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**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024	LS191.7537/US\$1.00	LS193.6405/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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# Family blames James N. Davies Hospital



## -over pregnant woman's death

# US\$96M Solar farm to boost electricity here



## -As GOL, World Bank earmark hydro expansion

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# Continental News

## Former prime minister concedes to Senegal opposition

Senegal's ruling coalition candidate Amadou Ba has called from an election which was originally due last month are expected in the coming days. From the opposition's Bassirou

that it was a win for the people of Senegal.

Mr Faye, who turned 44 on Monday, ran as an independent. But he had been a senior member of the dissolved Pastef party, led by Ousmane Sonko, the popular figure who many thought would succeed Mr Sall. But Mr Sonko was disqualified from the election because of a defamation conviction, which he said was politically motivated. Mr Sonko backed Mr Faye's bid for the presidency.

The first set of results announced on television overnight showing that Mr Faye had won a majority of the votes counted up to that point triggered celebrations in the capital, Dakar.

In the streets, young people were dancing, singing, waving the Senegalese flag and honking their cars horns.

In Ndiagianiao, Mr Faye's hometown 80km (50 miles) east of Dakar, residents were seen congratulating each other as if to express this as a victory for the whole community.

After experiencing one of its worst political crises, for many this victory symbolises hope for Senegal's future. BBC



Bassirou Diomaye Faye is leading the vote count, according to unofficial results

Diomaye Faye to concede victory in Sunday's presidential election, a government official said.

Unofficial results showed that Mr Faye had a strong lead over Mr Ba.

Mr Faye had been in prison 10 days before the vote and campaigned on the promise of radical change. Official results

youngest president

The vote followed months of political turmoil in one of Africa's most stable democracies, after outgoing President Macky Sall tried to postpone the election until December.

Several of the other 15 candidates had already conceded. President Sall has also congratulated Mr Faye and said

## Crush at Nigeria cash hand-out kills seven

Seven people, including an eight-year-old girl, have been killed in a crush at a charity event in Nigeria. On Sunday, a businessman in Bauchi state, in the north-east, had invited residents to collect 5,000 naira (\$3.70; £2.90) each. The event attracted a big crowd and "before you knew it things got out of hand", a local journalist told the BBC.

Recent economic strife has left many desperate for help. Five thousand naira could feed an average family for a day. Police confirmed that seven people - four adult women and three girls, aged between eight and 55 - were killed in the incident in the Jos Road area of Bauchi city, though some locals have put the death toll higher.

The authorities have said they are now investigating what happened. Women normally attend these types of events as men are often reluctant to be seen in places where charity handouts are being offered. Babangida Adamu lost his teenage daughter Aisha in the crush.

"She has never attended such events before yesterday and she went with some people," he said in a subdued

voice on the phone from Bauchi.

"I was sitting when a girl came to me crying that I should rush to the hospital. On reaching there [I learned] my daughter has died. We buried her alongside other victims on Sunday."

There has been no word so far from popular businessman Alhaji Yakubu Maishanu, who organised the charity handout in front of his office. It was part of his regular efforts to help poorer Muslims.

Such events are often held during the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, when Muslims are encouraged to donate to charity. This is just the latest incident of people losing their lives in similar circumstances in recent weeks in Nigeria.



Aisha Usman Adamu, 14, was one of those who was killed in the stampede

Just last week some students died as rice was about to be distributed at Nasarawa State University in central Nigeria. Last month, the Nigeria Customs Service confirmed a crush at its rice selling point in Yaba, Lagos, which led to fatalities and injuries. The agency was selling subsidised rice amid high food prices across the country. The cost of fuel has also risen dramatically over the past year as the government ended its policy of subsidising the price.

Wages have not kept up with inflation which has put many families in difficult circumstances. BBC

## From jailed unknown to Africa's youngest president

Few had heard of him a year ago, and now he is set to become president.

Bassirou Diomaye Faye's extraordinary rise caps a rollercoaster period in Senegalese politics that caught many off-guard. Months in jail alongside ally and kingmaker Ousmane Sonko ended suddenly, with the pair released the week before the presidential election.

Now Mr Clean, as he's nicknamed, must get to work on the sweeping reforms he has promised.

"Methodical" and "modest" are words often used to describe the tax collector, who celebrates his 44th birthday on Monday. Mr Faye fondly recalls his rural upbringing in Ndiagianiao, where he says he returns every Sunday to work the land.

His love and respect for village life is matched by his deep distrust of Senegal's elites and establishment

which is pegged to the euro and backed by former colonial power France. Mr Faye wants to replace it with a new Senegalese, or regional West African, currency, although this will not be easy.

"He will have to deal with the reality of the budget to begin with... But I see that he has a lot of ambition," former Prime Minister Aminata Touré, who served under outgoing President Macky Sall, tells the BBC. Strengthening judicial independence and creating jobs for Senegal's large young population are also key priorities for Mr Faye - neither of which "President Sall paid much attention to and it caught up with him", Ms Touré adds.

She is not the only political heavyweight to have thrown her support behind the 44-year-old - former President Abdoulaye Wade did the same just two days before Sunday's vote.

It is a remarkable turnaround for Mr Faye who spent the last 11 months in prison on charges of insurrection, and many more years before that in his ally's



"Politics never crossed my mind," says the tax collector and husband to two wives

politics. "He's never been a minister and wasn't a statesman so critics question his lack of experience," analyst Alioune Tine tells the BBC.

"But, from Faye's point of view, the insiders who've run the country since 1960 have made some catastrophic failures. Fighting poverty, injustice and corruption are top of Mr Faye's agenda. While working at the Treasury, he and Mr Sonko created a union taskforce to tackle graft. Gas, oil, fishing and defence deals must all be negotiated to better serve the Senegalese people, says Mr Faye. He is ushering in an era of "sovereignty" and "rupture" as opposed to more of the same, he told voters, and that is especially true of ties to France.

Senegal's president-elect says he will drop the much-criticised CFA franc currency,

shadow. Bassirou Diomaye Faye was announced in February as the so-called "Plan B" candidate, replacing the charismatic opposition firebrand Ousmane Sonko. "I would even say that he has more integrity than me," Mr Sonko said proudly. Both men founded the now-disbanded Pastef party, both men are tax collectors, and both men found themselves jailed last year on charges they said were politically motivated. Mr Sonko ended up being convicted of two offences, which meant he was barred from the election, so Mr Faye stepped in. "Bassirou is me," Mr Sonko told supporters recently. "They are two sides of the same coin," Pastef colleague Moustapha Sarré agrees.

This has led to criticism that Mr Faye is merely "president by default". Not so, says analyst Mr Tine. But the pair's relationship could usher in a new style of leadership. BBC

# 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 Dixon Chibanda

## The Global Mental-Health Crisis Demands New Thinking

**L**ONDON - The world is in the grips of a mental-health crisis. From rising climate anxiety in rich countries like the United States to intense trauma in conflict zones like Ukraine and Gaza (especially among children), psychological suffering has become widespread, and traditional health-care services cannot keep up. This leaves tens of millions of people at risk of serious pathologies and suicide.

As it stands, more than 25% of the world's population reports feelings of social isolation and loneliness, and more than 150,000 people aged 15-29 die by suicide each year. Climate change threatens to increase these bleak figures. As the American Psychiatric Association reports, climate change can "lead to job loss, force people to move, and harm social cohesion and community resources, all of which have mental-health consequences." Moreover, contemplating climate change and its consequences for both "national security and individual well-being" can cause "significant distress."

No groups are spared. Young people fear for their future; older people grieve the destruction of the world of their childhoods; and activists and climate scientists suffer from emotional burnout and despair. And this is to say nothing of the post-traumatic stress and depression experienced by those already affected by climate-related disasters, particularly in vulnerable developing economies.

