision to pursue a faster green transition is a rare bright spot. In early March, at the annual National People's Congress, Premier Li Qiang announced that the country would accelerate investment in clean-energy projects. The plan is for a "new trio" of industries - solar panels, electric vehicles (Evs), and lithium batteries - to drive economic growth, replacing the "old trio" of clothing, furniture, and appliances. Although investment in the targeted industries will not be enough to reverse the country's ongoing economic slowdown, the West should appreciate the implications of Li's announcement.

A global green transition is already well underway; at this stage, countries and firms are largely on board with the shift to clean energy. According to the International Energy Agency, annual additions to renewable capacity increased by nearly 50% in 2023, to 507 gigawatts, the fastest growth rate in the past two decades. The European Union, the United States, and Brazil, in particular, installed record amounts of renewable-energy capacity. But China experienced the largest growth by far, commissioning as much solar PV in 2023 as the entire world did in 2022, and increasing its wind capacity by 66% year on year.

China's decision to ramp up spending could further accelerate this epochal shift and help achieve long-term climate goals by bringing forward the peak in fossil-fuel use and lowering greenhouse-gas emissions. Moreover, it suggests that place-based industrial policies are facilitating, not impeding, decarbonization. US President Joe Biden ushered the world into a new era of industrial policy when he passed his \$800 billion Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which includes \$391 billion in energy and climate spending, and his \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This strategy pushed the EU to implement its own raft of green subsidies. And now, China is addressing its economic woes by channeling even more resources into decarbonization.

At the same time, an increased supply of low-cost green products from China - a likely outcome of the country's bet on emerging technologies - would not flow to the US, owing to its embrace of industrial policy. The US government has already imposed tariffs on strategic Chinese imports. And with the IRA and the BIL pumping massive sums into domestic clean-energy manufacturing and deployment, the Biden administration is considering new protectionist measures to prevent China from undercutting the US market.

This is frustrating for ardent advocates of free trade, as it means that cheap Chinese

solar panels, EVs, and batteries will not be available in America any time soon. A Donald Trump victory in November would only make things worse: the former president has proposed a staggering 60% tariff on all Chinese imports.

Although the energy transition is coming at a high price for Americans, it is a price worth paying. By defending its domestic industries, the US government will likely divert Chinese products to other countries, especially in the developing world, which would allow consumers to buy clean-tech products at low prices. More importantly, if developing countries seize this opportunity, they could accelerate their own green transitions.

For example, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose plan for reaching net-zero emissions by 2070 is highly insufficient, should take advantage of China's green-tech surge. In the short term, that means using Chinese products to plug the gaps in India's clean-energy industry. Modi should also convince Chinese companies to build additional production facilities in India, which would facilitate technology transfer, create jobs, and lower the cost of green tech.

African leaders should likewise electrify their economies using China's green products and technologies. Just as many African countries have leapfrogged to mobile networks, skipping landline development, they must do the same with clean energy, bypassing fossil fuels. While certainly a challenge, such an approach is well-suited for a continent with abundant solar and wind resources and a need for distributed-energy solutions. Moreover, African countries with a large supply of rare earths should work with Chinese firms to move up the value chain and create more jobs.

Whenever CEOs and policymakers meet at climate conferences or in Davos, a common refrain is that the green transition must be just. That would require \$1 trillion in annual clean-energy investment in low- and middle-income countries - a seven-fold increase from current levels. While there is a desperate need for more financing, China's increased investment in clean energy could be an important part of the solution.

Ultimately, China and the US (as well as the EU) must reach an agreement on what constitutes fair and free trade of green goods. But in the meantime, given the existential imperative to achieve net-zero emissions, we should welcome China's investment plans, even as we worry about their implications for US industry.

For now, I can drive an American-made EV from Ford or Tesla, but I hope one day to have the option of purchasing an EV built by China's BYD. Either way, I will be on the road to a less polluting future.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Accept the old money as legal tender

**-Executive Governor Tarlue**

Amid confusion over legality of the old Liberian bank notes, impeding daily transactions in the market, the Central Bank of Liberia calls on the public to accept the old bank note as medium of exchange even beyond its March 31, 2024 validated deadline.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Monrovia, March 24, 2024 - The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia is urging the public to accept all old Liberian Bank notes to

beyond its March 31, 2024, validated deadline.

Governor Tarlue stresses that the old Liberian notes remain valid and its continuous refusal by the public will hinder smooth transaction in the market.

He defends its existence as a legal tender that facilitates circulation of the new banknotes, saying the old ones will spread the new ones.

Concerns have arisen in the Liberian market, as some vendors are refusing to accept the old banknotes, citing fear of their validity in the wake of the March 31, 2024, deadline announced by the Central Bank.

But the Executive Governor is pleading with both vendors and citizens alike, to recognize the legitimacy of the old currency and to facilitate its exchange either at commercial banks or directly with the Central Bank.

The plea comes amidst confusion and hesitancy in the public about the usage and acceptance of the old banknotes, despite their continued legal status.

As the March 31 deadline approaches, Governor Tarlue's statement aims to reassure the public and encourage a smooth transition to the new currency. Editing by Jonathan Browne



facility medium of exchange on the Liberian market.

Amidst confusion in the market regarding acceptance of the old Liberian Bank Notes, Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue says the money should be accepted as a medium of exchange even

In an interview with the New DAWN, Governor Tarlue clarified that although the CBL had set a deadline of March 31, 2024, to phase out the old banknotes from circulation, they remain legal tender beyond the deadline.

