

**The NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**Advertise Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

**WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES**

**The NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**AT YOUR DOORSTEPS**  
0886484201 / 0777007529

**WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY**  
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.  
**Hurry and book now!**

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**

**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024	L\$191.8574/US\$1.00	L\$193.7413/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 NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**French Version Inside**

**VOL. 14 NO. 46**      **TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024**      **PRICE LD\$40.00**

**The NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**ANDROID APP ON Google Play**

**QPR CODE: 797005**  
**Down Load NewDawn Android App**

**P11**

# Nimbaians descend on VP Koung

**Vice President Jeremiah Koung donating hospital machine to Health center in Saclepea years ago**

# Court demands proof of vehicles' ownership

## -In Assets Recovery case

**P11**

**Gracious Ride vehicles being set free over the weekend**

**RECHARGE & BUMPAY!**

**100 mins**      **5GB Data**

**Dial \*156\*2#**  
**Recharge with Airtime or Bundle to become a Landlord**

**Lonestar Cell**      **MTN**      **Coca-Cola**





# Continental News

## Anger as traditional Ghana priest, 63, marries girl, 12

An influential traditional priest aged 63 has sparked an outrage in Ghana by marrying a 12-year-old girl. The priest, Nuomo

Saturday's elaborate event that was attended by dozens of community members have been widely shared on social media, triggering an outcry among many Ghanaians. During the ceremony,

marriage, saying the criticism "comes from a point of ignorance". Nii Bortey Kofi Frankwa II, a local community leader, said on Sunday that the girl's role as the priest's wife is "purely tradition and custom".

He added that the girl started the rites to become the priest's wife six years ago, but the process did not interfere with her education.

The girl is expected to undergo a second customary ceremony to purify her for her new role as the wife of the high priest. The ceremony will also prepare her for marital responsibilities such as childbearing, local media reported. Mr Tsuru is a "Gborbu Wulomo", or traditional high priest in the Nungua indigeneous community in the capital, Accra.

As a spiritual leader, the priest is among the community's highest-ranking traditional leaders. He performs sacrifices on behalf of the community, prays for the community's protection, enforces cultural practices and leads traditional rites during events such as the installation of traditional chiefs. Government authorities are yet to respond to the controversial marriage. Ghanaian law recognises customary marriages, but does not allow for child marriages under the guise of culture or tradition. BBC



*Eighteen is the minimum age to get married in Ghana and customary marriages involving children are not legally recognised*

Borketey Laweh Tsuru XXXIII, married her in a customary ceremony held on Saturday.

In the face of criticism, community leaders have said people do not understand their customs and tradition. The legal minimum age to get married in Ghana is 18 and the prevalence of child marriage has declined, but it continues to happen.

According to the global campaigning NGO Girls Not Brides, 19% of girls in the country are married before they reach 18 and 5% get married before their 15th birthday.

Videos and photos of

women speaking in the local language Ga told the girl to dress teasingly for her husband. They can also be heard advising her to be prepared for wifely duties and to use the perfumes they gifted her to boost her sexual appeal to her husband. The statements fuelled the outrage, as they have been perceived to mean that the marriage was not merely ceremonial.

Critics have called for the authorities to dissolve the marriage and investigate Mr Tsuru.

Leaders of the Nungua indigeneous community, to which both the girl and the priest belong, have condemned the public's opposition to the

## Parents of Chibok girls heartbroken - again

Ten years after Boko Haram gunmen abducted his daughter from her school in the Nigerian town of Chibok, Yama Bullum feels as if he has lost her once again.

His daughter, Jinkai Yama, was one of 276 girls kidnapped from the secondary school in the early hours of 14 April 2014 by the Islamist fighters.

Fifty-seven of them escaped shortly afterwards. Then between 2016 and 2018 an additional 108 were either rescued by the military or released through negotiations.

Ninety-one others remain missing, but Ms Yama is one of 20 "Chibok girls" rescued over the last two years from Boko Haram hideouts in Sambisa Forest in north-eastern Borno state, the epicentre of the 15-year insurgency.

But her father has been outraged to discover that like some of other recently freed

wives, while their accommodation is provided by the government, is perceived by the parents as Governor Zulum sacrificing their daughters in the quest for stability in the region.