Traditionally, a psychiatric patient would engage in one-on-one therapy with a trained doctor. But even rich-country health systems lack the capacity to offer such services as widely as is needed: in the US, more than 150 million people live in areas with too few mental-health professionals. Within a few years, the country could be short by as many as 31,100 psychiatrists.

The situation is even worse in poor and conflict-affected countries, where traditional psychiatric interventions are often very difficult to access, if they are available at all. Consider my home country, Zimbabwe: despite being a country of 16 million, it has just 13 psychiatrists and 20 clinical psychologists.

The consequences of this shortfall became starkly apparent in 2019, when Cyclone Idai tore through parts of Zimbabwe. The storm's powerful winds and heavy rains - and the massive flooding and landslides they triggered - led to hundreds of deaths, displaced about 60,000 people, and demolished 50,000 homes. It also decimated unharvested crops, destroyed seed stocks, and killed livestock, leaving people without food or livelihoods. All of this contributed to mental-health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

Barely a year later, things got much worse: the COVID-19 pandemic forced nationwide lockdowns that further undermined people's socioeconomic well-being. The resulting mental-health problems were well beyond the health-care system's capacity to handle.

But that did not mean Zimbabwe had no

options. The Friendship Bench project, which I founded, trains community volunteers without any prior medical or mental-health training to provide talk therapy from wooden park benches in all ten provinces of the country. We have so far trained more than 2,000 of these "grandmothers" to provide counseling to their local communities.

The program works. In 2016, a randomized clinical trial found that patients with common mental disorders and indicators of depression who received Friendship Bench counseling had a significant decrease in symptoms. Communities with access to Friendship Bench services also experienced improvements in other areas, from HIV outcomes to maternal and child health. Even the grandmothers delivering the therapy report that they have benefited from a stronger sense of belonging and resilience.

Others in lower-resource countries have also been pioneering new, scalable models for delivering high-quality, low-cost psychiatric care to communities where it was not previously available. One trailblazer is Sangath, an NGO headquartered in the Indian state of Goa that trains ordinary people to deliver psychosocial treatments, particularly in areas with little access to mental-health services. Clinical trials have consistently shown that these "lay counselors" are effective in addressing a wide range of mental-health conditions, from depression and anxiety to alcohol-use disorders.

Similarly, StrongMinds trains "mental-health facilitators" to provide free group therapy to low-income women and adolescents with depression in Uganda and Zambia. The organization reports a powerful impact, not least in supporting communities affected by climate-related environmental disasters. And this impact is set to grow: StrongMinds founder and CEO Sean Mayberry expects the program to reach 335,000 people this year.

Western models of psychiatric care are too resource-intensive to be rolled out across the world, particularly in Africa and South Asia, where fast-growing populations and accelerating climate risks pose huge challenges. But well-crafted community-based initiatives are both cost-effective and highly scalable. Beyond improving individual mental health and resilience, such programs strengthen community cohesion and encourage collective problem-solving, both of which will become increasingly important as the climate crisis intensifies.

Tackling the global mental-health crisis effectively will require greater engagement from the international community. The World Health Organization's Special Initiative for Mental Health, which sought to deliver greater access to mental-health services across its six regions in 2019-23, was a step in the right direction. But it must be sustained and expanded. Meanwhile, local and national governments and philanthropies should embrace new, locally-based approaches that have proved their ability to help communities cope with growing risks to their lives, livelihoods, and well-being.

# OP-ED

By Simon Johnson,  
Daron Acemoglu

## Dark Offshore Money Threatens Democracy

WASHINGTON, DC/CAMBRIDGE - Democracies around the world face two major threats: a crisis of legitimacy, and increasingly aggressive authoritarian regimes. What links both and makes them much more dangerous is the pernicious effect of dark-money transfers, particularly those that pass through offshore tax havens and jurisdictions with excessive financial secrecy. Restricting these tax havens and requiring more transparency on cross-border financial flows should become a major policy priority for all G7 countries in 2024.

The internal threat to democracy is an erosion of legitimacy. In industrial economies such as the United States and Europe, new technologies, rising cross-border capital flows, and lower barriers to trade increased average productivity and created economic growth over the last half-century, but the benefits of this growth were not widely shared. Inequality within these countries has increased dramatically since the mid-1970s, with millions of people now feeling they have been left behind.

Support for democracy is undermined by the belief that the economic game is "rigged," with people who are already powerful and privileged gaining the most - sometimes at the expense of the rest. While this belief may be exaggerated, it accords with the reality of tax evasion. Tax havens allow rich people not only to build their wealth essentially tax-free, but also to exercise economic and political power away from prying eyes and without any accountability.

One list of tax havens includes among its top ten both small Caribbean states and widely-respected countries such as British overseas territories (British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, and the Cayman Islands), the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

The US and the United Kingdom are also complicit. Their financial secrecy rules allow an extraordinary amount of foreign (and illicit) money to find shelter (the US tops this Financial Secrecy Index).

A multibillion-dollar industry has emerged, employing some of the world's brightest lawyers, accountants, and consultants, focused on helping the wealthy and the unscrupulous. Tax havens are particularly useful for people who have ill-begotten wealth derived from bribes, theft, and other forms of corruption. Being able to hide the identity of parties in any financial transaction is a key requirement to operating a successful haven.

This form of financial engineering corrupts democracy. Even worse, it exacerbates the second major threat we face: the strengthening of authoritarian regimes. Dark offshore money makes it easier to support candidates, manipulate public opinion, and persuade people to vote for a dictator.

The dark money of the Russian oligarchs has long been a mainstay of the country's economy and political system. President Vladimir Putin's close relationships with sources of dark money has been well documented.

Less widely appreciated is the way that non-transparent transactions have allowed the Chinese government to construct a vast global empire of influence. We are only now beginning to see how much low-income countries, especially in Africa, owe to various Chinese-backed entities. Relatedly, the Communist Party of China has reportedly "invested billions of dollars" in global disinformation around the world. This includes efforts focused on recent (and likely future) US elections.

It has also become painfully apparent that a large amount of money flows from Iran to organizations such as Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis forces in Yemen that are now raining down missiles on commercial ships in the Red Sea. Almost all this Iranian funding moves through dark channels, including (according to US authorities) entities in Turkey and Yemen.

Shutting down these channels would be difficult, but the most effective way to fight dark money - and its financing of authoritarianism, criminality, and terrorism - would be to clamp down on the dozens of tax havens that exist around the world. Doing so would strengthen tax collection in democracies and reduce the resources available to authoritarian regimes.

Ironically, several of these tax havens are at risk from climate change and are demanding international assistance to deal with potential sea-level rise and more damaging storms. If these island states and other jurisdictions wish to participate in fair and reasonable adjustment mechanisms (such as climate-related finance or debt relief), funded in part by the G7, they need to comply with increased transparency requirements.

One key element must be an extension of "know your customer" rules to all these jurisdictions, backed up by appropriate criminal penalties. Specifically, there needs to be full disclosure to G7 tax authorities regarding who owns what assets and who makes which payments to whom.

Alas, some tax evasion is legal, owing solely to the lobbying power of the ultra-wealthy and powerful consultants and accountants, who will no doubt argue that productive businesses will move elsewhere if loopholes are closed. This should be countered with a simple principle that should be shared across the G7: business profits are taxed in proportion to where sales occur.

For example, if you move your headquarters (or ownership of intellectual property) to another country, you should still pay tax in the US based on your business activities in the US. The G7 agreement on a global minimum corporate tax was a step in the right direction here, but there is a lot more to be done.

In the age of artificial intelligence, we should expect many of the rich to become considerably richer. They will also presumably use AI tools to dodge taxes more effectively. Under current international arrangements, this will be easy to do. However, AI can also help uncover tax evasion and avoidance, as well as unusual money flows, which are often illicit.

For tech barons who continuously talk about using AI for good, here is a challenge: support the quick rollout of new AI-based tools for clamping down on tax evasion and tax havens.