## World Bank launches Liberia Development and Climate Report

The World Bank launches Liberia Country Development and Climate Report here, highlighting Liberia's vulnerability to climate change, identifying developmental risks and opportunities, and modeling various climate impact scenarios and interventions.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, March 22, 2024 - The World Bank has unveiled its highly anticipated Liberia Country Development and Climate Report, providing a thorough analysis of the country's current development trajectory and its vulnerability to climate change.

The Report highlights Liberia's vulnerability to climate change, identifying developmental risks and opportunities, and modeling various climate impact scenarios and interventions. It at the same time proposes strategies to strengthening resilience and financing climate actions that support development aspirations of inclusive growth and poverty reduction. The Report was launched on Saturday, March 24, 2024, at the Monrovia City Hall, bringing together government officials, international development partners, civil society representatives, and experts

to deliberate on the findings and chart a sustainable development path for the West African nation.

A collaborative effort between the World Bank and Liberian stakeholders, it provides valuable insights into the country's economic, social, and environmental landscape.

It also highlights progress made in key sectors such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare, while shedding light on persistent challenges, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. With its extensive coastline, dense forests, and

reliance on agriculture, Liberia is particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and deforestation. During the launch, World Bank officials underscored the importance of integrating climate considerations into Liberia's development planning to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience. They emphasized the need for coordinated action at the national and international levels to address the interconnected challenges of development and climate change.



## World Bank commits US\$300m for dam construction

Once achieved, the project will boost the electricity supply outside Monrovia, as the government struggles to address Liberia's age-old, limited power supply for the public and businesses across the country.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, March 25, 2024: The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) says the Government of Liberia has acquired a commitment of US\$300m from the World Bank to construct a dam in Bong County.

During a recent high power delegation's visit to Bong County, LEC Corporate Communication Manager Mr. Philip Farley said recently that the people are excited and they have welcomed the construction of the dam in their area.

Mr. Farley described the acquisition of the World Bank commitment as a great step in achieving the project while expressing optimism for the remaining.

According to him, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has told the World Bank and everyone that his hand is behind the new project

The Ministry of Mines and Energy represented the Government of Liberia. On the delegation were also Mr. Bill Harkins, Project Manager, and Mr. William Thompson, Project Engagement Consultant.

The objective of the delegation was to see the exact location of the project and have joint in-house or town hall engagement and interaction with the community.

The visit was also meant to see the topography of the area and have a technical brief from the project manager.

The joint assessment aligned with President Boakai's first Energy Sector Round Table at the Executive Mansion along with key stakeholders in the sector.

At that Energy Sector Round Table, President Boakai gave 100% support to the project and the World Bank committed itself to US\$300 million.

This interaction with the communities and the visitation of the site coupled with the technical brief



during a recent round table energy discussion with the president.

"Let me tell you, the president after listening to the World Bank delegation explaining about this project, he accepted and said they have his 100% support," said Mr. Farley.

"And so, we are so happy for the welcome and gifts that you have provided us. We will make you happy," he noted.

Over the weekend, a high-power delegation from the World Bank West Region office, Liberia's Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the LEC visited Valayanah, lower Bong.

During the visit, the delegation held stakeholders' engagement with residents for the construction of the proposed St. Paul 2 hydropower dam project (Sp2).

Franz Drees-Gross, a US and German national, serves as Director of Infrastructure in the World Bank's Africa West region. Dress-Gross headed the World Bank team while Mr. Monie Captain, LEC Executive Director, headed the project implementation unit (PIU).

of the project were part of the initiative's feasibility studies which indicate that work has already commenced.

The average cost of the project is estimated at around six million United States dollars. Currently, the Government of Liberia has received a commitment of three million United States Dollars from the World Bank.

SP2 is an initiative of the Government of Liberia which is represented by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and development partners, particularly the World Bank.

The initiative will be implemented by the LEC through its PIU. During the engagement, the delegation was received at the entrance of the town by a women's group, elders, and youth who sang songs and presented gifts including rice, white male chicken, and money.

In a technical brief to the World Bank delegation, Mr. Bill Harkins, Project Manager, said the SP2 is the second project of the St. Paul River hydropower cascade and it's divided into four main components.

According to him, the project has 6.5 km of dams including main and saddle dams, creating a reservoir of 264 million c.m.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MoA earmarks development of 2000 hectares lowland

*Caption: A partial view of the vast lowland that is under cultivation by the Fuamah Cooperative*

Government of Liberia discloses plan to develop 2000 hectares of lowland with improved rice seed varieties in Fuamah District, Lower Bong County, as part of President Joseph Boakai's commitment to revitalizing the sector.

By Judoemue M. Kollie

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has disclosed a plan to develop 2000 hectares of lowland with improved rice seed varieties in Fuamah District, Lower Bong County.

The initiative is part of an effort to increase or improve domestic rice supply within the

Fuamah District Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Speaking recently at the site of the project, the Minister of Agriculture Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah said his Ministry remains committed to providing increased support towards the lowland rice project to improve the lives of the farmers and to supply the local market.

"We must do our best as a

stand ready to provide all of the necessary support they need," he said.

It can be recalled that Minister Nuetah, during his confirmation hearing a month ago promised the nation the improvement of domestic rice production at 50 percent.