They see these marriages as a way to appease the former militants. Most of the girls taken from the Chibok school were Christian. The recent news of the continued "marriages" has further upset parents whose children were forced to convert to Islam during captivity. "Some people in Chibok are saying: 'How is it possible after the rescue of the girls they are still remaining in the Muslim faith?'" said Yakubu Nkeki, chairman of the Chibok parents' association. The state appears to be grappling with the dilemma of respecting the girls' wishes while fulfilling the desires of their parents.

"My only interest is that we don't want these girls to go back to the bush again," Borno Governor Zulum told me. "Even before they came out [of the Sambisa Forest], some



*Yama Bullum and his wife Falmata are devastated by their daughter's decision*

## S Africa ex-President Zuma involved in car crash

South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has been involved in a car crash but was unhurt. A drunk driver collided with his "official armoured state vehicle" on Thursday evening, police have said. But a leading member of his uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party alleged that he had been targeted.

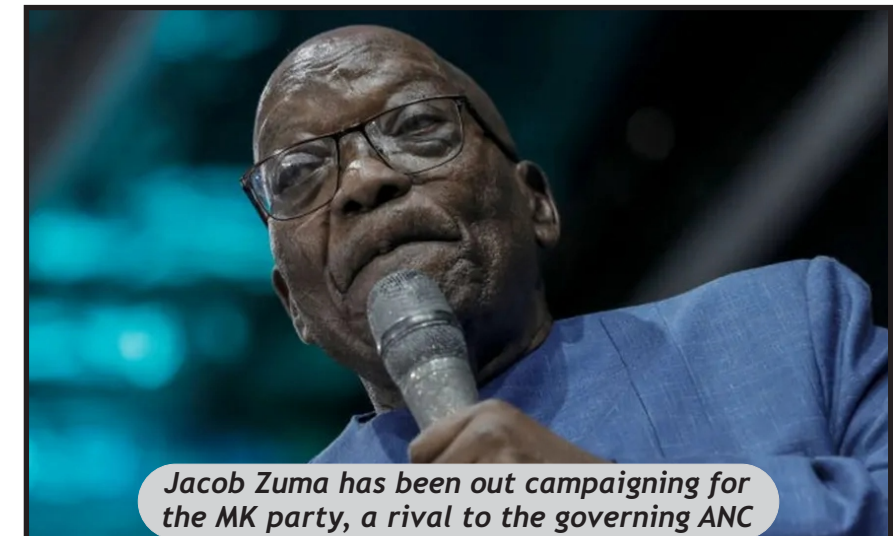
He has been suspended by the governing African National Congress (ANC) and is campaigning for the MK ahead of May's general election.

Mr Zuma was in the car, along with his official protection team, when it was hit on a road in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal at about 18:40 local time (16:40 GMT) on Thursday. "No-one was injured, including members of the Presidential Protection Services. The former president was evacuated and taken to his residence," a brief police statement said. A 51-year-old

man has been arrested for "drunken driving as well as... reckless and negligent driving". The MK's party's head of elections, Musa Mkhize, has told public broadcaster SABC that he thought the crash was deliberate rather than an accident.

"Unfortunately, we have been waiting for it to happen. The president was warned that before the day of the elections, he would be lying in the hospital. Thanks to

the Presidential Protection Unit members who managed to keep the president safe," he is quoted by News24 as saying. Mr Zuma, 81, served as president from 2009 until 2018, when he had to step down because of corruption allegations, which he denies. As a former president, he is entitled to have an official protection team. BBC



*Jacob Zuma has been out campaigning for the MK party, a rival to the governing ANC*

women, she has decided to remain married to one of the fighters who once held her captive. These couples now reside in the city of Maiduguri - Borno's capital, 125km (78 miles) north of the remote town of Chibok - in housing organised by the state's governor Babagana Umaru Zulum.

"I am not happy with what the governor did. The girls managed to come out of the forest and the governor married them off again. Her mother is very angry," Mr Bullum said. He found out when his daughter called him up to tell him last August - and handed over the phone asking him to talk to her husband, the former insurgent.

Until then, Mr Bullum had assumed she was with other freed Chibok captives and her three children in a special welfare programme. Like a number of other Chibok parents, Mr Bullum is disturbed by what seems to be the Nigerian government's approval of marriages between their rescued daughters and the men who abducted them.

Allowing the freed women to live with their former captors as

of them gave us conditions - that they will not come without their husbands. "One of these women, Aisha Graema, told me that she would not have left the forest if she could not be with the militant she married two years after being abducted from the Chibok school.

"We have been married for eight years," said the mother of three.