Starts from page 6

## Former BSE boss threatens

was clouded with irregularities and corruption.

Sesay accused Mr. Cummings and his surrogates, including Mr. Charles R. Kennedy, Director of Maintenance at BSE, of several irregularities.

He has demanded an audit of the BSE because US\$600,000 allegedly remitted from state-owned enterprises (SOEs) has not been accounted for to date.

Sesay, who has been accused of double-dipping two separate jobs, argued that he held the position of Rep. Barry's Chief of Office Staff because he had allegedly faced threats from former director general Jamoil P. Cummings.

He said he held onto the CoS job as a fallback in case Mr. Cummings had dismissed him for his stance against corruption at the entity.

"I was trying to seek a safe Haven, a rescue area, just in case Mr. Cummings dismissed me upon his return. Nothing was

going to come out of it," he claimed.

However, according to him, he has resigned as Chief of Office Staff to Montserrado County Electoral District #1 Representative Rugie Barry.

He disclosed his resignation to clarify the allegation that he had been double-dipping as a BSE official and, at the same time, Chief of Staff to Rep. Barry.

"Yes, I've indeed served as Chief of Office Staff to Hon. Barry," assisting with her office operations, but not as a civil servant in Central Administration at Capitol Building," he told reporters Saturday, 23 March 2024.

"But the reality is that I've resigned from that post as Chief of Office Staff to Representative Rugie Barry ever since, and the documents are visible," he said. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Montserrado County  
Republic of Liberia

March 22, 2024

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The public is hereby informed that the undersigned ~~private~~ land Surveyor Mr. Micheal K. Otto has been duly authorized by Moses Y. Kollie to conduct a survey of Two Acreage of Land in favor of Mr. Edwind H. Kamanda and Teliwu Kamanda. The property to be Survey is situated on the Wheada Town Community, Careysbury District, Montserrado County.

The survey will commence on Saturday March 30, 2024, at the precise hour of 10:AM.

Therefore all those sharing common boundaries with the said property are asked to be present on the day of the survey with their deeds, diagrams, and technical representatives ( Surveyors) along with all relevant documents to substantiate their claims. These notices should claim the attention of the following persons and corner stones initial.

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3. M.D.
4. M.K
5. H.N.K.
6. B.Z.
7. J.Y.K AND M.K.K
8. TANDC
9. AND OTHERS

Signed:   
Micheal K. Otto  
Land Surveyor  
Cell: 0770-394-504/ 0886-459-782

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MONTSERRADO COUNTY) COURT ANNEX FOR MONTSERRADO  
COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS  
MARCH TERM, 2024

BEFORE HIS HONOR: .....OUSMAN F. FEIKA ..... ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE  
PRESIDING

MADAM KONA MARGARET PERRY OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA,  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY, LIBERIA.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

THE INTESTATE ESTATE OF JAMES E. MINOR BY AND THRU ITS  
ADMINISTRATOR, GRACE B. MINOR AND AL THOSE OPERATING  
UNDER THE SCOPE OF HER AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
CONGO TOWN, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
.....RESPONDENT

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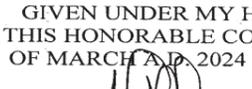
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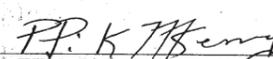
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COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

GRACE B. MINOR FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HERSELF  
DEFENDANT

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

# Thousands in Liberia are without access to water, but WaterAid hailed for intervening

By Aaron Salloe

**M**assa Sumo, a 33-year-old resident of Yahyonyon Town in Todee District, Montserrado County, Liberia, fetched water from the town's only creek for all her life until December 2020. The creek is the only source of water for the town's more than 300 residents. Unfortunately, the creek has poor water quality due to



Massa Sumo, 33, drinks water from a handpump constructed by WaterAid Liberia in her community, Yahyonyon Town, Todee District, Montserrado County.

contamination. As a result of that, Sumo and her three children have been experiencing health problems associated with consuming contaminated water. The creek is situated an approximately 25-minute walk from Sumo's house, and until 2020, was the only accessible source of drinking water for the inhabitants. The residents said they were exposed to various waterborne diseases until WaterAid Liberia intervened. WaterAid constructed a modern water pump to enhance access to quality water sources and service.

"By the grace of God, since the pump came, my skin [is] clean," said Sumo. "My children[s] running stomach condition [has] stop[ped]." Earlier, we experienced stomach pains and ringworms on our skins."

Sumo's experience is an example of several other poor water quality conditions faced by many people across Liberia.

Only 75 percent of the 5.2 million people across the country have access to safe water, according to the 2020 UNICEF, WHO, and JMP (Joint Monitoring Programme) report. Experts said poor water quality put the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities at risk. The handpump in Yahyonyon Town is one of 60 waterpoints WaterAid Liberia constructed in Montserrado and Grand Cape Mount Counties. In most instances, before the construction of these water points, residents said they had to be up as early as 4:00 A.M. daily to fetch water from the creek because



The creek from which residents of Yahyonyon Town in Todee District, Montserrado County, have fetched water for drinking for decades. Photo: Aaron Salloe.

that's when the water is clean. Women and children mainly bear the brunt of limited access to safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water—often trekking long and dangerous journeys, including through bushes for water.

"The way we used to suffer for water, we the women, to even bath, we[had] to go [a] distance," said Garmeh Paye, 40, another resident and owner of a local food center in Yahyonyon Town. "We can just say we were living [at] the creek because every morning, every evening, we [were] there."

For Joseph Sulonteh, the water pump has brought them relief. "We[haven't] notice[d] any problem since the pump[was] buil[t] by WaterAid," said Sulonteh, 78, and a father of 15 children. "I tell them [WaterAid] thank you. I [don't have] pay for them. Only God can pay them." Sulonteh's household enjoys the quality of the water, and he said that, "the nearby village come here to draw water if their pump spoil[s]."

"Diarrhea used to come, when you drink the water from the creek, your stomach start[s] running, but since the pump came, it cut off through this water," said Sulonteh.

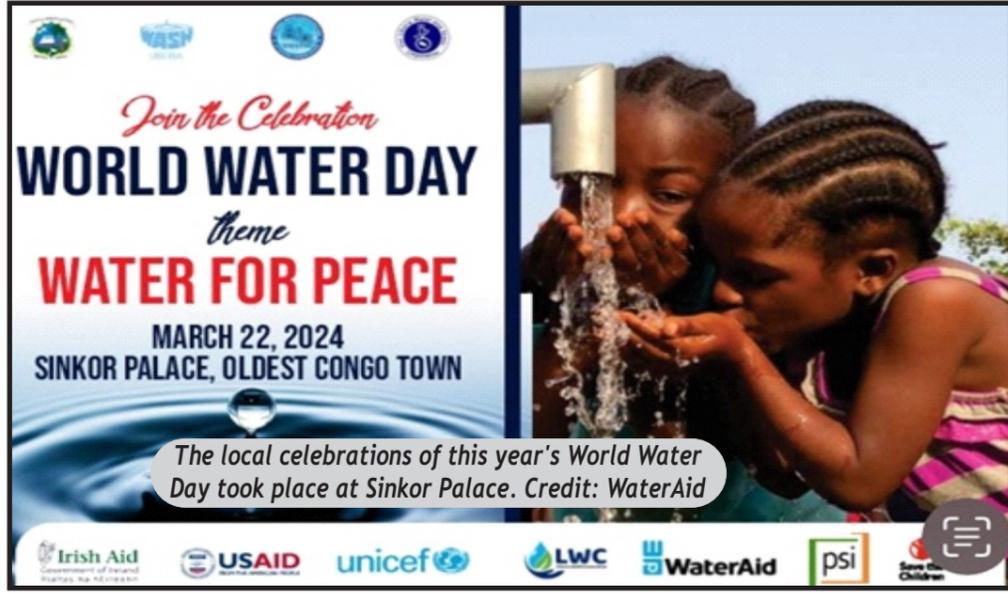
Chuchu Selma, WaterAid Liberia Country Director, said WaterAid launched its operations in Liberia in 2009 and has been deliberate in ensuring water is accessible for everyone, everywhere in Liberia. Todee is a priority district.

