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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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Yekeh seeks police intervention

Rep. Yekeh kolubah Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

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Continental News

SA court rejects ANC bid to de-register Zuma party

South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) has failed in a legal bid to stop a

dressed in green, danced in celebration outside the court after the ruling was read out. The ANC has said it accepts the

Some opinion polls are predicting that the ANC's vote share could fall below 50% for the first time in three decades in the 29 May election.

Mr Zuma appears to be drawing some support away from the party that has governed the country since 1994, especially in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal.

He did not found the MK party, but threw his weight behind it in December and has since been suspended from the ANC. Mr Zuma once served in the ANC's MK, which was formed to help in the fight against apartheid and white-minority rule. He was South Africa's president for nine years from 2009, but forced from power and replaced by current President Cyril Ramaphosa in part over corruption allegations, which Mr Zuma denies.

Following his backing of the MK party, the ANC accused Mr Zuma of debasing the "proud history of armed struggle against the apartheid regime" through the "opportunistic use of military symbolism". It also said the MK only exists to "erode the support base of the ANC". BBC



Former President Jacob Zuma is now backing the MK party and has been suspended by the ANC

newly formed party, backed by ex-President Jacob Zuma, from running in May's general election. The uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party takes its name from the now-disbanded armed wing of the ANC. It is thought that Mr Zuma's backing of the MK could affect the ANC's support.

The electoral court rejected the ANC's argument that the party had not met the official registration criteria. Supporters of MK,

decision and will comply with it.

In a written statement, a spokesman said that this had not been about the ANC pursuing a case against the MK. The party, he added, was not opposed to the MK's presence on the ballot, provided the registration conducted by the electoral commission was in accordance with the law.

The ANC has also instigated separate legal proceedings against the MK party, accusing it of copyright infringement.

Customers return \$10m taken during bank glitch

Ethiopia's largest bank says it has recovered almost three-quarters of the \$14m (£12m) it lost in a glitch that allowed customers to withdraw more money than they had in their accounts.

Abe Sano, head of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) said on Tuesday about \$10m has been recovered.

Thousands of customers returned the cash voluntarily. Mr Sano warned those who had not will face criminal charges. Most of the money was withdrawn by university students.

On 16 March, news of the glitch spread across universities - largely via messaging apps and phone calls - and long lines were seen at campus cash machines.

The bank has never explained exactly what the problem was, but the CBE said the glitch was not the result of a cyber-attack and that customers should not be worried as their personal accounts were intact. At least three universities released statements advising students

to return any money not belonging to them that they may have taken from the bank.

In an interview with the BBC's Newsday programme last week Mr Abe said the CBE was already in the process of reporting customers to the police.

"There is no way that they can escape because they are digital [transactions] and they are our customers. We know them. They are traceable and they are legally accountable for what they did," he said.

Initial reports said that more

than \$40m was lost in the technical glitch.

A CBE employee told the BBC it was harder to find money transferred to other banks than to trace sums moved to another CBE account.

A total of 490,000 transactions were made before CBE realised there was a problem.

More than 38 million people hold accounts at the CBE, which was established 82 years ago. BBC



The bank lost more than \$14m during the glitch on 16 March

South Sudan Opposition Parties Criticize New Election Laws

A new electoral regulation in South Sudan has received harsh criticism from opposition parties that see the move as a way to lock them out of the forthcoming general election that will be a first for the world's youngest nation.

Key opposition parties in South Sudan have termed a contentious electoral law as a scheme by the government to keep them out of upcoming elections in December.

The Coalition of Opposition Parties presented a petition to the country's Political Party Council Monday demanding revocation of the \$50,000 registration fee imposed on parties seeking to field candidates in the upcoming polls.

The world's youngest nation is set to have its first

Kiir in the first election held in 2010 when South Sudan was seceding from Sudan.

"How many parties will afford \$50,000?" he said. In 2010 parties had been required to pay about \$150 as a registration fee.

Riek Machar, chairperson of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO), the main opposition party in the transitional government, blames President Kiir's side of the government for failing the people of South Sudan. Machar insists that they will not take part in the election unless all the pending chapters in the peace agreement are fully implemented.

Opposition leaders also say they don't have faith in the local judicial process should they feel the need to challenge the outcome of the election. Gabriel Akok, chairperson of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), claims



South Sudan's President Salva Kiir, center, stands at the Presidential Palace in Juba, South Sudan

democratically elected government in December this year. But parties like the People's Progressive Party, SSOA, Coalition of Opposition Parties and United People's Party now see the newly registration fee as an attempt by the government to stifle democracy and restrict the participation of opposition parties in the polls.

Opposition politician Lam Akol is the leader of the National Democratic Movement (NDM) and had challenged President Salva

that, as currently constituted the judiciary is controlled by government sympathizers.

"Considering the current situation in South Sudan, we are not sure, everyone is not quite sure that we can petition the election results when they are not free and fair, simply because the judiciary is headed by an active member of the SPLM, the current ruling political party in South Sudan," said Akok. South Sudan is currently under a transitional government whose term is set to end with the election in December. 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 Mariana Mazzucato

How to Save the Pandemic Treaty

LONDON - Recent drafts of a global pandemic treaty have been widely criticized as "shameful and unjust." When the latest round of negotiations opened on March 18, it was clear that a key lesson of the COVID-19 pandemic was being ignored: public health and the health of the economy are interdependent.

Achieving both requires rewriting the rules of how health and well-being are valued, produced, and distributed - and how economies are governed. The treaty's success will depend on member states' willingness to hardwire equity into its terms. And that, in turn, will require a new economic paradigm. If the treaty is whittled down to become as inoffensive as possible, it will fail.

The World Health Organization Council on the Economics of Health for All, which I chaired, has already issued recommendations for how to proceed. For starters, negotiators from all countries must remain focused on the overarching goal of preventing future health threats from becoming catastrophic. That means designing the terms of the treaty - including those related to innovation, intellectual property (IP), public-private collaboration, and funding - to be mission-oriented. Equity must be the top priority, because everyone - and every economy - ultimately suffers in a pandemic if tests, vaccines, and lifesaving therapeutics are not accessible to all.