"I first came out of the forest and then he followed me. There in the bush, we had no relative, no brother, no sister, that is why we decided to come out. "He finished deradicalisation before we were allowed to stay together. The government welcomed us well, gave us food, shelter, everything. "Another Chibok girl, Mary Dauda, explained to me that she would not have been able to escape from Sambisa without her husband, who helped her sneak away from the militants' hideout.

"We had agreed that he would join me afterwards and present himself to the governor for rehabilitation," said the 27-year-old. Hajj Camp in Bulumkutu is the main rehabilitation camp for former Boko Haram fighters and their long-term captives, where they are taken directly after their rescue. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## CBL's second thought is welcoming

Following our editorial of Friday, March 28, 2024 captioned “CBL brought the panic on Liberians”, the NEW DAWN has gathered reliably that authorities of the Central Bank of Liberia are reconsidering the March 31, 2024 deadline previously set for the withdrawal of old bank notes (legacy currency) and coins from circulation, and are now seeking approval from President Boakai for a 40 days’ extension of the exercise across the country.

The Central Bank is instead, resolved to extend the deadline for the exchange exercise and termination of the legal tender status of the legacy banknotes by 45 days, beginning today, 1 April 2024 to 15 May 2024.

On October 22, 2022, the Bank commenced a nationwide campaign to replace the legacy banknotes and coins with the new family of banknotes and coins. Subsequently, in July 2023, it announced 31 March 2024 as the cut-off date for the termination of the legal tender status of the old banknotes, which left the public panicking and flatly refusing to trade in the old bank notes and coins, adversely affecting market transaction.

Reconsideration of the March 31 deadline by authorities of the CBL is laudable, as it demonstrates thoughtful leadership and listening ears to public concerns about the cutoff date.

We applaud the leadership of Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue for this far-sighted thought buttressed by our Friday’s editorial in alleviating embarrassment faced especially by consumers who have as yet legal tenders in their hands but were being rejected in the market because of panic they could seize to remain legal tenders in matter of days, as the March 31, 2024 closing date drew near.

The entire exercise, we have learned was hindered by bad road conditions mainly in accessing rural places, as well as the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, among other challenges.

However, is said to have significantly retrieved a substantial amount of the old banknotes from circulation during the period under review, and replaced a total amount of L\$21.41 billion of the old banknotes, which constitutes about 85% of the estimated amount of L\$25.258 billion worth of banknotes that it seeks to take from out of the market. This is commendable!

We join Executive Governor Tarlue and his team of governor at the CBL in appealing to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to grant approval to the call for 40 days’ extension of the exercise to adequately afford commercial banks and citizens at large bring forth old bank notes in their possession for exchange with the new bank notes and coins that were printed in 2022.

It is important to do so that the process may reach a conclusive end though authorities of the CBL say the old bank note may be exchanged for the new families of bank notes even after the official deadline, which is good.

By this request for extension of the March 31 deadline, the CBL has demonstrated that it truly run a people-sensitive administration that listen public concerns and seeks ways to addressing such concerns for the general good.

*Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /*

*Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!*

# COMMENTARY

*By Rabah Arezki*

## Senegal's Election and Africa's Future

WASHINGTON, DC - Although Senegal’s GDP is dwarfed by that of the West African giant Nigeria, this small country with an open economy plays an outsize role on the continent, owing to its status as a “maturing democracy.” Senegalese pride themselves for having never suffered a coup since achieving independence from France in 1960. That record stands in stark contrast to the rest of the region, where, just in the past few years, governments have been overthrown in Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Gabon. Of course, there have been fraught transitions of power and other related difficulties, not least under Senegal’s outgoing president, Macky Sall, who long remained silent about whether he would run again in violation of the constitutional term limit. Under mounting pressure from street protesters, he eventually announced that he would not seek another term - but then proceeded to postpone the election until a date long past the expiration of his mandate.

Following the deaths of several protesters and other incidents, Senegal finally held an election on March 24, owing in no small part to a constitutional court ruling striking down Sall’s attempt to extend his mandate. The president-elect is Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a former tax inspector who was in prison just days before the election, alongside his mentor, Ousmane Sonko. Sonko himself was barred from running, and his party, PASTEF (“Patriots of Senegal”), was dissolved last summer.