"In March 2023, we launched a new 5-year country program strategy," said Mr. Selma. "We ambition by 2028 to have:

- 700,000 more people with sustainable, safe, and inclusive WASH, starting with universal coverage in Todee District, Montserrado County.
- Public health outcomes in Liberia improved through better integration of WASH in the national health system.
- At least \$13 million more per year mobilised for WASH across the country."

WaterAid Liberia said it is committed to providing a comprehensive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), coverage in Liberia starting with Todee. "We will replicate the model elsewhere until everyone everywhere is reached with improved WASH," said Mr. Selma.

The pledge came as WaterAid funded local campaigns for the legislature to allocate more direct budgetary support to Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The importance



of water was particularly highlighted in the March 22, 2024, theme of World Water Day observance— "Water for Peace"—which emphasizes the critical role of water in sustaining global peace. Here in Liberia, a series of activities took place, including a football and kickball tournament among 16 high schools in Monrovia and an essay competition among students of those schools. The activities were climaxed with an indoor celebration marked with awareness aimed at drawing the public's interest or participation in WASH activities.

This year's world water day celebrations happened days after Liberia President, Joseph Boakai issued Executive Order #109 to "exempt the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC), from paying customs duties on certain items, to ensure that clean and safe drinking water remain affordable and accessible to the public."

"WaterAid sees this as a very laudable gesture. However, we look forward to the earliest review and update of current WASH policies," said Mr. Selma. "Additionally, it would be good if the national budget incorporates specific allocations for WASH, and there is a better coordination and collaboration among key sector ministries and agencies. Institutional fragmentation has also caused functional overlap of WASH institutions."

The Liberia Government did promise that by 2023, it would aim "to have equitable, safe, affordable and sustainable water supply and sanitation services for all," a promise that fell short of being achieved, with limited funding from government to WASH. Experts have warned that at its current pace, Liberia may not achieve its target of universal coverage of WASH as set out in Goal 6.1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goal says, "By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all."

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## No threats will thwart asset recovery

-Gov't tells CDC

Since the formation of the Assets Recovery and Properties Retrieval team by the new administration under President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, former officials of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) have been issuing threats to scare their successors from recovering stolen government assets.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, March 26, 2024: President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's Assets Recovery and

corruption, and serious human rights abuses, among others.

Worst still, some of the former officials are said to have looted their offices and

subject themselves to that so-called asset recovery task force," he said.

Reacting to Kojjee's threats, Cllr. Martin warned him to desist from any unlawful act, stating that the government would use the law to prosecute corrupt officials and compel restitution of stolen funds belonging to Liberia. "You say that former officials will not submit to this process, we are fearless and we have no issues about that," said Cllr Martin.

"We are strong and we are robust. No one will think that they can thwart or frustrate this process by issuing threats. That cannot move us," he continued.

Martin noted that he worked in the system before and he survived despite threats.

"Now that we are not in the system, and it does exist and now working under a transparent system, no threat can move us," he vowed.

According to him, some laws govern the punishment of criminal acts across the country and so they will be acting through the court, reminding CDCians that the court is always assisted by the Executive through the Liberia National Police (LNP).

Martin formally chaired the Liberia Anti-Corruption

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Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin

Properties Retrieval Team has warned officials of the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) that no level of threats will thwart the government's assets recovery efforts.

Assets Recovery Taskforce Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin issued the warning in Monrovia following consistent threats by CDC Secretary General Jefferson Kojjee that his party will resist the assets recovery. Kojjee and several officials of the past regime led by former President George Manneh Weah are on U.S. sanctions for acts of

taken away government vehicles, further compounding public perception of the high level of corruption allegations they face. Kojjee has projected himself as the ringleader in resisting accountability after the CDC-led government declined to hold accountable officials of the Sirleaf-led administration which it succeeded.

Recently, Kojjee loosely declared that no member of the CDC will subject themselves to the assets recovery task force. "We like to inform Mr. Boakai that no member of the CDC will

## Former BSE boss threatens NEW DAWN Reporter -amid corruption allegation

A staff of the NEW DAWN has received a death threat here from an ex-official of the government over a corruption allegation.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Monrovia, March 26, 2024: The former director of the Bureau of State Enterprises, Jamoil P. Cummings, threatens to shoot down NEW DAWN Reporter for querying him about alleged corruption at the Bureau during his administration.

Mr. Cummings denied allegations of corruption during his administration, including the alleged withdrawal of half a million United States Dollars from the entity's account.

Mr. Cummings described the information as "laudable, untrue and fabricated lies," stating that such a large amount of money has never been in the Bureau's account in

its entire history.

The former director, who became aggressive on the phone, instead directed this writer to verify with the Central Bank of Liberia and the Ministry of Finance.

But when pressed further, he threatened to shoot down the

reporter if he wrote anything funny about him, saying, "Hello, my brother. It is a lie, and you know what I will tell you: If you write about my name in your paper, I will shoot you down."

The threat against our staff was in response to this paper's effort to verify the allegation made by the Procurement Director at the Bureau of State Enterprises (BSE), Mr. Wilton D. Sesay, that Mr. Cummings' administration at the Bureau

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Jamoil P. Cummings

## 'Reckless and baseless'

-Rep. Goshua terms Rep. Tequah's statement

Monrovia, March 26, 2024: The Office of Rep. Thomas Alexander Goshua, II, has termed as reckless and baseless, a statement by Rep. Steve Tequah of River Cess County Electoral District #1. According to a release, Rep. Tequah recently alleged that the ugly condition of a stretch of laterite road passing through electoral district #5 up to the Timbo River bridge demarcating Grand Bassa and River Cess was the making of Rep. Goshua.

The release said such a statement is not only reckless and baseless, but unwarranted and premature of a lawmaker. "It is rather disturbing that the noble people of River Cess County reposed confidence in a man who appears to lack the elementary understanding of what it takes to be a lawmaker and the responsibilities thereof," the release said.

It noted that instead of Rep. Tequah relying on the wisdom of

out on that road periodically. "Had this not been the case, the road would be impassible, and River Cess would be completely detached from Grand Bassa until otherwise decided," the release said.

"Rep. Tequah should be thankful enough that Hon. Goshua has been the proactive lawmaker that he is." The release added that during the past six years of the CDC-led Government that he (Tequah) supported, Rep. Goshua became one of the signatories that signed onto the Elton & Ebomaf financing agreements.

It continued that he did so with a patriotic sense of reasoning, and against the fact that he wanted the very road being referenced to be rehabilitated to the convenience of his people.

"Unfortunately, his government's loan agreements turned out to be an undeserving scam against not only the people of Grand Bassa County but River Cess and all of the Southeastern Counties combined." The release said the



Rep. Thomas Alexander Goshua, II

experienced legislators like Rep. Goshua to broaden his seemingly narrowed perspective of the functions and duties of a Representative, he dabbles in cache phrases and utter confusion and has gotten lost in his journey to nowhere." Representative Tequah needs to be reminded that the road being mentioned is not a feeder road, but a major highway whose maintenance cost is estimated in the millions and cannot be done by an individual, let alone a lawmaker," said the release.

"It is also important to stress that such works DO NOT form part of the responsibilities of a lawmaker, but oversight can be used to enhance periodic maintenance that could lead to subsequent asphalt pavement," the release noted.

According to the release, Rep. Goshua has remained instrumental in the effective and efficient use of his oversight responsibilities to ensure that maintenance works are carried

office has been made to understand that plans are underway to ignite a political fight in 2029, to support a candidate of his choice.