Moreover, how innovation and knowledge are governed is as critical as the innovation itself. Governments have powerful levers for determining who benefits from innovation. They are major funders of everything from early-stage research and development to product development and manufacturing. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, for example, benefited from about \$31.9 billion in US public investment. Stronger conditions on private-sector access to public funding would help to ensure equitable and affordable access to the resulting products, as well as facilitating profit sharing and reinvestment in productive activities (like R&D) rather than unproductive ones (like shareholder buybacks).

The point, in each case, is to establish a more symbiotic relationship with the private sector - one based on shared goals, and on shared risks and rewards. As we saw with the repeated spread of new COVID-19 variants, a vaccine that only some can afford will not stop a pandemic. Any pandemic treaty should unapologetically commit to this shift and avoid clauses designed to serve private rent-seeking interests.

A key part of getting public-private collaboration right is to establish an approach to knowledge governance and IP rights that serves the common good, rather than protecting monopoly profits. This issue has become a major flashpoint in the treaty negotiations. Lower-income countries are being asked to share pathogen data (which aids the development of new tests, vaccines, and treatments) without any guarantee that they will have access to the resulting products.

While the current draft alludes to the importance of IP rules that do not limit affordability and access, it merely "encourages," rather than requires, measures aimed at knowledge sharing and limiting royalties. Even weak language asking governments to "consider supporting" patent

waivers has become a sticking point.

This suggests that a misplaced drive to preserve current IP rules is complicating the negotiations. To incentivize innovation and deliver broadly shared societal benefits, patents must be narrower; they must encourage productive follow-on innovation and collective intelligence; and they must be accompanied by commitments to transfer the knowledge and technology required for production.

Another obstacle to the pandemic treaty's success is that it currently seems to be delinked from clear funding commitments. The International Monetary Fund estimates that the global economy suffered losses of at least \$13.8 trillion as COVID-19 lockdowns and supply-chain disruptions tipped the world into recession. Governments then spent trillions more responding to the crisis. It should be obvious that scaling up investments in prevention is preferable - in terms of health, prosperity, and justice - to incurring the costs from a crisis that has spun out of control. As the WHO council pointed out, "it is more cost effective to prevent than to cure."

The quality of financing is as important as its quantity. Lower-income countries need long-term financing for critical investments in health. The treaty's nod to the importance of debt relief to free up fiscal capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response is welcome, but the language is worryingly noncommittal. Financing for health must be understood as a long-term investment, rather than as a cost that can be reduced to serve short-sighted budget targets. It is also a responsibility that transcends national borders.

Lastly, since the scope of the pandemic treaty cuts across government ministries and sectors, health should not be left solely to health ministries. Health is massively impacted by economic policy choices (for example, related to IP rights), and decisions across government impact the social, environmental, and economic determinants of health. Governments - across all ministries - can and should redesign how innovation is governed, how the public and private sectors relate to one another, and how finance is structured to shape markets in the interest of human and planetary health. Failure to prioritize "health for all" will have far-reaching ramifications for the resilience and stability of economies worldwide.

As member states cavil over clauses - removing references to health as a human right and watering down IP restrictions, financial commitments, and monitoring provisions - there should be no ambiguity about the choice they face. Centering the treaty on the goal of preventing or minimizing pandemics would compel policymakers to see it clearly - and to abandon the myopic assumptions that have limited international and public-private collaboration. As member states prepare for the World Health Assembly in May, this imperative should be front of mind.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All.

OP-ED

By Connie Hedegaard

Unity Is Europe's Greatest Asset

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPINION

Why Have Developing Countries Soured on Multilateralism?

NEW HAVEN - Multilateralism is waning, and one of the world's leading multilateral institutions, the World Trade Organization, is in crisis, because the United States has been blocking new appointments to its dispute settlement mechanism's Appellate Body since 2018. In the run-up to the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference last month, some optimists hoped to see progress on specific issues, such as an agreement not to impose tariffs on digital commerce, but expectations were generally low.

The pessimists were right. India led the charge against extending a moratorium on e-commerce tariffs, and only a last-minute deal prolonged it for another two years. After that, it is expected to expire. India and its allies celebrated the outcome as a victory. For the first time in years, the culprit undermining the WTO was not the US but developing countries (including Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil, and others).

True, what happened with digital commerce is characteristic of the usual conflicts that play out during trade negotiations. Free trade always produces winners and losers. Digital commerce may be in the interest of businesses in advanced economies as well as consumers and businesses in low- and middle-income countries; users of an app, game, or other software product made in a different country may pay lower prices in the absence of tariffs. But domestic producers will reliably demand protection from imports, and governments will see tariffs as a promising way to boost revenues.

While these issues are typical, developing countries' opposition to an extended digital-tax moratorium is emblematic of a deeper problem: namely, the growing impression that the WTO has nothing to offer them anymore. The assumption is that it unilaterally serves the interests of big businesses rather than of the average person in a low- or middle-income country.

But is this true? In fact, recent research shows that poverty reduction in the past three decades has been more likely in developing countries that are well integrated into the international trade system - as measured by the number of signed trade agreements and access to large, lucrative export markets. In this sense, the multilateral trade system has indeed benefited the developing world.

International integration is particularly important for smaller economies. Unlike India and China, countries such as Thailand, Kenya, and Rwanda cannot fall back on large domestic markets. No wonder opposition to trade deals so often comes from larger developing countries such as India, Indonesia, and Brazil. They can afford to turn their back on international trade if the terms of the proposed deal are not enticing enough.

But even these countries appreciate the benefits of participation in global trade. India, for example, used the closing of the Ministerial Conference to reaffirm its commitment to negotiation and multilateralism, in principle. The question, then, is why developing countries have such a negative view of the WTO specifically.

Their dissatisfaction dates back to 1995, when the WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. At the time, developing countries felt that they had just been pressured into signing a trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) agreement that would yield big payoffs for multinational corporations without offering many benefits to their own populations.

Another ongoing source of tension is agriculture, where developing countries traditionally have a comparative advantage. Existing trade agreements continue to permit high-income countries to subsidize local producers and impose tariffs on imports. Various other rules, escape clauses, and notification requirements have created de facto loopholes that only countries with abundant resources are able to exploit.

For example, fishing subsidies (another area of major contention) are permitted under certain conditions. But monitoring fishing stocks to prove that such conditions are being met is prohibitively expensive for most developing countries. They therefore have good reason to complain that international trade rules are biased against them.