His predecessor did also announce a similar target last year, but there is no data being released to prove whether the country was able to achieve the targeted goal. Rice is Liberia's main staple, however, since the end of the war the country is yet to grow more to feed its population. The nation still spends close to US\$ 200 million dollars annually for rice importation. Rice import subsidy by the government has become a burden on the national budget as well. The minister said that to improve domestic rice production farmers must be supported in farm mechanization to increase production and more investment done in processing.



country. The lowland rice project is one of the several rice production projects that is being supported by the Liberian government and international partners. It is situated in Bong Mines and owned by the

nation to improve domestic rice production. I will be calling on the government to reduce the importation of rice once we can increase domestic supply. I want to challenge the farmers to apply more seriousness as we

## Speed up passport investigation

**-CENTAL urges Gov't.**

One of Liberia's integrity institutions, CENTAL, calls for speedy investigation into previous passports saga and release of findings to the public.

By Lewis S. Teh

Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or (CENTAL) urges the Boakai administration through the ministry of foreign affairs to speedily investigate previous passport saga and release findings to the public.

"CENTAL welcomes the recent decision of the government through MOFA ordering the return of all service and diplomatic passports, but we also urge them to speed up the investigation into the previous passport saga and release findings to the public." Executive Director, Anderson Miamen, gave the urge in press conference held at his office in Sinkor, Monrovia the weekend.

CENTAL welcomes the March 18, 2024, Press Statement issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, suspending the July 2023 revised passport regulation and reinstated the March 2016 regulation, Mr. Miamen says. Accordingly to him, the

decision mandates the immediate return of all diplomatic, official, and service passports in the possession of individuals including Liberians and non-Liberians regardless of the duration of the validity period.

He notes that whilst the decision intends to address discrepancies in the issuance of Liberian passports is commendable, such effort should go in tandem with speedy conclusion and publication of investigative findings into reported sale of diplomatic passports.

In May 2022, former President Weah halted the issuance of diplomatic passports and ordered an investigation into the issuance of diplomatic passports following report that a Liberian diplomatic passport was found in the possession of Sheik Bassirou Kante, who was subsequently arrested in the United States for alleged money laundering conspiracy and wire

fraud. CENTAL notes that there is no indication as to the status of the said investigation, nearly two years after the investigation was commissioned. Miamen recalls that former President Weah had instructed then Foreign Minister Maxwell Kemayah to investigate and report on the process involving issuance of Diplomatic Passports by May 17, 2022, but the public is yet to know the outcome of the investigation.

As contained in CENTAL's 2023 State of Corruption Report (SCORE) and other publications, scandals emanating from the use of Liberian Diplomatic passports by non-Liberians have been widespread, he points.



## CECPAP dialogue ends 26-year conflict in Bong

A 26-year-old conflict that has kept two sisters apart in Belefinia, Bong County has been resolved here thru dialogue initiated by the group, Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CECPAP)

The true essence of reconciliation manifested itself on Friday, March 22, in Belefinia, Bong County, when two sisters took the path of reconciliation to trash out their decades of dispute and reunite for the common good of their community. The sisters - Zota District Paramount Chief Lorpu Kollie and Zota District Chairlady Garmai Weah participated in CECPAP's two days reconciliation dialogue session that took place in Kpelleh town. According to a dispatch from Belefinia, Paramount Chief Lorpu and Chairlady Garmai Weah conflict started in 1998 as a result of a dispute over a market table. The disagreement intensified in 2019 when Lorpu left for the United States to visit family members.

CECPAP to try too to see if she can resolve the conflict," the participants lamented.

Based on their request, CECPAP's Director Charles Crawford extended invitation to Lorpu to attend the next day session through the town Chief who was also a participant at the dialogue session. Paramount Chief Lorpu honored the invitation and made an appearance on day two of the dialogue session. During the discussion that centered around "A Reconciled Society for Sustainable Growth," Paramount Chief Lorpu Kollie and Chairlady Garmai Weah and their supporters were highly touched by the lecture and subsequently decided to put aside their 26 years of conflict, reunite for the betterment of their community.

Mr. Crawford expressed happiness over the reunification of the sisters,



While in the U.S., her sister Garmai engaged in a romantic affair with Lorpu's boyfriend. To further fuel the conflict, Lorpu's daughter, who was in the employed of her then boyfriend (a lawmaker whose name withheld) got fired from the job based on account of Garmai's influence. The boyfriend in question is a member of both the 54th and the current 55th Legislature (House of Representatives). At the first day of the reconciliation dialogue session, Chairlady Garmai and other participants were deeply troubled by the prolonged feud which, according to them, is undermining peace and progress in Belefinia. They described the dialogue session as pivotal to ending the dispute and forging peace and reconciliation between Paramount Chief Lorpu and Chairlady Garmai. The participants said the conflict between the two sisters/leaders has divided the residents of the town, adding: "we are not united but divided in this town. We want the conflict between our two leaders be resolved and peace comes to our town. Several attempts by both county officials, NGOs, and residents of this town to bring peace between our two leaders have failed. So, we want

and used the opportunity to admonish the participants, the two parties and their supporters to see the path of reconciliation between Paramount Chief Lorpu and Chairlady Garmai as a seed planted in the soil that needs to be watered every time, adding "you guys need to keep talking and preaching the message of peace and unity to Ma Lorpu and Sister Garmai every time you come across them. By doing that, what we did here today will hold firmly and Belefinia and the entire Zota District will once more become a united community. CECPAP's reconciliation dialogue session is expected to reach to areas identified by the Peace Building Office (PBO) as hotspots during the 2023 presidential and legislative elections. Already, CECPAP has reached Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County; Zuo-Zualay, Nimba County; and Belefinia, Bong County. Next on CECPAP's agenda are Foya, Lofa County; and Porkpa, Grand Cape Mount County for similar dialogue sessions with residents of those communities. The reconciliation dialogue is being organized and facilitated by CECPAP with funding provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supervising the implementation of the project. Press Release

# Français

## Partisans de l'UP à Nimba crient à l'injustice

Les partisans du Parti de l'Unité (UP) au pouvoir, qui soutiennent le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, menacent d'organiser des manifestations continues dans le comté de Nimba pour protester contre les nominations gouvernementales.