"How hard it is to phantom the rationale of a man wanting to orchestrate a political war against another person in a different county when his work has so far not made the least of an impression on the people he represents."

"One would think that a man of such feeble standing would endeavor to solidify his grounds in his constituency and set the stage for his re-election since he is yet a legislative rookie, other than indulging into fruitless ventures that could potentially jeopardize his chances.

"Lastly, Rep. Steve Tequah also needs to know that consultations are being held with the Ministry of Public Works on the manner and form it intends to proceed with Road Maintenance Contracts to which the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission has issued "No Objection."

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Tragic motor accident kills five in Maryland County

The accident occurred when the bike on which the victims were riding collided with an ambulance believed to be for Partners in Health, a non-profit health organization.

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Monrovia, March 26, 2024: Four persons believed to be students of William V.S. Tubman University, including a patient within an ambulance, were killed in a tragic car

workers. Philip Williams and Standly Natt both died instantly in the accident. Eyewitnesses told the NewDawn newspaper that the ambulance had a severe mechanical fault. They were en route to Harper with a

In May last year, a tragic road accident involving a motorcycle and a Land Cruiser Pickup led to the death of a 63-year-old resident believed to be a pastor of the Assembly of God Church in the Southeastern Barrobo Statutory District in Maryland County and a local journalist also died in the same accident.

Also, in October 2021, at least two people died while another person was left in critical condition after two commercial motorbikes collided along the Pedebo-Plolo road near Yookudi town in Maryland County.

In June 2021, a Field Supervisor of a company operating in Maryland County also died in a deadly crash involving two motorcycles in central Pleebo.

Another tragic road accident in August 2020 left two dead after motorcycles carrying three people, including the rider, crashed into a refrigerated truck in Pleebo, Maryland County.

Back in August 2019, an ambulance driver, along with two others, died after a truck belonging to China Railway ran into an ambulance that was carrying a patient to the J.J. Dossen referral hospital.

According to the report, the accident occurred close to the Tubman Farm vicinity in Pleebo, Maryland County.

Many citizens in the county believe that most of these accidents and several other unreported ones are the result of alleged overspending and reckless driving.



Scene of the accident

accident along the Harper Highway.

The accident occurred on Monday, March 25, 2024, at about noon when the bike carrying the victims collided with an ambulance believed to be for Partners in Health, a non-profit health organization buttressing the county health team's efforts.

The victims include three males and two females. They are identified as Philip Williams, Standly Natt, Godfrey Dweh, and Marie Dennis, along with the patient whose name wasn't mentioned.

They were rushed to the J.J. Dossen Hospital but later pronounced dead by health

patient from Pleebo when it collided with the motorbike rider and his passengers.

The eyewitness continued that the driver of the ambulance immediately fled the scene following the accident due to the angry crowds.

The eyewitness further added that four of the deceased were a mix of freshman, sophomore, junior, and graduating students of William V.S. Tubman University.

The eyewitness termed the situation regretful and worrisome, pointing out that the driver allegedly was speeding with the ambulance before the incident occurred.

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## No threats will thwart asset recovery

Commission (LACC) during former President George Manneh Weah's rule. However, he did not end his tenure when a new LACC Act passed by the Legislature and signed by President Weah ousted him from his role.

The former LACC boss disclosed that nobody will see him in the street to go and

carry out an arrest. However, he said the appropriate action will be through the court and the execution of that action will be done through the LNP.

"Nobody is above the law, whether past or current government official. Therefore, the law will be used to retribute the Liberian people's money stolen," said

Cllr. Martin.

He said their responsibility is to ensure that the objectives and functions are addressed properly. "I can assure Liberians that we will ensure that the task is achieved. We will act in accordance with the law because there will be no arms twisting and nighttime calls," said Martin.

## GoL is dedicated to tackling climate change interventions

**-says Deputy Min. Brunson.** Liberia continues to demonstrate its commitment to climate change at all levels, pledging its dedication to tackling climate change related intervention here during the launch of its report here last weekend.

Deputy Minister of Budget Madam Tanneh Brunson says government is totally dedicated to tackling climate change-related intervention through a paradigm shift.

She made the disclosure at the launched of Liberia Country Climate Development Report organized by the World Bank Group on Friday March 22, 2024, held at the Monrovia City Hall

According to Hon. Brunson, in order to target climate change there are practical actions that shift development planning towards integration of climate financing, risks, and coordination. these actions include developing County Development Agenda (CDAs) for all fifteen counties both climate smart and sensitive which will feed into the New National

Planning has engaged in an ongoing discussion with development partners to establish a climate change finance office within the department of budget.

"As a driver of the country's national development planning process, fiscal planning, budgeting, and the allocation of resources across various sectors, it is prudent to establish a climate change finance office" she asserted.

For his part, the World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr. Robert R. Taliercio said the Bank is ready to work in partnership with the government to address critical sections from the reports on land, forestry, power, infrastructure development, carbon capture, and other crucial sectors are essential to Liberia's development and protection against climate change.

According to him, analysis from



Development Plan from 2025-2029. She noted that mainstreaming climate considerations within development planning & budgeting processes will improve on early warning, emergency preparedness, and disaster response systems across the country.

However, preparing climate finance, policy framework to facilitate readiness for Green financing are key for investment in health & sanitation to reduce solid waste as well as health related diseases. We will also work with partners to prioritize forestry communities through sustainable forestry management by improving governance and regulation of mining activities, as well as promoting climate-smart agriculture practices.

Currently the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development

the report shows clearly that poverty in Liberia would rise if the government don't target climate change intervention which had a serious negative impact on the nation's economy, agriculture, and other vital industries, as well as raise the likelihood of a national calamity.

He noted that the report is timely and critical based on the ongoing crafting of the new National Development Plan strategy.

Climate change poses a serious threat to the peace and prosperity of Liberia, the oldest country in Africa, Liberia, has navigated a challenging path to stability while dealing with health issues, civil unrest, and economic instability. Climatic issue is not confined to a single era in Liberia's development narrative. Global warming has long-lasting effects that get worse over time.

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# Français

## La Banque mondiale s'engage à verser 300 millions de dollars pour la construction d'un barrage

Une fois achevé, le projet permettra d'améliorer l'approvisionnement en électricité en dehors de Monrovia, alors que le gouvernement s'efforce de remédier au problème persistant de l'alimentation électrique limitée pour la population et les entreprises

construction d'un barrage dans le comté de Bong. Lors d'une récente visite dans le comté de Bong, M. Philip Farley, responsable de la communication d'entreprise de LEC, a déclaré que la population est enthousiaste et a accueilli favorablement la construction du barrage dans sa région.

Nyumah Boakai a déclaré à la Banque mondiale et à tous que son gouvernement soutient pleinement le nouveau projet, lors d'une récente table ronde sur l'énergie. Le président, après avoir entendu la délégation de la Banque mondiale expliquer ce projet, a accepté et a déclaré qu'il bénéficiait de son soutien à 100 %", a déclaré M. Farley.

"Nous sommes donc très heureux de l'accueil et des cadeaux que vous nous avez offerts. Nous vous remercions beaucoup", a-t-il ajouté.

Un week-end dernier, une délégation de haut niveau du bureau régional de la Banque mondiale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, du ministère libérien des Mines et de l'Énergie et du LEC s'est rendue à Valayanah, dans le bas Bong. Lors de cette visite, la délégation a organisé une réunion de participation des parties prenantes avec les résidents pour la construction du projet de barrage hydroélectrique St. Paul 2 (Sp2).

Franz Drees-Gross, ressortissant américain et allemand, est directeur des infrastructures au sein de la région Afrique de l'Ouest de la Banque mondiale. M. Dress-

M. Farley a qualifié l'obtention de l'engagement de la Banque mondiale de "grande avancée" dans la réalisation du projet, tout en se montrant optimiste pour la suite.