Looking ahead, a potentially bigger issue concerns advanced economies' efforts to link trade agreements to labor and environmental standards, such as through the European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). While well-intentioned, advanced economies must recognize that their efforts to address climate, labor, and human-rights issues could have serious distributional consequences, potentially coming at the expense of many developing countries.

This is especially true of climate change. Low-income countries may have the most to lose from the consequences of climate change, but they are understandably reluctant to impede their own growth to fix a problem caused by richer countries' past sins. Combine these concerns with high-income countries' push toward "friend-shoring" (which implies more trade among rich countries, given the current geopolitical map), and today's world starts to look even more like one where advanced economies are pitted against developing ones.

Ironically, the obvious way to avoid such division is to revive multilateralism. Now more than ever, the challenges we face are global in nature, and thus call for global solutions. But shared objectives, by definition, must account for the concerns of developing countries. That is what successful multilateralism has always demanded.

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

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

By Aaron Salloe

Massa 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.

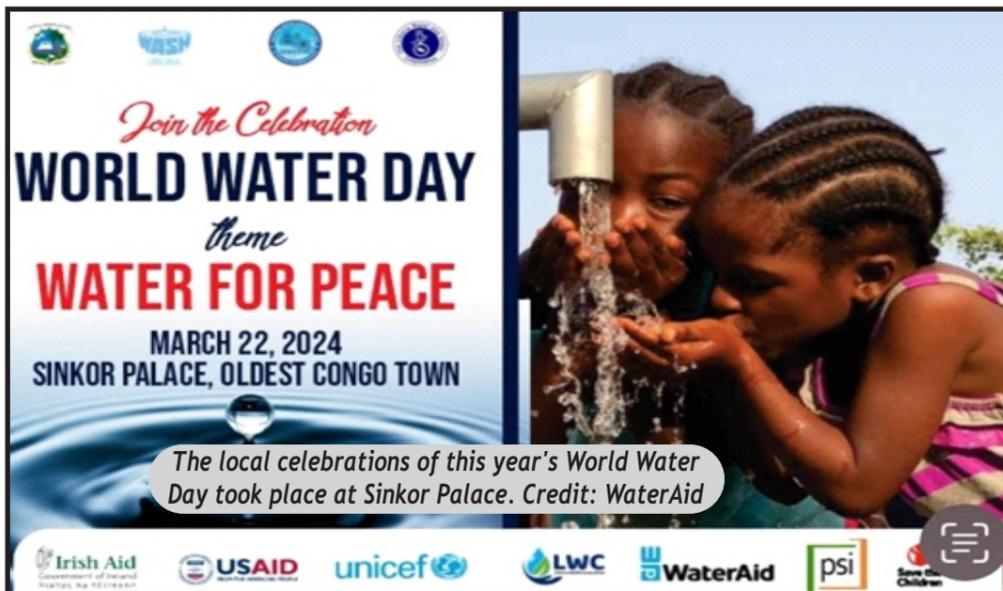
Chuchu Selma, WaterAid Liberia Country Director, said WaterAid launched its operations in Liberia in 2009 and has been deliberate in ensuring water is accessible for everyone, everywhere in Liberia. Todee is a priority district.

"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



The local celebrations of this year's World Water Day took place at Sinkor Palace. Credit: WaterAid

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

GAC asked to audit CSA

The audit requested will scrutinize the Civil Service Agency's governance and fiscal operations from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, March 27, 2024: Liberia's Civil Service Agency (CSA) Director General Josiah F. Joekai has officially requested the General

Mr. Joekai highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance payroll management procedures at the CSA.

According to him, they are closely collaborating with the Ministry of Finance and

management procedures to greatly minimize human intervention and reduce instances of waste and abuse of public finance.

Moreover, he revealed that while transitioning to the new system, they aim to keep the ATAPS version of the payroll accessible during the upcoming essential payroll compliance audit and the CSA system and financial audit.

Mr. Joekai believes this will ensure that all payroll-related discrepancies are appropriately captured during the audits. He further revealed that as an integral part of CSA's ongoing reform efforts, they have meticulously drafted comprehensive policy guidelines to transform the selection, employment, and management of consultants and consulting firms across the government.

According to him, this policy, when completed in about two weeks, will be officially launched by President Boakai, marking a significant departure from the immediate past corrupt consultancy practices. In his address, he also outlined that the previous administration's expenditure on consultancy services only for the last fiscal year amounted to a staggering US\$6.1 million.

In a stark contrast, he said,

▶ CONT'D page 7



Hon. Josiah F. Joekai

Auditing Commission (GAC) to conduct a comprehensive forensic system and financial audit of the CSA.

This audit will scrutinize the CSA's governance and fiscal operations, covering government funding and donor support from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023.

The audit is expected to be part of scheduled audits beginning July 2024 and will be covered within the GAC's budget. The CSA Director General disclosed the plan at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) regular briefing on Tuesday, March 21, 2024.

Development Planning to finalize the payroll automation process. He said this initiative involves transitioning their payroll system from the highly manipulated Alternative Temporary Automated Pay System (ATAPS) to a more efficient and modern Civil Service Management system. Furthermore, the Director General emphasized that this transition marks a significant 100-day deliverable milestone for President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's administration.

He said it aims at streamlining its payroll

WHO to celebrate World Health Day on April 7, 2024

Through the World Health Day celebration, the WHO said it aims to highlight health as a fundamental human right amidst increasing threats globally and in Africa.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, March 27, 2024: The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), will commemorate World Health Day on 7 April 2024 under the theme "My Health, My Right." Speaking at a press conference on 26 March 2024, WHO Country Representative Dr. Clement Peter said that 7 April 2024 is World Health Day and WHO will raise awareness about the importance of health issues that affect people globally.

Dr. Peter explained that the WHO aims to highlight health as a fundamental human right amidst increasing threats globally and in Africa. He further said that Liberia, a nation grappling with numerous health challenges,

resonates profoundly with this theme.