Plus de dix mille habitants de Nimba ayant voté pour le président

qu'ils avaient attendu trop longtemps sans réponse du gouvernement qu'ils avaient contribué à porter au pouvoir.

Selon eux, la direction et les cadres de l'UP n'ont pas de temps pour eux. Pourtant, on leur demande de contacter la direction du Mouvement pour la Démocratie et la Reconstruction (MDR) de l'autoproclamé parrain de Nimba, le sénateur Prince Johnson, et du vice-président Jeremiah Koung pour obtenir un

district des neuf districts électoraux du comté et porte-parole du groupe, Moses Ghicarn, s'est exprimé avec déception et frustration. Il a annoncé que la manifestation en attente sera un exercice continu dans le comté jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent obtenir réparation du gouvernement.

Il a déclaré qu'ils ne permettraient aucun rendez-vous dans le comté tant que leur situation ne serait pas réglée, et a juré qu'ils ne travailleraient avec aucun des responsables du gouvernement local que le président Joseph Boakai nommera.

M. Ghicarn explique que le président Boakai nomme des personnes du MDR du sénateur Johnson et du vice-président Jeremiah Koung, tandis que les membres du Parti de l'Unité sont laissés de côté.

"Notre propre parti n'a pas de temps et de respect pour nous, mais

plutôt pour le MDR du sénateur Prince Johnson et les amis de Jeremiah Koung, qui est maintenant le vice-président. Ils veulent que nous les

rendez-vous.

Cependant, les partisans mécontents de Boakai affirment qu'ils ont tout fait pour que leur demande soit prise en compte, en vain.

Le chef des coordinateurs de

▶ CONT'D page 9

## Prendre au sérieux les rapports de la Banque mondiale sur la pauvreté

Un ecclésiastique libérien, l'évêque Dr. Kortu Brown, déplore la vague de pauvreté au Liberia suite au dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale sur la pauvreté.

Ancien président du Conseil des églises du Liberia (LCC), l'évêque Dr. Kortu K. Brown, souhaite que le gouvernement du Liberia et l'ensemble de la population prennent très au sérieux le dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale sur la pauvreté dans le pays.

S'exprimant lors d'une interview le jeudi 21 mars 2024, l'évêque Brown s'est dit déçu par le récent rapport de la Banque mondiale sur la pauvreté, qui suggère que plus de la moitié de la population vit encore en dessous du seuil de pauvreté.

Il a fait remarquer qu'après la fin de la guerre civile et vingt ans de paix au Liberia, il est incroyable que les Libériens soient toujours à la traîne en termes de développement, vivant dans la pauvreté et le manque de développement malgré

l'abondance de ressources naturelles dont Dieu a béni le pays.

Il a ajouté que le rapport indique que près de 6 Libériens sur 10 vivent dans la pauvreté selon le seuil national de pauvreté.

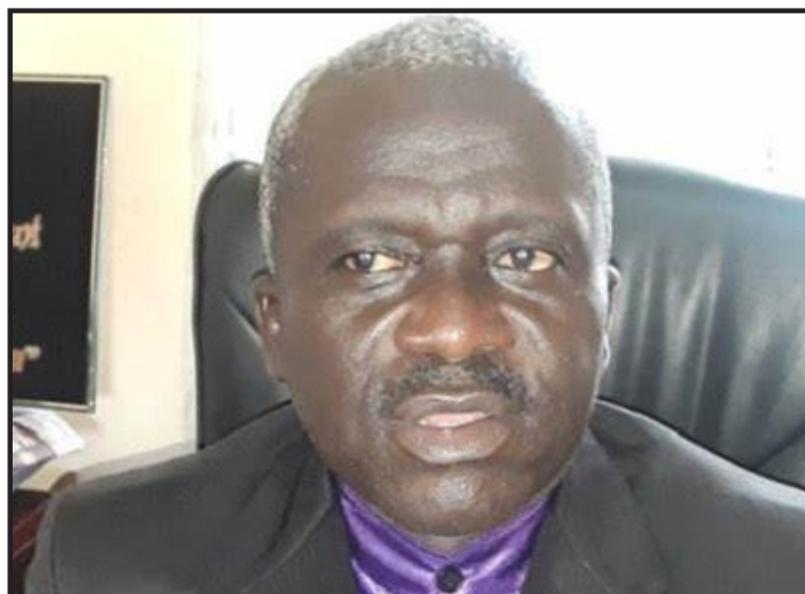
L'évêque Kortu déplore que dans le contexte de crises multiples, la situation des pauvres se soit aggravée et que le nombre de personnes en situation de pauvreté ait augmenté, ajoutant qu'environ 1 million de Libériens vivent dans l'extrême pauvreté et 2,5

millions dans la pauvreté absolue.

Il note que les chiffres importants peuvent parfois être difficiles à saisir, mais que derrière ces chiffres se trouvent des individus. L'évaluation de la pauvreté montre que le visage de la pauvreté dans le pays est celui des jeunes, et qu'il s'agit plus probablement d'une femme d'une zone rurale.