Selon lui, le président Joseph



dans tout le pays. Le Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) a déclaré que le gouvernement libérien a obtenu un engagement de 300 millions de dollars américains de la Banque mondiale pour la

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## La Banque mondiale lance un rapport sur le développement et le climat au Libéria

La Banque mondiale a lancé son très attendu rapport sur le développement et le climat du Libéria, offrant une analyse approfondie de la trajectoire de développement actuelle du pays et de sa vulnérabilité au changement climatique.

Le rapport souligne la vulnérabilité du Libéria au changement climatique, identifie les risques et les opportunités de développement, et modélise divers scénarios d'impact climatique et d'interventions. Il propose également des stratégies pour renforcer la résilience et financer des actions climatiques qui soutiennent les aspirations au développement d'une croissance inclusive et d'une réduction de la pauvreté.

Le rapport a été lancé le samedi 24 mars 2024 à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia, réunissant des responsables gouvernementaux, des partenaires internationaux de développement, des représentants de la société civile et des experts pour délibérer sur les conclusions et tracer une voie de

développement durable pour la nation ouest-africaine. Fruit d'une collaboration entre la Banque mondiale et les parties prenantes libériennes, il fournit des informations précieuses sur le paysage économique, social et environnemental du pays.

Il met également en évidence les progrès réalisés dans des secteurs clés tels que les infrastructures, l'éducation et la santé, tout en mettant en lumière les défis persistants, notamment la pauvreté, les inégalités et la dégradation de l'environnement.

Avec son long littoral, ses

forêts denses et sa dépendance à l'agriculture, le Libéria est particulièrement vulnérable aux impacts négatifs du changement climatique, notamment l'élévation du niveau de la mer, les événements météorologiques extrêmes et la déforestation.

Lors du lancement, les responsables de la Banque mondiale ont souligné l'importance d'intégrer les considérations climatiques dans la planification du développement du Libéria afin d'assurer la durabilité et la résilience à long terme.



## 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 Libéria, 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

## Partisans de l'UP à

Gross dirigeait l'équipe de la Banque mondiale, tandis que M. Monie Captain, directeur exécutif de LEC, dirigeait l'unité de mise en œuvre du projet (PIU).

Le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie représentait le gouvernement libérien. La délégation comprenait également M. Bill Harkins, chef de projet, et M. William Thompson, consultant en engagement du projet. L'objectif de la délégation était de voir l'emplacement exact du projet et d'avoir un engagement et une interaction conjoints avec la communauté.

La visite visait également à examiner la topographie de la zone et à recevoir un exposé technique du chef de projet. Cette évaluation conjointe s'inscrivait dans le cadre de la première table ronde sectorielle de l'énergie du président Boakai au Executive Mansion, en présence des principales parties prenantes du secteur.

Lors de cette table ronde, le président Boakai a apporté son soutien total au projet et la Banque mondiale s'est engagée à verser 300 millions de dollars américains.

Cette interaction avec les communautés et la visite du site, associées à l'exposé technique du projet, font partie des études de faisabilité de l'initiative, qui indiquent que les travaux ont déjà commencé. Le coût moyen du projet est estimé à environ six millions de dollars américains. Actuellement, le gouvernement libérien a reçu un engagement de trois millions de dollars américains de la Banque mondiale.

Le SP2 est une initiative du gouvernement libérien, représenté par le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, et de ses partenaires de développement, en particulier la Banque mondiale.

L'initiative sera mise en œuvre par le LEC par l'intermédiaire de son PIU.

Lors de la réunion, la délégation a été accueillie à l'entrée de la ville par un groupe de femmes, des anciens et des jeunes qui ont chanté des chansons et offert des cadeaux, notamment du riz, du poulet mâle blanc et de l'argent.

Lors de son arrivée, la délégation a été accueillie à l'entrée de la ville par un groupe de femmes, des anciens et des jeunes qui ont chanté des chansons et offert des cadeaux, notamment du riz, un poulet mâle blanc et de l'argent.

Lors d'un briefing technique destiné à la délégation de la Banque mondiale, M. Bill Hakins, chef de projet, a expliqué que le SP2 est le

deuxième projet de la cascade hydroélectrique de la rivière Saint-Paul et qu'il est divisé en quatre composantes principales.

Selon lui, le projet comprend 6,5 km de barrages, y compris le barrage principal et les barrages en selle, créant un réservoir de 264 millions de mètres cubes.

Il a révélé que le troisième élément comprend environ 80 km de lignes de transmission de 225 kV reliant le projet au poste de Mount Coffee et la mise à niveau d'une route d'accès de 27 km reliant Bong Mines au site du projet.

"D'autres études de faisabilité seront publiées au cours des prochains mois, semaines et années, y compris des études économiques, environnementales et de sauvegarde sociale", a-t-il ajouté.

"Ces études guideront le plan du projet en examinant la ligne de transmission, les terres agricoles, la sécurité des habitations, l'eau, ainsi que les animaux qui y vivent."

Il a précisé que si des relogements s'avéraient nécessaires, tous ces points seraient pris en compte. Lors de l'assemblée publique avec les résidents, M. Franz Dress-Gross, directeur régional de la Banque mondiale, a salué la population locale pour son accueil chaleureux.

Il s'est dit heureux qu'ils aient manifesté leur intérêt pour le projet.

Selon lui, ils ont récemment rencontré le président Boakai lors d'une table ronde tenue au Palais exécutif sur le secteur de l'énergie. Il a déclaré qu'ils avaient parlé du projet et que le président avait compris et soutenu la construction du barrage.

"Aujourd'hui, nous sommes venus pour savoir si vous voulez ce barrage. La Banque mondiale a construit des barrages dans de nombreux pays. Nous voulons que ce projet apporte la lumière au peuple libérien. Ce projet est important", a-t-il déclaré aux habitants.

Lors de son arrivée, la délégation a été accueillie à l'entrée de la ville par un groupe de femmes, des anciens et des jeunes qui ont chanté des chansons et offert des cadeaux, notamment du riz, un poulet mâle blanc et de l'argent.

Lors d'un briefing technique destiné à la délégation de la Banque mondiale, M. Bill Hakins, chef de projet, a expliqué que le SP2 est le deuxième projet de la cascade hydroélectrique de la rivière Saint-Paul et qu'il est divisé en quatre composantes principales.

Selon lui, le projet comprend 6,5 km de barrages, y compris le barrage principal et les barrages en selle, créant un réservoir de 264 millions de mètres cubes.

## 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.

## 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 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.

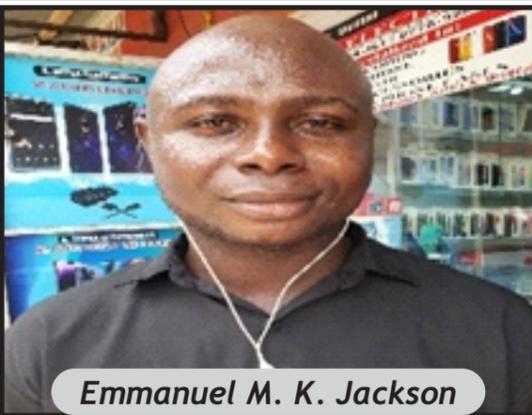
# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

**Topic:** Assets recovery and travel ban

*By Naneka Hoffman*

President Boakai's Assets Recovery Taskforce recently constituted to recover stolen government's assets seems resolved in executing its mandate with the Taskforce Chairperson Cllr. Edwin T. Kla-Martin saying they are prepared to go all out in retrieving stolen state assets, including placing suspects on travel ban. Ordinary Liberians give their take on the current administration's attempt to halt impunity and restore accountability in the public sector, as you may read below.