Faye ran (as an independent) on a platform to fight corruption and promote economic sovereignty, an agenda that resonates with an overwhelmingly young population whose patriotism is reminiscent of the post-independence era. In today’s quickly evolving geopolitical environment, many African societies see an opportunity to pursue their interests more assertively. And, like many other Africans, young Senegalese are frustrated with leaders who have proven unable or unwilling to focus on domestic priorities, and who have grown increasingly entangled with business interests.

Across the continent, economic liberalization, often promoted by international organizations to foster investment, has ended up backfiring, because weak anti-corruption rules allowed nurtured widespread collusion between politicians and foreign companies. According to Afrobarometer data for 2022, 73% of Senegalese believed that corruption had increased over the past 12 months.

To see what Africans see, consider BP’s 2017 discovery of large oil and gas reserves off Senegal’s coast. Initially, many hoped the bonanza would drive a national economic transformation. But the project has since been plagued by delays, corruption scandals, and concerns about environmental degradation. Similarly, liberalization policies targeting Senegal’s fisheries have failed to deliver economic inclusion. Instead, large companies have gotten away with overfishing, while ordinary Senegalese have been left behind.

In fact, despite recent data pointing to strong economic growth prospects, a significant drop in extreme poverty, and a continuous

rise in access to electricity, young Senegalese now account for a growing share of undocumented migrants risking their lives to reach Europe (often by way of the Canary Islands).

This disconnect between an improving economic outlook and negative perceptions can be seen elsewhere in Africa, too. An increasingly educated, social media-connected younger population has higher aspirations than past generations, and it is demanding more from political leaders. That said, the aggregate figures may be masking issues such as low-quality services, including for basic utilities such as water and sanitation. Perceptions of rampant corruption make these problems seem even worse, feeding into public anger and discontent.

Another salient issue that Faye has promised to tackle is the uncertainty surrounding the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Through a newly forged alliance, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali recently announced they are quitting the Economic Community of West African States in response to the sanctions it imposed on them following their respective coups. Though the sanctions have since been lifted, the coup leaders seem committed to going their own way. Among other things, they intend to form a joint defense force, and to break away from the CFA Franc (shared by eight West African countries).

While attacks on the CFA Franc appeal to populations that are newly interested in asserting their sovereignty, abandoning the currency union altogether would certainly do more harm than good in the short run. If Faye manages to preserve the unity of the West African bloc, that outcome would be a notable achievement. The WAEMU could become the engine that powers a broader regional integration process under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Trade within the AfCFTA commenced in 2021 - in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite member states lifting tariffs, pervasive non-tariff barriers remain, highlighting the need for new reforms to promote fairer competition within and between African countries. Realizing the AfCFTA’s potential would not only stimulate cross-border investment and trade; it would also promote deeper continental integration in priority sectors such as agriculture, telecoms, electricity, and finance. In this context, the continent’s growing population could provide an impetus for more local production and job creation.

Faye’s resounding victory gives him a strong mandate to pursue anti-corruption measures and promote economic inclusion. But to make good on his campaign promises, he must first reinforce the country’s political checks and balances - including the independence of the judiciary - and ensure transparency at all levels of government. Failure to shore up Senegal’s democratic institutions would lead to more political roller-coaster rides like the one the country has just been through.

Across the continent, Africans - especially younger ones - are clamoring for change. Senegal’s new 44-year-old president could be the first to meet their demands.

*Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)*



OP-ED

By Willem H. Buiter  
and Ebrahim Rahbari

# Why Have Inflation Forecasts Been So Wrong?

NEW YORK - Last year, following the Great Inflation of 2021-22, central banks, leading academics, and international institutions issued a smattering of post-mortems. Yet even before the ink was dry on their analyses, inflation forecasts were being revised down almost as fast as they had been revised up during the two preceding years.

For example, in June 2023, the US Federal Reserve’s median projection for core year-on-year personal-consumption-expenditures inflation (excluding food and energy prices) in the fourth quarter was 3.9%, with the Federal Open Market Committee’s projections ranging from 3.6% to 4.5%. In the event, it was 3.2%.

Before addressing what forecasters are missing, two clarifications are in order. First, central banks’ inflation forecasts are no worse, and may be somewhat better, than private-sector forecasts, on average - which is what one would expect, given that they tend to have better access to data and more expertise. Second, inflation forecasts have not obviously gotten worse. Yes, the International Monetary Fund, among others, has noted that inflation forecast errors were 2.5 and five times larger for 2021 and 2022, respectively, than the average for 2010-19. But the levels of annual inflation in 2021 and 2022 were 1.3 and 2.5 times larger than the 2010-19 average, and the changes in annual inflation rates were 2.6 and 7.1 times larger.