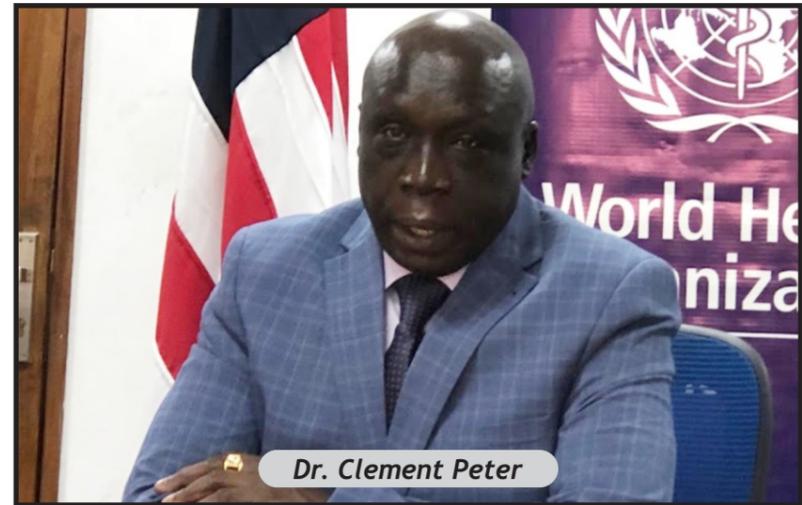
He added that with commendable progress, there is evidence of aftershocks within Liberia's healthcare system.

Dr. Peter emphasized the necessity of a collective commitment to building a resilient and inclusive health

system for the well-being of all.

He noted that the commemoration will entail a series of buildup events from 28 March to 8 April 2024. According to him, the World Health Day commemoration aims to raise awareness about the importance of health as a fundamental human right and highlight the negative health impacts of female genital mutilation (FGM) on girls and

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Dr. Clement Peter

ECOWAS encourages integrity among Liberian youth

The ECOWAS Envoy in Liberia believes that if Africa is going to embrace sustainable development, everyone is required to work desperately to make it happen. She challenges Liberian youth to have a sense of integrity.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, March 27, 2024: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Resident Representative to Liberia Amb. Josephine Nkrumah is encouraging Liberian youths to be self-discipline, law abiding and have a sense of integrity. She delivered a keynote speech on Tuesday, 26 March 2024 in Monrovia during the celebration of the ECOWAS Volunteers Programme Debate Championship. The ECOWAS envoy stressed that the regional bloc is investing in the younger generation for Africa to excel. According to Amb. Nkrumah, youth investing in themselves is an immense importance for Africa's continual development. "I want you to go from this room at the end of today's event fully appreciating and understanding that your role is [of] critical importance," she

ECOWAS held a day-long symposium at the A. M. Kyne Collegiate Resource Center in Monrovia.

The initiative is the volunteers Programme Debate Championship. The program was organized under the theme: "Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region."

It brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, United Nations Volunteers as well as dozens of students from several high schools from across Montserrado County

Also, dozens of young people, majority of whom were students, gathered to celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the ECOWAS Volunteers Programme, an occasion that holds great significance for the empowerment of youth and sustainability of the ECOWAS region.

Earlier making a special statement, Alhaji Nouhan Kamara, Country Coordinator EVP Liberia described volunteerism as a powerful force to selflessly give time, skills



said. "For every thing that you do if you want to succeed, you have to get out of your comfort zone. Be self-disciplined and law abiding and have a sense of integrity," she urged.

Amb. Nkrumah encouraged the youth to pursue excellence so as to advance to success, adding that ECOWAS has placed a premier on volunteers and youth advancement. She further stressed that the youth have to develop a mind set to succeed. She suggested that if Africa is going to embrace sustainable development all must work desperately to make it happen. "If we do not apply ourselves we will never move out of the path of poverty," she warned. Amb. Nkrumah explained that a volunteer must cultivate the spirit of patriotism which is an important pillar that will move Liberia forward.

According to her, it is not the international community that will change Liberia and Africa at large, noting that the difference begins with the youth. On Tuesday, 26 March 2024,

and resources to support and uplift the communities

He said the ECOWAS region, Liberia to be specific, has witnessed firsthand the affirmative power of volunteerism during the EBOLA and COVID-19 pandemics.

During those pandemics z he said to volunteers played a key role in addressing a range of social, economic, and environmental challenges. Outlining some of the benefits of volunteerism, Mr. Kamara narrated that when people volunteer they acquire new skills, expand knowledge, and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges at hand. He said they develop empathy, resilience, and a sense of purpose that enriches their own lives.

"They have been at the forefront of empowering communities, promoting sustainable development initiatives." "Today, as we celebrate ECOWAS Volunteers Day, let us honor and recognize the incredible contribution of volunteers across our region," he said. "Let us encourage and support those who are already engaged in volunteer activities, and inspire others to join this noble cause," he noted.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Commissioner Lighe finally takes over at LiMA

Monrovia, Liberia, March 26, 2024: The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) family welcomed Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe, Sr. as its new Commissioner/CEO at a very brief ceremony on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the Corporate Headquarters of the institution.

require professionalism, hard work, respect, and punctuality, but nothing based on mere friendship. He further emphasized that developing and maintaining professional behavior would be an essential factor in attaining success during his administration.

"The way we conduct ourselves, relate to one

Earlier, while welcoming the new LiMA Boss, the Principal Director for Administration and Legal Services, Cllr. Nya S. Gbaintor encouraged the staff to continue working diligently while awaiting the new Commissioner's strategic direction and guidance.

"Sir, this team is ready to work with you. We are a responsible and skilled team - waiting to work assiduously to ensure the accomplishment of your vision," Cllr. Gbaintor said.

In remarks, the Officer-In-Charge and Deputy Commissioner for Financial Affairs, Emmanuel N. Reeves recognized and expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to the technical and administrative staff for their support during the transition period.

While welcoming Commissioner Lighe, Deputy Commissioner Reeves declared the affairs at LiMA good and averred that Commissioner Lighe has a talented, professional, and dedicated staff to work with. "We want to personally welcome you; we will follow your lead to ensure that this program and our national heritage remain vital," the Deputy Commissioner said.



In succinct remarks, Commissioner/CEO Cllr. Lighe indicated that he had taken on this new task to work in the country's interest and to build on what he had just inherited. He stressed that he is a dynamic person - a man of action, one who expects results - and not a man of many words. He pointed out that his administration would

another, and approach our tasks all amounts to professionalism", the new Commissioner added.

Commissioner Lighe then thanked the LiMA team for all the good work that they did over the years to keep the institution viable both here and abroad. He encouraged the workforce to continue to do the work at hand.