"C'est le visage de quelqu'un qui a eu peu ou pas

▶ CONT'D page 9



## Éditorial

### Il faut rapatrier nos concitoyens du Ghana

Le sort des Libériens expulsés du camp de réfugiés de Budumburam au Ghana, dont les maisons ont été démolies et se retrouvent sans abri, devrait retenir l'attention immédiate de l'Etat du Libéria. Peu importe qu'ils soient encore des réfugiés ou non, aucun gouvernement responsable ne devrait rester les bras croisés et voir ses citoyens subir une telle humiliation dans un autre pays.

Depuis le mardi 28 février 2024, la démolition du camp de Budumbura par des personnes que l'on croit être des Ghanéens ordinaires a laissé les Libériens concernés sans nourriture, sans eau et sans abri, selon les rapports. C'est un acte de cruauté contre l'humanité !

Officiellement, le gouvernement ghanéen n'a déposé aucune plainte accusant les Libériens de violer les lois de ce pays ou de se livrer à des actes susceptibles de nuire à la paix et à la sécurité du Ghana.

Quelle qu'ait été la raison de cette action, nous sommes d'autant plus déçus par le silence apparent des autorités ghanéennes face à cette situation qui a laissé plus de 11 000 Libériens, dont des femmes et des enfants, livrés à eux-mêmes dans ce pays, pleurant de faim, plus de 20 jours après la démolition inopinée de leurs maisons.

Nous savons qu'en 2022, le gouvernement libérien, par l'intermédiaire de la Commission libérienne pour les réfugiés, le rapatriement et la réinstallation (LRRRC), a organisé une réunion multipartite à Monrovia et a ensuite envoyé une équipe au Ghana à l'époque pour établir le profil des Libériens se trouvant dans le camp. Il a été établi qu'il y avait mille cinq cent trente-neuf (1 539) anciens réfugiés libériens au Ghana, et sur ce nombre, au moins 500 ont accepté d'être rapatriés. Ils ont été ramenés chez eux avec une somme initiale de 240 000 dollars américains, prélevée sur un budget total de 1,5 million de dollars américains alloué au rapatriement des Libériens.

Nous appelons l'administration Boakai à identifier des ressources pour régler cette question de toute urgence et sauver la dignité de ses concitoyens libériens au Ghana. Nous pensons que l'option la plus rapide est de les rapatrier au Liberia, où ils pourront retrouver leur dignité et leur respect en tant que citoyens.

C'est le moment de faire preuve de leadership dans de telles situations, et le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai devrait saisir cette occasion non seulement pour redorer l'image du pays, mais aussi pour restaurer la fierté de ses compatriotes libériens.

Il est regrettable que depuis l'incident de février, l'administration Boakai n'ait pas pris la parole publiquement pour redonner confiance et espoir à nos frères et sœurs touchés au Ghana.

Même s'ils ne bénéficient plus du statut de réfugié, où est-il fait mention dans le traité de la CEDEAO de la libre circulation des personnes et des marchandises entre les États membres sans frontières ?

Le gouvernement libérien devrait collaborer avec son homologue ghanéen pour résoudre cette question à l'amiable afin de maintenir la solidarité régionale et la fraternité entre les pays membres.

# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Partisans de l'UP à**

discréditons publiquement", a-t-il noté.

Selon lui, seuls les dirigeants du MDR bénéficient d'opportunités d'emploi.

"Ce faisant, nous exigerons le respect de la direction nationale du Parti Unifié au pouvoir." C'est la deuxième fois en moins de deux mois que les partisans de l'UP au sein du

comté riche en votes de Nimba s'adressent publiquement à leur propre gouvernement au sujet des emplois, accusant le MDR d'en bénéficier à la place.

Le président Boakai a procédé à des nominations au sein du gouvernement, qui se heurtent parfois à la résistance des titulaires de postes permanents de la précédente administration.

## Starts from page 8 **Prendre au sérieux les**

accès à l'éducation, aux soins de santé et aux services de base comme l'eau et l'assainissement."

L'évêque Brown exhorte le président Joseph N. Boakai à créer une commission nommée et baptisée commission d'éradication de la pauvreté dans le pays s'il veut s'attaquer à la question de la pauvreté.

Il appelle également le gouvernement du Liberia à organiser une conférence nationale qui réunira des experts de tout le pays pour examiner les rapports de la Banque mondiale sur le Liberia et trouver une solution pour lutter contre la pauvreté.

Selon lui, les dirigeants passés et actuels du pays se concentrent toujours sur des choses qui ne s'attaquent pas aux principaux problèmes auxquels sont confrontés les citoyens, mais se vantent des

emplois auprès du gouvernement.

Les commentaires de l'ancien président du LCC font suite à la publication récente de rapports de la Banque mondiale sur la pauvreté au Liberia, qui suggèrent que plus de la moitié de la population du pays vit encore en dessous du seuil de pauvreté.

Il déplore que le Liberia n'ait pas progressé ces dernières années en raison de la signature par le gouvernement de mauvaises concessions, ce qui contribue à l'aggravation de la pauvreté.

Il met au défi l'administration Boakai, la 55e législature et l'ensemble de la population de mettre la main à la pâte, car cela nécessite une action nationale.

Il pense que cela est réalisable si le président Boakai met son expérience dans le

## **La Commission électorale reçoit une politique d'inclusion sociale et de genre après un examen par les pairs**



La commission électorale du Liberia a reçu un examen par les pairs de sa politique d'inclusion sociale et de genre, qui met l'accent sur l'inclusion d'un plus grand nombre de femmes en politique.

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a officiellement reçu l'examen par les pairs de la politique d'inclusion sociale et de genre, sous le thème : "Garantir l'équité dans les élections, une participation égale pour tous".