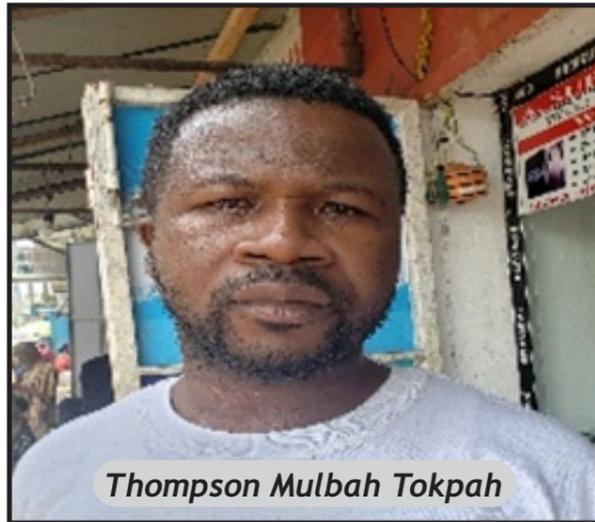


*Emmanuel M. K. Jackson*

"If even my father that born me hands is caught in the cookie jar, let them place traveling ban on him

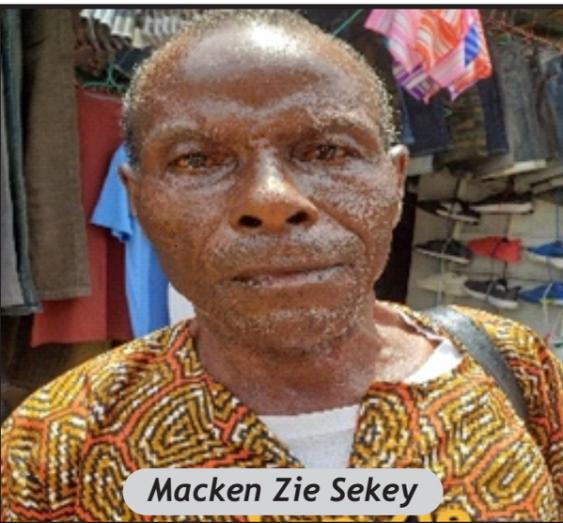
because no one supposed to take resources that belong to millions of people in the country and just take it for themselves and their families. So if they are found in corruption, they should be placed on traveling ban. They shouldn't leave the country until whatever they have taken from the country is brought back to the government. I see it necessary and I support it fully."

"The statement from the Asset Recovery Taskforce Chairperson, Cllr. Edwin T. Kla-Martin for me, I am really happy about it because before our country can go forward, we have to fight corruption, and so many things have been happening in Liberia and Africa as a whole. It is based on the corrupt attitude of the leadership in Africa, so if you have a government that wants to fight corruption, I think everyone needs to take it seriously and see reason to work with him. The difference between western and African corruption is the West takes corruption as a major crime that is the reason their citizens are enjoying. So if that is



*Thompson Mulbah Tokpah*

applied in Liberia, I believe it will be beneficial to the citizens because what the citizens of Liberia supposed to benefit that is what one person just takes and keeps in his bank account. That is why more people are going to bed hungry and they are not getting what they supposed to get from their country, so what Cllr. Martin and others are saying if they can take it serious for me, I will appreciate them for that."

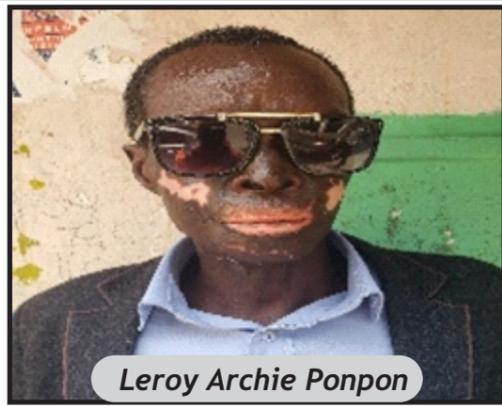


*Macken Zie Sekey*

"What the chairperson of the Assert Recovery team Cllr. Edwin T. Martin said, if they are found in corruption, they should be banned from traveling and held responsible for monies they have stolen from the Liberian people. This is the right thing to do. They should be held responsible for it because if we don't do that then people will keep going ahead doing it over and over and the

country in fact, will not be developed. We should have the money used to develop the country; we see whole lot of things going on here; there is no water in the city because the people don't used the money rightfully. They used the money to enrich themselves; they don't use the money to develop the country; people are not taking pay, while few people used the money to enrich themselves and they take the money to other countries. That is very bad, so if we don't do something to stop those people from doing this, then it will continue to grow and it will affect a lot of people."

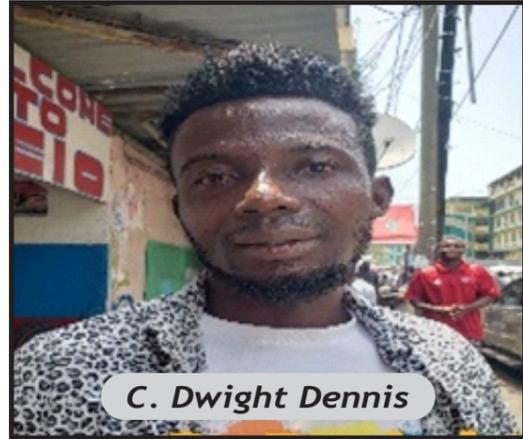
"I think Cllr. Martin is being more political than technical in his approach, because you shouldn't being flying around with all types of statement when you have not given a vision plan, action plan, environmental plan and a manner and mental approach, how you're going to do things and then you just gave statements all around the place - 'I will do this; I will do that.' No, give us a blueprint or action plan with time interval, so that we will be able to evaluate it and know what methodology to be applied, rather than making such a statement at MICAT press briefing. The thing is more political than technical. We are talking about technical issue.



*Leroy Archie Ponpon*

"I think if you are caught in corruption by the Asset Recovery team, you should wear orange suite and the Asset Recovery team should pass you around Broad Street, let people see you and you should go to jail for stealing, because I see it like stealing. And if you are found in corruption, stealing government money and property, you should be jailed or banned from traveling because if you have access to travel, you will be going with

Technical issue here, give us action plan - timeline so that we can be able to evaluate and know what the vision for assets recovery even after your tenure that what we should be looking for instead of just passing around making a whole lot of political statements."



*C. Dwight Dennis*

our country's resources, so I think it is a good decision from the Asset Recovery Taskforce chairperson Cllr. Edwin T. Martin."



*Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimohic*

"I welcome every form of restitution of property that were illegally acquired by past and present government officials. My take is that it should be done on a sincere basis. It shouldn't be based on witch-hunting certain group of people and leaving out other people."

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# Family blames James N. Davies Hospital

The administrator of the James N. Davis, Jr. Memorial Hospital in Neezoe community, Paynesville, is under immense pressure for the death of a pregnant woman who went to give birth at the hospital, blaming the institution for negligence.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Paynesville, Liberia, March 26, 2024 - The James N. Davis, Jr. Memorial Hospital in Neezoe community, Paynesville, has been accused of the death of pregnant woman who went to give birth at the hospital, which

for her usual pregnancy check-up.

But she notes that, unfortunately, due to alleged carelessness by the doctor on duty, she died while conversing.

She says nurses who had hurriedly ran in to help save

emergency needs of women and children, but is now being run by the Government of Liberia.

Sonnie Morris, a 25-year-old pregnant girl from Bong County, died in 2021 at the J.D.J. hospital while on the verge of birth. She was in severe labor pain that led to surgical operation during which she similarly died along with her unborn baby.

Meanwhile, death certificate in the possession of this paper issued under the signatory of Mr. Stennett Flemming, a medical doctor at the (JDJ) hospital with license no. 433-00, established the cause of death as unknown, which has prompted family's reaction that poor care or attention from nurses caused the death of their daughter.