First Lady Dedicates four AI X-ray machines for TB diagnosis

(March 26, 2024, Monrovia) - Liberia's strides to eradicate the killer disease Tuberculosis through early prevention, diagnosis, and cure was boosted recently with the donation of four cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) X-ray machines.

First Lady Kartumu Yarta Boakai, dedicating the state-of-the-art equipment Monday during the World TB Day commemoration, said the equipment marked a significant step forward in the national drive to relegating TB to the history books.

"Validated by the World Health Organization, WHO, these are not just tools but elements of progress, innovation and hope," Mrs. Boakai asserted. "They serve as a platform for TB screening program and case management, producing TB report in less than 15 seconds."

The modern machines, which are the first of their kind in the country, have been strategically

delivered the keynote message for the day, believes the high-tech equipment is poised to take the fight against TB to another level.

She thanked the Global Fund along with partners and stakeholders for their support to the Ministry of Health in improving the overall health condition of the Liberian people.

Health Minister Dr. Lousie Kpoto, along with representatives from the World Health Organization, USAID, Partners in Health, Plan International, JFK Hospital, the Liberian Senate Health Committee, among others joined the First Lady in commissioning the machines.

The TB disease is said to be serious in Liberia as the country is among less-developed nations with a huge number of cases. However, the country has recorded some tremendous success, especially in the treatment of the disease. The 2023 Demographic and Health Indicator Survey puts Liberia's TB treatment success rate at about 76.6 percent.

In her keynote address, First Lady



distributed among four major hospitals, including TB Annex, JFK Medical Center, Redemption Hospital, and C. H. Rennie Margibi Counties.

First Lady Boakai, who

Boakai acknowledged the progress but challenged everyone to do more as she committed her office supporting the fight against TB across the country.

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GAC asked to audit CSA

the CSA has proposed a consultancy budget allocation of US\$2,000,000 for the upcoming fiscal period, reflecting an impressive savings of US\$4.1 million.

"This fiscal prudence, coupled with implementing the brand-new consultancy policy guidelines, promises to yield substantial dividends for the government," he said. "With this austerity measure, the government can now redirect the 4.1 million savings to other basic services, including education, agriculture, health care, and sanitation, consistent with the ARREST Agenda," he said.

However, Mr. Joekai revealed that with immediate effect, the Civil Service Agency has blocked the salaries and subsequently removed from the payroll all individuals employed as of December 18, 2023. He said the employment violated

former President George Manneh Weah's directive to suspend all new employment and service contracts across government institutions.

Mr. Joekai vowed to work with all spending entities concerned to reverse all promotions and salary increments during the period of the presidential directive.

Regarding the personnel headcounts conducted at the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, Liberia National Police, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he revealed that the CSA has also blocked on their payrolls with immediate effect, employees not accounted for, pending the conclusion of the verification exercises.

Also, he said the CSA has realized that several individuals were placed on the payroll through emails, matrices, and phone calls, whose personnel action

notices (PAN) have not been completed in keeping with Chapter 3, Section 4.4 of the Civil Service Standing Orders of 2012.

But he said they have been receiving pay. Joekai noted that the CSA is thoroughly reviewing the payroll. With these strategic reform measures in place for the immediate term, he expressed confidence that the government will achieve significant cost savings.

He believes that the government will optimize the value derived from sanitizing the payroll and consultancy engagements, ultimately ensuring that taxpayers' money is utilized judiciously and effectively. Meanwhile, he said the CSA remains steadfast in its commitment to these immediate reform processes to foster a more accountable, efficient, and productive civil service for all Liberians.

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Français

Un audit de la GAC révèle de la corruption à la GSA

Un audit mené par la Commission générale de vérification (GAC) a mis en lumière des allégations de corruption au sein de l'Agence des services généraux (GSA) sous l'administration de l'ancienne directrice

pendant le mandat de Madame Broh. L'objectif de l'audit du GAC était d'obtenir l'assurance raisonnable que les états financiers de la GSA pour les exercices fiscaux 2016/2017 à 2019/2020 étaient exempts d'inexactitudes significatives et avaient été préparés conformément aux lois et

importants conformément au cadre d'information financière requis.

Enfin, l'audit cherchait à faire rapport à la législature conformément aux exigences de rapportage du GAC, telles qu'énoncées à l'article 4.2 (b) de la loi sur le GAC de 2014.

Le rapport révèle que la direction de la GSA a modifié le contrat d'un prestataire homologué sans obtenir l'autorisation de la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC).

Il détaille des échantillons d'un montant de 23 342,02 dollars américains effectués pour des réparations et l'entretien et d'autres fournitures de bureau à différents fournisseurs, à la place des fournisseurs contractuels. En ce qui concerne les irrégularités constatées dans l'accord avec **Abi Jaoudi et Azar Corporation**, le rapport révèle que la direction a renoncé à percevoir 53 000 dollars américains à **Abi Jaoudi et Azar Corporation** pour avoir assisté le gouvernement lors de procès devant le tribunal civil et la Cour suprême. Toutefois, le rapport d'audit souligne qu'aucun

réglementations en vigueur.

L'audit visait également à exprimer une opinion sur la question de savoir si les états financiers de la GSA pour les exercices fiscaux 2016/2017 à 2019/2020 avaient été préparés dans tous leurs aspects

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Récupération des avoirs: le gouvernement ne se laisse pas intimider

Depuis la formation de l'équipe de récupération des avoirs et des biens immobiliers par la nouvelle administration du président **Joseph Nyumah Boakai**, d'anciens responsables de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) profèrent des menaces pour dissuader leurs successeurs de récupérer les biens publics volés.

L'équipe de récupération des avoirs et des biens immobiliers du président **Joseph Nyumah Boakai** a averti les responsables de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), qu'aucune menace ne saurait entraver les efforts du gouvernement visant à récupérer les avoirs de l'État.

Le président du groupe de travail sur la récupération des avoirs, **Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin**, a lancé cet avertissement à **Monrovia** suite aux menaces constantes du secrétaire général du CDC, **Jefferson Kojjee**, qui a déclaré que son parti résisterait à la récupération des avoirs.

Kojjee et plusieurs responsables de l'ancien régime dirigé par l'ancien

président **George Manneh Weah** font l'objet de sanctions américaines pour des actes de corruption, de graves violations des droits humains, entre autres.