Lors de la cérémonie officielle qui s'est tenue le jeudi 21 mars 2024 au siège de la Commission à Sinkor (9ème rue), Monrovia, la présidente Davidetta Browne Lansanah a déclaré que la NEC a démontré au fil des ans son engagement à travailler pour une représentation équilibrée et à placer les femmes à des niveaux de responsabilité élevés.

Elle a expliqué que depuis la création de la section Genre de la Commission il y a quelques années et l'élaboration d'une politique de qualité en matière de genre, la Commission, en collaboration avec ses partenaires, notamment ONU Femmes, PNUD, UE, Irlande, gouvernement suédois et autres, promeut constamment la politique de genre comme

un moyen de prendre en compte la réalité actuelle, à savoir la nécessité de réduire les écarts de représentation des femmes en politique.

La présidente Browne Lansanah a commandé un audit de la politique de genre afin d'évaluer et de vérifier l'institutionnalisation de l'égalité des sexes dans la politique. Elle a ajouté que cela permet à la commission de s'assurer que l'existence de la politique est suffisamment sensible pour aborder la question de l'inclusion. Selon elle, cet audit pourrait être une étape de transition entre l'ancienne politique d'intégration des questions de genre et la nouvelle politique d'équité des sexes et d'inclusion sociale. En outre, elle a souligné que la nouvelle politique vise à intégrer des dispositions relatives aux personnes handicapées. Elle a remercié la consultante Madame Caroline Bowah, ONU Femmes, PNUD, UE, Irlande et le gouvernement suédois pour leur soutien indéfectible dans la finalisation de ces différents instruments par la NEC. "Nous savons que ce n'est pas la fin. Nous prévoyons qu'après la présentation des conclusions, si les consultants ont besoin que nous fassions quoi que ce soit, nous serons prêts à le faire à nos différents niveaux", a assuré la présidente de la NEC.

## **La police libérienne émet un avertissement précoce**



La police nationale libérienne (LNP) lance un avertissement précoce au public, en particulier aux conducteurs, afin qu'ils respectent les prochaines règles de sécurité.

Monrovia, jeudi 21 mars 2024 - La police nationale libérienne avertit les conducteurs de tout le pays et le grand public de se préparer aux prochaines mesures de sécurité visant à protéger les vies et les biens.

Dans un communiqué de presse signé par le porte-parole de la police, H. Moses Carter, II, il est demandé le retrait de tous les véhicules non autorisés équipés de feux de route, de sirènes, de gyrophares et d'autres dispositifs d'urgence. Les véhicules à conduite à droite devront également être retirés de la circulation.

La police précise que ces véhicules ne sont pas autorisés à circuler au Liberia, conformément au code de la route du pays.

La LNP annonce également le retrait de tous les vendeurs d'essence non affiliés aux stations-service ("can-boys") le long des artères principales de Monrovia et à travers le pays. De plus, les conducteurs qui utilisent constamment la voie opposée sont priés de cesser immédiatement cette pratique.

Les propriétaires de véhicules, de tricycles ("Keke") et de motos sont invités à enregistrer, à assurer ou à mettre à jour leurs documents.

La police affirme que ces mesures visent à créer un environnement favorable qui protégera les vies et garantira la sécurité des déplacements des automobilistes et des piétons.

À la suite de consultations nationales, la police nationale libérienne commencera prochainement des inspections générales pour s'assurer du bon état de marche des véhicules et du respect du code de la route par les conducteurs.

Communiqué de presse

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# A call for Reactivation of the Liberian Consulate/Embassy in India

Liberia and India have a long-standing diplomatic relationship that dates back to the nineteenth century. The two nations established diplomatic ties for peaceful coexistence, as reflected in their foreign policies. Since then, Liberia and India have enjoyed a fruitful relationship. Samuel K. Doe was the first Liberian head of state to visit India in 1983. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two nations. President Doe's visit marked the beginning of a mutually beneficial partnership that continues to this day. Both countries have worked together on various issues of mutual interest, promoting trade, cultural exchange, and development cooperation.

The diplomatic relations between Liberia and India have stood the test of time and continue to thrive, setting an example for other nations to follow. In 2015, H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, then President of the Republic of Liberia, visited India. This visit was a significant step towards strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries. The visit yielded fruitful results, with both governments signing numerous agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

One of the major outcomes of the visit was the significant investments by the Indian government in the entrepreneurship development of Liberia. These investments aimed to promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Liberia, which would contribute to the economic growth of the country. (<https://www.indianembassyinmonrovia.gov.in/commercial-brief.php>)

With the visit, the Indian government announced the establishment of consulates in various countries, including Liberia, which would further promote trade and cultural exchanges between the two nations. Overall, H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's visit to India played a crucial role in strengthening the partnership between Liberia and India and paved the way for future collaborations in various sectors.

Despite the gains made over the years, one area Liberia has fallen short is the lack of representation in India. The Liberian Consulate/Embassy in India was closed several years ago due to financial constraints, leaving many Liberians living in India without proper consular services. ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/India%E2%80%93Liberia\\_relations](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/India%E2%80%93Liberia_relations)). This has caused inconvenience for Liberians seeking visas, passports, and other consular services. Furthermore, it has hindered the development of economic and cultural ties between the two nations. Therefore, there is a pressing need for the reactivation of the Liberian Consulate/Embassy in India.