When the James N. Davis Jr. Memorial Hospital was contacted on the allegation, Hospital Administration, Mr. Meshach G. Karmo, told the New Dawn that the death certificate issued to the family by the hospital wasn't signed by the Head Doctor, who was not present at the time of the incident. Mr. Karmo argued the Death Certificate was hastily signed by Clinician Stennett Flemming after the serious commotion at the hospital by the family of the deceased, and that is why the cause of death was not stated.

However, he said the Ministry of Health, under the supervision of the hospital, is pursuing the deceased's family for discussion on the matter. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# US\$96M Solar farm to boost electricity here

Solutions to Liberia's age-old electricity problem may be near than ever thought, as the World Bank and the Government project US\$96 million to expand the hydro at the Liberia Electricity Corporation and construct a solar power plant here.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, March 26, 2024 -The Government of Liberia, with funding from the World Bank, West Regional, is expected to construct Liberia's first solar farm and expand the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant in Louisiana, Montserrado County, from 88 Megawatts to 126 Megawatts.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the NEW DAWN over the weekend after an assessment tour of the Mount Coffee Hydropower, the Corporate Communication Director of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Philip Firley, said a total of US\$96 million has been projected for both projects.

"The Mount Coffee expansion project is US\$96m and goes for the expansion of the Mount Coffee and the Solar Energy Farm Project. A couple

He said the assessment would feed into the blueprint, which would finalize work for the solar farm and expansion of Mount Coffee Hydro and the blueprint for the Sp2.

Mr. Fairley pointed out that currently, the LEC has an energy demand of 400 megawatts, and technically, if 126mw and the expansion project of Mount Coffee are completed with the 20mw solar farm project, besides 250mw of SP2, Liberians stand to enjoy sustainable electricity across the country.

According to him, they anticipate that all of these projects will be successful. He urges Liberians to exercise patience as all efforts are being exerted to address the country's age-old electricity problem. A high-power delegation from the World Bank West Region office, Ministry of Mines and Energy, visited the Liberia Electricity Corporation Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant over the weekend.

The objective of the visit was to gather firsthand information on the



members attributed to wrongful medication and poor attention. The victim, identified as 36-year-old Arthani Garmai Bernard, allegedly died alongside her unborn baby stuck in her womb when the pregnancy water bag burst into her. The deceased was a resident of Redlight, Paynesville, and had been admitted at the James N. Davis, Jr., Memorial Hospital for delivery.

The deceased's Sister-In-Law, Weedor Aku Bernard, narrates that last week, Thursday, 21st March 2024, the late Mrs. Arthani Garmai Bennard was taken to the hospital with no medical complication as she had gone

her life, mistakenly applied wrong medication.

"My sister died bleeding while she was giving birth, and there was no doctor to cater to her; she left conversing and bled to death without the baby coming from her womb. This is saddening for us as a family, and James Davis Hospital must pay for it, she laments.

The incident has triggered a fresh wave of public scrutiny into mounting risks faced by patients and healthcare compromises in health facilities across the country.

The James N. Davis, Jr. Memorial Hospital (JDJ) was previously operated by Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF), catering to health

Starts from back page

two properties 1.6 lots /0.41 acre," the audit said.

The GAC observed that an appraisal of the property was not done before the signing of the new lease agreement in February 2019. "Also, we uncovered that there were no corresponding contracts for some payment made by the management during the period under audit," the report stated.

According to the report, the revenue generated from the sale or lease of government properties was not deposited in the Liberian government revenue account but into non-authorized accounts.

The report further uncovered the arbitrary change of PPCC-approved contractors to non-approved contractors.

"Placed government properties under lease without doing an appraisal of the properties to determine the actual value and allow the

## GAC audit finds corruption at GSA

government to receive the fair monetary value for its properties," it explained.

The GAC accused the GSA of paying to "vendors" without a contract, and paying for goods and services not made to the vendor or its legal representative but to an un-associated third party.

It indicated that there was no expenditure report on taskforce expenditure of over 30,000. During the audit, it was established that no control was put in place for granting lease or rental applications of government properties, and well was no evidence of invoices and receipts issued to verify the number of properties rented or leased. Furthermore, the audit pointed out that the GSA management did not provide a comprehensive listing of inventories of total government properties leased or rented during the

period under audit. "Risk, in the absence of adequate supporting documentation, the completeness, accuracy, and validity of the rental or lease transaction may not be assured."

"The completeness, exist and accuracy of rental income may not be assured, therefore, the financial statements may be misstated," the report pointed out. The audits added that the value of unsupported revenue was a result of the non-usage of the double-entry accounting system. Explaining the risk, the report lamented that the non-usage of a double-entry accounting may impair the completeness and accuracy of revenue and expenditure and subsequently the financial statements.

This paper has made contact with Madam Broh to get her response to the audit. But phone calls, text messages, and WhatsApp contacts failed as she did not respond to any.



of the funding goes to Mount Coffee from 88mw to 126mw. And the Solar Farm, when constructed, will produce 20mw, while the St. Paul hydropower dam (SP2) will produce about 200 -250mw." Mr. Firley explained.

He disclosed that blueprint and engineering designs for the solar farm construction have already commenced, and anytime soon, the project will kick start, adding that the Mount Coffee expansion and the Solar farm project will be situated at the same site.

"You were there, and you saw that the World Bank, through its delegation, has commenced the feasibility studies, having cleared with our CEO on the implementation and further studies as well regarding the project. With the touring of the facility and identification of the location for the farm, technically, it means works and studies have started," he pointed out.

exact location for constructing the Solar Farm and expanding the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant.

Franz Drees-Gross, a U.S.-German national who serves as Director of Infrastructure in the World Bank's Africa West region, headed the team. Monie Captain, Executive Director of LEC, headed the PIU. The Ministry of Mines and Energy represented the Government of Liberia along with Project Manager Bill Harkins and Consultant William Thompson.

The joint assessment was in accordance with President Boakai's first Energy Sector Round Table, which was held at the Executive Mansion with key stakeholders in the sector. At the table, the President expressed 100% support for the project. Liberia has faced consistent electricity challenges since the 14 years of civil war, during which every national infrastructure was destroyed. Efforts by the first post-war democratic government following the 2005 elections with the support of partners to restore power have fallen below public demand. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## GAC audit finds corruption at GSA

Madam Mary Broh served the Weah-led regime as General Services Agency (GSA) Director General and also headed a special task force against power theft.

By Lincoln G. Peters  
**M**onrovia, March 26, 2024: An audit conducted by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) has pointed to alleged corruption at the General Services Agency (GSA) under the administration of former

financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2016/2017-2019/2020 are free from material misstatements and were prepared in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations. Also, the audit aimed to express an opinion on whether the GSA financial

The report disclosed that the GSA management changed the approved contractor without obtaining 'no objection' from the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC). It detailed that samples amounting to US\$23,342.02 were made for repairs and maintenance and other office supplies to different vendors instead of the contracted vendors. On the irregularities with Abi Jaoudi and Azar Corporation agreement, the report unearthed that the management waived US\$53,000.00 to Abi Jaoudi and Azar Corporation for assisting the government during trials at the Civil Law Court and the Supreme Court. However, the audit report pointed out that no details of the trials were disclosed for which the amount was waived, adding that the amount waived was from US\$83,000.00 outstanding rental.



Madam Mary Broh

Director General Mary T. Broh. The report is in the possession of the NewDawn investigative team. It uncovered several financial, administrative, and corrupt practices at the GSA during Madam Broh's administration. The objective of the GAC audit is to obtain reasonable assurance on whether the GSA

statements for the FY 2016/2017 -2019/ 2020 were prepared in all material respects by the required financial reporting framework. Lastly, the audit sought to report to the Legislature in terms of the GAC reporting requirements as spelled out in Section 4.2 (b) of the GAC Act of 2014.

"We further observed that the terms of the new lease agreement don't seem reasonable with such a prime property rented out an average of US\$4,475.00 per year ... for

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