Pire encore, certains anciens responsables auraient pillé leurs bureaux et emporté des véhicules gouvernementaux, aggravant ainsi la perception publique du niveau élevé d'allégations de corruption auxquelles ils font face. **Kojjee** s'est projeté comme le chef de file de la résistance à la reddition de comptes après que le gouvernement dirigé par le CDC ait refusé de tenir responsables les fonctionnaires de l'administration **Sirleaf** qui l'a précédé.

Récemment, **Kojjee** a déclaré

sans ambages qu'aucun membre du CDC ne se soumettrait au groupe de travail sur la récupération des avoirs.

"Nous tenons à informer **M. Boakai** qu'aucun membre du CDC ne se soumettra à ce soi-disant groupe de travail sur la récupération des avoirs", a-t-il déclaré.

Réagissant aux menaces de **Kojjee**, **Cllr. Martin** l'a averti de s'abstenir de tout acte illégal, déclarant que le gouvernement utiliserait la loi pour poursuivre les fonctionnaires corrompus et contraindre à la restitution des fonds volés appartenant au

▶ **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 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 Nyumah 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 **Un audit de la GAC révèle**

détail sur les procès pour lesquels le montant a été abandonné n'a été divulgué, ajoutant que le montant renoncé provenait d'un impayé de location de 83 000 dollars américains.

“Nous avons également observé que les conditions du nouveau contrat de bail ne semblent pas raisonnables, avec une propriété de premier ordre louée à une moyenne de 4 475 dollars américains par an ... pour deux propriétés de 1,6 lots / 0,41 acre”, indique l'audit.

Le GAC a observé qu'aucune évaluation de la propriété n'avait été effectuée avant la signature du nouveau contrat de bail en février 2019.

“Nous avons également découvert qu'il n'y avait pas de contrat correspondant pour certains paiements effectués par la direction pendant la période auditée”, indique le rapport.

Selon le rapport, les revenus générés par la vente ou la location de propriétés gouvernementales n'ont pas été déposés sur le compte de recettes du gouvernement libérien, mais sur des comptes non autorisés.

Le rapport révèle également le changement arbitraire de prestataires approuvés par la PPCC à des prestataires non approuvés.

“Mise en location de propriétés gouvernementales sans en faire l'évaluation préalable afin de déterminer la valeur réelle et permettre au gouvernement de recevoir la juste valeur marchande de ses biens”, explique-t-il.

Le GAC accuse la GSA d'avoir payé des “fournisseurs” sans contrat et d'avoir payé des biens et services non fournis au

fournisseur ou à son représentant légal, mais à un tiers non associé.

Le rapport indique qu'il n'y a pas de rapport de dépenses sur les dépenses du groupe de travail de plus de 30 000 dollars.

Lors de l'audit, il a été établi qu'aucun contrôle n'était mis en place pour l'octroi de demandes de location ou de bail de biens immobiliers du gouvernement, et qu'il n'y avait pas non plus de factures et de reçus délivrés pour vérifier le nombre de biens loués ou loués.

L'audit de la GSA a également révélé que la direction n'avait pas fourni une liste complète des biens immobiliers gouvernementaux loués ou loués à bail pendant la période examinée.

Selon le rapport, “en l'absence de pièces justificatives adéquates, l'exhaustivité, l'exactitude et la validité des transactions de location ou de bail ne peuvent être garanties.”

“L'exhaustivité, l'existence et l'exactitude des revenus locatifs ne peuvent être garanties. Par conséquent, les états financiers peuvent être erronés”, souligne le rapport.

L'audit ajoute que la valeur des revenus non justifiés est le résultat de la non-utilisation du système de comptabilité en partie double.

Expliquant le risque, le rapport déplore que la non-utilisation d'une comptabilité en partie double puisse nuire à l'exhaustivité et à l'exactitude des recettes et des dépenses, et par conséquent aux états financiers.

Nous avons tenté de contacter Madame Broh pour obtenir sa réponse à l'audit. Cependant, les appels téléphoniques, les SMS et les messages WhatsApp sont restés sans réponse.

Récupération des avoirs

Liberia.

“Vous dites que les anciens responsables ne se soumettront pas à ce processus, nous sommes sans peur et cela ne nous pose aucun problème”, a déclaré Cllr Martin.

“Nous sommes forts et robustes. Personne ne pensera pouvoir contrecarrer ou entraver ce processus en proférant des menaces. Cela ne nous fera pas bouger”, a-t-il poursuivi. Martin a souligné qu'il avait travaillé au sein du système auparavant et qu'il avait survécu aux menaces. “Maintenant que nous ne sommes plus dans le système, et qu'il existe et fonctionne désormais dans un cadre transparent, aucune menace ne peut nous ébranler”, a-t-il juré.

Selon lui, des lois régissent la punition des actes criminels à travers le pays et ils agissent

donc par l'intermédiaire des tribunaux, rappelant aux membres du CDC que la justice est toujours assistée par l'exécutif par le biais du Liberia National Police (LNP). Martin a présidé officiellement la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) sous le règne de l'ancien président George Manneh Weah. Cependant, son mandat n'a pas pris fin lorsqu'une nouvelle loi LACC adoptée par la législature et signée par le président Weah l'a limogé de ses fonctions.

L'ancien patron de la LACC a déclaré que personne ne le verrait dans la rue pour procéder à une arrestation. Toutefois, il a précisé que la procédure appropriée se ferait par l'intermédiaire du tribunal et que l'exécution de cette action se ferait par l'intermédiaire du LNP.

“Personne n'est au-dessus de la loi, qu'il s'agisse d'un ancien ou d'un actuel responsable

Le gouvernement libérien s'engage à lutter contre le changement climatique



Le Liberia continue de démontrer son engagement à tous les niveaux en matière de changement climatique, s'engageant à s'attaquer aux interventions liées au changement climatique lors du lancement de son rapport ici le week-end dernier.

La ministre déléguée au Budget, Mme Tanneh Brunson, a déclaré que le gouvernement était totalement dévoué à la lutte contre les interventions liées au changement climatique grâce à un changement de paradigme.