The revitalization of the Liberian Consulate/Embassy in India would not only provide essential services to Liberians, it would also promote trade and investment opportunities between the two countries, fostering stronger bilateral relations. It is crucial that the Liberian government takes necessary steps to reopen its representation in India and strengthen its presence in the region to fully harness the potential benefits of this partnership.

Why must President Joseph Nyumah Boakai reinstall the consulate of India and strengthen diplomatic ties with India?

As the former Vice President of Liberia, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai is aware of the importance of strong diplomatic ties with other nations. In particular, the consulate of India holds a significant role in promoting economic and cultural relations between the two countries. By reinstating the consulate and strengthening diplomatic ties with India, President Boakai can pave the

way for increased trade and investment opportunities, as well as foster cultural exchange and cooperation. India is a global leader in technology, education, and healthcare, and by building a closer relationship with this nation, Liberia can benefit from their expertise and resources.

Furthermore, reinstating the consulate also shows a commitment to maintaining friendly relations with India, which can be crucial in times of global crises or emergencies.

With the world becoming increasingly interconnected, it is vital for President Boakai to prioritize the reinstatement of the consulate of India and strengthen diplomatic ties to ensure mutual benefits and a brighter future for both nations.

During my search for help, I had the opportunity to speak with Esther Flomo, one of the potential graduating seniors in the public health program at Siksha O Anusandhan Deemed University. In our conversation, Esther expressed her concerns about studying in a country with over two thousand (2,000) Liberians students, without a permanent consulate to turn to in case of emergencies. She emphasized "that our lives are not secure without someone to intervene on our behalf during critical situations". Esther also shared that many times, Indians

take advantage of this situation and deny international students their rights at certain facilities simply because there is no official representative appointed by the government to advocate for them.

This lack of support and representation can be distressing for international students, making it difficult for them to navigate through emergencies and other challenging situations. Esther's words shed light on the importance of having a permanent consulate or representative for international students in countries like India to ensure their safety and well-being.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, India has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting Liberia in various crucial areas, helping to rescue Liberians and build a better future for the country. As we move forward, it is important for the president to reaffirm his government's dedication to promoting peaceful coexistence and revitalizing the economy through continued investments in agriculture and education.

Additionally, there is great potential for cooperation between India and Liberia in other areas such as transportation, healthcare, and entrepreneurs' development, which can further strengthen the relationship between the two countries. It is crucial for both nations to continue collaborating and working towards mutual growth and progress for the benefit of their people. With India's unwavering support and partnership, Liberia can continue to make strides towards achieving a stable and prosperous future.

Written by A. Clarence Ndebeh

MBA Students at the Punjab Technical University



Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

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# Scaring & terrible!

Mr. Simeon Freeman, a three-time defeated presidential candidate, believes that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's first draft National Budget of US\$692M is empty and places less emphasis on ordinary Liberians.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, March 25, 2024: Liberian businessman-turned-politician Mr. Simeone Freeman has termed President

Boakai, most of the revenue is coming out of our domestic revenue. 92.5% of this budget [is] going to be spent on [the] recurring cost of running the government, and that is

on recurring costs.

He stated that not much significant quality money will be spent on agriculture, the economy, and other core sectors because of the new increment in government wages and employees.

For the country to reduce the importation of rice and start to export food, Mr. Freeman said the government should invest in the development of agriculture and create capacity for farmers across the country.

The Liberian Economist added that a large portion of the budget comes from domestic revenue, while about US\$40m comes from borrowing from donor communities.

However, the MPC leader suggested that the government has not designed any strategy as to how it intends to bring those monies back into the Liberian economy to promote job creation and opportunities for citizens.

"There is nothing there for the public, business community, investment in the economy, and the Public Sector Investment Program," Freeman alleged.

"President Boakai said he will train one thousand youth in ICT but he allocated US\$ 1.7 million to that program. is he joking with governance and investment?" Mr. Freeman wondered. He claimed that President Boakai's proposed budget does not even address the agriculture issues across the country or even sustainable development of Liberia's staple food, rice.

Mr. Freeman claimed that even the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) which contributes 20% to the national government has nothing significant to address its current debt and electricity instability.

completely scary and terrible," said Mr. Freeman.

"So, think about it. What remains for the public? Nothing," he argued.

The MPC political leader said the government is mobilizing six hundred million out of the economy, but the money is going to government employees, cars, and upkeep, something he believes is terrible.

Following much delay, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning submitted the draft national budget for 2024 to the House of Representatives, amounting to US\$692M.

Finance Minister Boimah Kamara and his three deputies submitted the draft budget on 6 March 2024, marking a crucial step in the nation's fiscal planning and governance.

In his critique of the draft National Budget, Mr. Freeman noted that 92.5% of the instrument is going to be spent



Mr. Simeone Freeman

Joseph Nyumah Boakai's first draft National Budget of US\$692m as completely scary and terrible.

The opposition Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) political leader addressed dozens of reports over the weekend, alleging that 92.5% of the proposed budget will be spent on government operations alone or recurring costs.

The three-time defeated presidential candidate described President Boakai's first draft National Budget of US\$692M as empty and places less emphasis on ordinary Liberians.

Mr. Freeman suggested that it is very saddening if 92.5% of the government's proposed budget is spent on the government's running and operation. He believes that there is nothing inside the Budget to adequately address the plights and conditions of ordinary Liberians. "The proposed budget by President

# Your voices must be heard

As calls intensify for the establishment of war and economic crimes court for Liberia, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Beth Van Schaack, urges citizens' engagement in pursuing justice and healing the wounds of the past.