Elle a fait cette déclaration lors du lancement du rapport sur le développement climatique du Libéria, organisé par le Groupe de la Banque mondiale le vendredi 22 mars 2024, à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia. Selon Mme Brunson, pour lutter contre le changement climatique, il existe des actions concrètes qui font évoluer la planification du développement vers l'intégration du financement climatique, des risques et de la coordination. Ces actions comprennent l'élaboration de programmes de développement des comtés (CDA) pour les quinze comtés, à la fois intelligents et sensibles au climat, qui alimenteront le nouveau plan national de développement

de 2025 à 2029.

Elle a noté que l'intégration des considérations climatiques dans les processus de planification et de budgétisation du développement permettra d'améliorer les systèmes d'alerte précoce, de préparation aux situations d'urgence et d'intervention en cas de catastrophe dans tout le pays.

Cependant, la préparation du financement climatique et du cadre politique pour faciliter la préparation au financement vert sont essentiels aux investissements dans la santé et l'assainissement afin de réduire les déchets solides et les maladies liées à la santé.

Nous travaillerons également avec des partenaires pour donner la priorité aux communautés forestières par le biais d'une gestion forestière durable en améliorant la gouvernance et la réglementation des activités minières, ainsi qu'en promouvant des pratiques agricoles respectueuses du climat.

À l'heure actuelle, le gouvernement du Liberia, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des finances et du développement économique, a engagé des discussions en cours avec les partenaires de développement pour créer un bureau de financement du changement climatique au sein du département du budget.

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.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Why the Corporate Coup failed at NASSCORP

Monday, 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. Molfie 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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Sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) are liquids or powders that are sweetened with various forms of added sugar like molasses, brown sugar, white sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, etc.

Some examples of SSBs are soft drinks, kool-aid, juice, and bissap (hibiscus drink). They are so affordable that they're sold everywhere in our esteemed country: shops, schools, markets, around banks, churches, mosques and even in hospitals.

The stark reality is that SSBs are killing the population of Liberia slowly and silently. The added sugar content leads to tooth decay and cavities, overweight or obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, stroke, kidney disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, some cancers, gout (a form of arthritis), and neurological changes in the brain.

In our opinion, Liberia cannot manage epidemic levels of NCDs because our healthcare system cannot contain the huge numbers of NCD patients.

Our children tend to consume these products on a daily basis, putting their future and that of Liberia at high risk. Remember, our kids are our future leaders.

Fellow citizens, kindly heed to our call to avoid intake of sugar-sweetened beverages in order to be NCD-free, remain healthy and be more productive.

March 25, 2024

This is to inform the general public that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyor Kempson S. Murray is hereby authorized by Mr. Mamadou Oury Diallo to conduct a resurveyed of one (1) lot of land.

The property to be resurveyed is situated, lying and been in Douzan Community, Lower Margibi County.

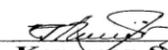
The resurvey will commence on Saturday, 30th day of March, A.D. 2024 at the precise hour of 10:00 AM.

Henceforth, all adjacent property (ies) owners and interested person(s) who names are not mentioned and having interest in the survey should come along with their original title deeds, diagrams or area map to substantiate their claims in order to avoid land dispute.

Let this notice claim the attention of all those concerned.

1. Cllr. Warner
2. Initial Y.K.M
3. Initial F.P.D
4. Mr. Osman
5. Mr. Mohammed Alie
6. Mr. Boima Darblo/Representative
7. Officer of the Commissioner of Margibi County
8. To Whom It May Concern

Signed:


Kempson S. Murray
 Registered Land Surveyor
 Lic. No. 014
 Republic of Liberia
 Cell#:0770971890

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Liberia doesn't need War Crimes Court

As debate for the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia heats up, a former senator proposes a South African-style Truth and Reconciliation Commission instead, that he believes would bring national healing.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, March 27, 2024 - Former Senator Commany B. Wesseh (River

Koffa has dismissed reports that the court will be sitting in Ghana. But reacting to the House's recent decision, the former senator points that in

either.

Rather, he stresses a need to investigate how auditors were killed, saying "you can't claim those people had so-called accident for which some jump over the window, or found dead in their vehicle." He expresses frustrations that there has been no proper investigation since those incidents, and these are things that need serious attention, not war crimes court.

"The police, the army everyone knowing their roles, those are the things in my view that needs to be perfect and emphasize on, not war crimes court"

The ex-senator's view seems to come as a slap in the faces of proponents of war and economic crimes court for Liberia especially, at a time when international partners, particularly the United States, has expressed willingness to finance such court.

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Beth Van Schaack, is leading the campaign here, urging citizens to rally behind calls for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for the country.

President Joseph Boakai publicly announced during his inaugural address in January, his support for the court and has held a conference with Dr. Alan White, former chief investigator of the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone.

In a recent article posted on the official website of the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia, 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, 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. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Yekeh seeks police intervention

Mr. Kolubah has been making claims that he and other lawmakers have been bribed with a US\$4,500 coupon by the Executive to remove House Speaker Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa.

Monrovia, March 27, 2024: Controversial Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has complained against private showroom center J.Mart for allegedly denying him goods for a coupon of US\$4,500 bearing his name.

In a letter complaint dated 25 March 2024, Kolubah has requested the Inspector General of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Col, Gregory Coleman to ensure that his materials are collected from the J.Mart Showroom or the cash be refunded to him.

"I present you compliments and wish to file a complaint against the J.Mart which has refused to make me take delivery of my items from its

Kolubah said the coupon is valued at the cost of US\$4,590.00 and duly signed by the Administration of J.Mart.

"In view of the above stated, I kindly request that you ensure that my materials are collected from the J.Mart Showroom or the cash be refunded to me," he said.

Over the past few days, Mr. Kolubah has been in the news accusing the Executive of allegedly bribing him and other lawmakers through the alleged offer of the US\$4,500 Coupon each to remove House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa.

Mr. Kolubah was a staunch supporter of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's 2023 presidential bid. But he became one of the first officials to begin accusing Boakai of alleged corruption because of the latter presentation of some cash to aid victims and their families after a



Ex-Senator Commany B. Wesseh

Gee County) says here that Liberia does not need a war crimes court, but rather a South African style of truth and reconciliation.

He is vehemently opposed to calls for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia on grounds that such calls run contrary to the Comprehensive Peace Accord signed in Accra, Ghana by the Liberian warring factions in 2003.

Senator Wesseh, an elderly statesman and stalwart of the now ruling Unity Party, explains that witnesses, including Liberians and international signatories to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement assured warring factions and the entire world that only a South African type of truth and reconciliation was necessary for the country.

Speaking to reporters in Monrovia, Senator Wesseh notes that August this year marks exactly 21 years since the peace accord was signed in Ghana, so there's no reason why people should demand the establishment of the court.

On March 5, 2024, about 42 out of 73 members of the House of Representatives endorsed a resolution for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia to prosecute perpetrators of the country's 14-year civil war.

The action coincided with the visit of the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack, who has met with Liberian legislators, including sponsors of the proposed legislation. The legislation has been forwarded to the Senate for its action.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Fonati

the CPA, one of the issues they debated in session for longer time was whether or not there should be a war crimes court set up in Liberia, or the alternative, which is truth and reconciliation.

According to him, the agreement which was set forth during the peace agreement gives rise to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) adding that it was agreed upon that the TRC shall be established to provide a forum that will address issues of impunity.

He says such forum provided an opportunity for both victims and perpetrators of human rights violations to share their experiences as was agreed instead of a war crimes court.

Mr. Wesseh: "We shouldn't do anything that will disrupt what was agreed to, and which has worked so well for 21 years." He notes that what appears to be a problem now is that some of the things that happened several years back which subsequently led to the brutal civil war, including the Coup d'e`tat of 1980 are still manifesting themselves here today.

He narrates that the reoccurrence of those things means there should be a mechanism put in place to ensure that those things that appear to be reemerging will stop, adding there are already courts that exist in the country which say if you murder anyone, you will be tried and this is exactly what those courts have been doing.

The aging Liberian progressive maintains that Liberia does not need a war crimes court to prosecute all those massacres, and deaths that have taken place in the last six years or more don't even require such a court



Rep. Yekeh kolubah

Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

showroom," Kolubah alleged. He said he has an official Coupon from J.Mart which is "solely applicable against [the] purchase of goods available at the J.Mart Randall Street Showroom."

disastrous tanker explosion in Bong County last year.

Kolubah has since been politically aligning with the opposition Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), co-sponsoring a bill along with a CDC lawmaker to impeach the president.

Starts from back page Chamber Justice reserves

Director of the EPA was a fit action for a writ of prohibition on grounds that the action was contrary to the EPA Act and beyond the scope the law allows.

Meanwhile, the EPA and Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo's legal team, represented by Cllr. Lamii Kpargoï prayed the court to deny and dismiss Prof. Tarpeh's request.

Cllr. Kpargoï argued that Part III Section 16 of the EPA Act provides for the appointment, tenure, and removal of the Agency Executive Director. He said the Act provides the President the option of appointing an interim Executive Director pending the formation of the [Policy] Council.

On the issue of tenure, he said the Act makes clear the distinction between the Executive Director who is appointed by the President from the shortlist provided by the Policy Council, and the Interim Executive Director who is singlehandedly appointed by the President.

Kpargoï explained that Section 16 Subsection 2 of the Act is clear that the Executive Director shall have a seven-year tenure and not the Interim Executive Director.

He asked the court to deny the petition, order the lifting of the stay order placed on the EPA, quash the alternative writ, deny the issuance of the peremptory writ, and grant unto the co-respondent such further relief as the court may consider just and legal.

Chamber Justice reserves ruling in EPA case

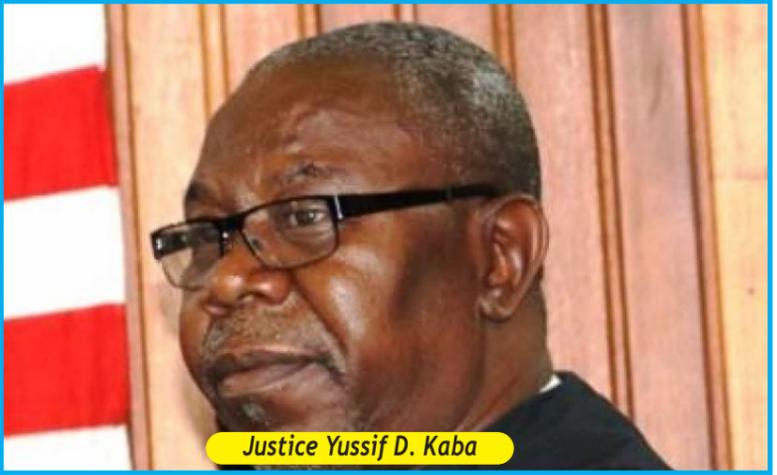
The operations of the Environmental Protection Agency remain on a halt by court's order pending a decision from Chambers Justice Yussif D. Kaba.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, March 27, 2024: Chamber Justice Yussif Kaba on Tuesday, 26 March 2024 reserved a ruling in the writ of prohibition filed against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by former

remaining in office and should, therefore, be paid for this period before his exit or before turning over to the new administration. Chamber Justice Kaba's decision to reserve ruling in the legal dispute means the functions of the EPA remain on

7 March 2024, petitioned the court for a Writ of Prohibition, claiming that he was the tenured executive director of the EPA. He further noted that contrary to this, President Boakai replaced him with Dr. Yarkpawolo as Acting Executive Director of the Agency.



Justice Yussif D. Kaba

The Petitioner stated that his purported tenure accorded him a property right under Chapter III, Fundamental Rights of the Constitution, and that he cannot be denied such a right without due process being accorded him.

The Petitioner further claimed that if the President does not want him at the EPA, the government should compensate him for his remaining 43-month tenure.

He narrated that under Section 16 of the EPA Act, his appointment by former President George Manneh Weah afforded him a seven-year tenure.

Prof. Tarpeh also claimed that the President's appointment of an Acting/interim Executive

Executive Director Prof. Wilson Tarpeh.

Prof. Tarpeh petitioned the court because he said his tenure had not expired when President Joseph Nyumah Boakai appointed a new Acting EPA Executive Director Dr. Emmanuel Urey-Yarkpawolo. In his petition, Prof. Tarpeh argued that he has 43 months

hold pending a final decision on the writ of prohibition filed by Prof. Tarpeh.

On Tuesday, both parties representing Tarpeh and the EPA argued and presented their case, for the second time since the petition was filed with the Supreme Court and directed to the Chamber Justice for determination. Prof. Tarpeh on

▶ CONT'D page 11

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