By Kruah Thompson

In a poignant appeal to the people of Liberia, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Beth Van Schaack, urges citizens to rally behind calls for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for the country

In a recent article posted on the U.S. Embassy's official website, Ambassador Van Schaack, underscores the critical importance of citizens' engagement in pursuing justice and healing the wounds of the past.

According to her, the decision to ultimately establish war and economic crimes court solely rests with the Liberian people, and the TRC's findings have already set the stage for that.

"It is not my opinion that matters," she stated,

continues, "The bright future of Liberia is in your hands—your voices must be heard. The United States stands with you and is ready to support you in this endeavor."

The Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, laments how she sees entrenched impunity for atrocities on a daily basis around the world, noting that these atrocities not only harm the direct victims of those crimes, but all of society and the very fabric of a nation.

"When there is no accountability for the worst crimes known to humankind, it undermines the rule of law and contributes to corruption and lawlessness. In so many ways, there can be no true and lasting peace without justice." She emphasizes.

However, she applauds President Boakai's commitment to initiating the process of establishing a War and Economic Crimes Court, as announced in his inaugural address, and commends the government for taking steps towards implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"Like so many Liberians, I—along with the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, my colleagues here in Washington, and others within the international community—was very pleased to see President Boakai's announcement in his inaugural address that he would begin the process of creating a War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia. Liberians have waited far too long to see justice for the horrific abuses they



emphasizing the need for Liberians to take ownership of their history and request for the establishment of the court in order to prosecute perpetrators of war crimes.

Her call to action comes in response to recommendations laid out by Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which has advocated for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court.

However, in her open letter to Liberians, she encourages citizens to actively participate in the process by voicing their support within their communities and communicating with their representatives, expressing their views on the matter.

"This is why I encourage everyone reading this to let your voices be heard on this issue. Speak up in your communities. Write, call, or reach out to your representatives and local leaders and tell them how you feel. If you want to see justice, let your leadership know how impunity affects you, your family, and your community."

Ambassador Schaack

suffered in the country's two civil wars, despite recommendations from your Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). I applaud President Boakai for making justice such a priority in the early days of his administration."

Reflecting on her role as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Van Schaack pledged to closely monitor any threats to those advocating for justice, ensuring the safety and freedom of all Liberians to participate in the process.

Moreover, she emphasizes the United States' government readiness to stand by Liberia in this endeavor.

"The United States will also be watching closely to make sure that those advocating for justice do not face threats to their safety and that all Liberians can step forward and speak about this effort without fear of intimidation or retribution. Victims and witnesses must play a central role in the work of the future court, and they must be able to do so freely and safely." She promises.

Commentators say Liberians now have the moment they have long waited for, to end impunity and promote accountability for future

## Order Of Eastern Star Donates To Central Prison And Destiny Recovery Center

Starts from back page

Matron, accompanied by other Grand Chapter Officers, including its Secretary, Worthy Sister Louis Kpoto, who is also Minister of Health, visited the health facility at the Monrovia Central Prison.

Worthy Sister Louis Kpoto also empathized with the plight of female prisoners. She promised that the Ministry of Health would improve conditions and make the health Center more functional and responsive to addressing the health needs of inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison.

At the Destiny Recovery Centre, with an estimated 116 inmates, mostly youths, Worthy Sister Roberts lauded the authorities for the great initiative to help rehabilitate and transform young people hooked on drugs.

She spoke passionately about the rehabilitation program at the Destiny Recovery Center. She urged youths to stop drug abuse and commit to the process of rehabilitation that will help transform them into productive citizens.

Authorities at the Destiny Recovery program expressed

appreciation to the OES for its continuous support and assistance to the program to help stop the widespread drug abuse, especially among the youths.

Authorities later took the OES members on a guided tour of their facilities under construction. They said that when completed, it will be a safe house to rehabilitate and transform young people hooked on drugs. The General Grand Worthy Patron, Worthy Bro. Yanqueh S. Borse and Past General Grand Worthy Patron, Worthy Bro. Cyril Jones also accompanied the General Grand Worthy Matron on the prison and rehabilitation center visits.

## Order Of Eastern Star Donates To Central Prison And Destiny Recovery Center

As part of its charity program, the General Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star (OES) made two separate donations to the Monrovia Central Prison and the Destiny Recovery program for the rehabilitation of drug-addicted youth on Friday, March 22.

and 10 bags of cement. The Order of Eastern Star (OES), with Worthy Sister Sonia F Roberts as General Grand Worthy Matron, is an appellant body of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Liberia, with Most Worshipful Bro. Anthony W. Deline as Most Worshipful Grand Master. Making the presentation at

There are an estimated 1,412 inmates, including 72 females, facing the worst of Prison conditions, including overcrowding, inadequate food supply, and lack of functional health facilities, according to prison authorities, who expressed gratitude to the OES for its kind generosity. A female Convict, identified



Monrovia Central Prison included 50 bags of rice, vegetable oil, dozens of chlorine cartoons, sanitation pads, washing and bath soap, and Dettol, among other items, primarily for female inmates. At the Destiny Recovery Program on Somalia Drive, Lower New Georgia, the Order of Eastern presented 10 bundles of zinc, 20 bags of rice,

the Monrovia Central Prison, Worthy Sister Roberts empathized with the plight of female inmates and urged them to pray and put their faith in God for relief. She said donating items to the Monrovia Central Prison is part of the OES charity program to identify needy Liberians in difficult situations and conditions.

only as Asha, who has served three years of her sentence, expressed appreciation for the OES's kind assistance and pleaded with OES members to help facilitate the release of female inmates held in protracted detention for lesser crimes. The General Grand Worthy

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