The benign interpretation is that the shocks got bigger, not that inflation forecasting became less competent. But an obvious rejoinder is that forecasts don’t particularly matter when the variable being forecast doesn’t change much. We still need to know why forecasts continue to miss the mark.

Two factors are now well-documented. First, forecasts underestimated the demand impact of massive monetary and fiscal easing, alongside high spending multipliers associated with significant pandemic-related transfers to households. Second, major demand stimulus hit just as supply chains were under major, unexpected strain, owing first to the pandemic and then to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Shocks are by definition difficult to predict, and they were particularly large in 2020-22.

But the forecasts also had a more fundamental flaw: they lacked realistic representations of price and wage setting. Large shocks differ from small shocks in that they change key features of the transmission mechanism. For example, firms tend to change prices more frequently when faced with large shocks. According to the Fed, during the second half of 2021 and again during the second half of 2022, firms updated prices twice as often as they did before the pandemic.

Large shocks may well have been the reason. But firms also find it more straightforward to raise prices when others are already doing so, and the combined pandemic and energy shocks probably were an effective coordination device for price increases.

Wage setting is different from price setting. According to a 2009 European Central Bank study, firms tend to change wages about one-third less frequently than prices. Wage growth did pick up throughout 2021-22 as workers quit at record rates (a trend that closely tracked wage pressure). But the models underestimated how long it would take for tight labor markets and large price increases to feed into wage setting. Those delays prolonged the underlying inflationary impulse without necessarily magnifying it in a cumulative sense.

Importantly, many of the factors that pushed up prices were “one-off” adjustments in response to supply and demand shocks. They called for more significant relative price changes than would have been the case if there had been a shock to trend inflation driven by persistently excessive aggregate demand. This was most evident in the major energy-price shock in 2022. It was exactly that: a relative price shock that partly reversed in 2023. Similar dynamics played out in the prices of goods that were closely tied to energy prices or were immediately affected by major supply-chain strains. These, too, reversed - as we saw with car prices and container freight rates.

There is a vibrant debate about whether firms abnormally raised their profit margins in recent years. A recent Fed study finds that nonfinancial corporate profits rose to 19% over gross value-added in the second quarter of 2021, up from 13% in the fourth quarter of 2019. But once prices have risen and profit margins are high, they are less - not more - likely to rise further than before the large price adjustments. Normalizing energy prices, supply chains, and profit margins all contributed to the faster-than-expected decline in inflation in the second half of 2023.

The Great Inflation will be as transformational for central banks’ models as the 2008 financial crisis was. Back then, the models were adapted to include a more realistic mapping of financial impacts. Now, we need a more realistic treatment of price and wage setting. Specifically, three changes are in order.

Most importantly, understanding inflation requires analysis at the sectoral or sub-sectoral level, ideally in a way that also reflects supply-chain linkages. This will make forecasts even more complex, but there is no way around it. Considering disaggregated data is essential to identifying, and disentangling, the relevant changes in supply and demand and their persistence. Individual sectors sometimes significantly affect aggregate inflation, with house prices in the US being a prominent example.

Second, forecasts should account for the level (or size) of shocks to capture non-linearities, especially for profit mark-ups. And lastly, forecasts should regularly re-examine changes in circumstances and assumptions. During the Great Inflation, important changes in the US included the major boost to aggregate demand (from monetized fiscal transfers to households); the higher frequency of price adjustments, given the size of the combined supply and demand shock; and the high number of recently refinanced mortgages that locked in low rates.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, paraphrasing Winston Churchill, recently called forecasters “a humble lot - with much to be humble about.” Though they will have learned many useful lessons from the Great Inflation of 2021-22, remaining humble may be the best way to avoid being humbled again.

Willem H. Buiter, a former chief economist at Citibank and former member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England, is an independent economic adviser. Ebrahim Rahbari, an independent strategist and economist, is a former chief currency strategist, global head of foreign-exchange analysis, and head of global macroeconomics at Citigroup.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

OPINION

By André Loesekrug-Pietri, Ylli Bajraktari

# How Democracies Can Win the Tech Race

ARLINGTON/BERLIN - The world is on the precipice of a technological cold war. As authoritarian regimes develop new digital tools that endanger open societies and threaten democratic values, the West must decide whether to compete or concede. Today, the battle for freedom is being fought in Ukraine; but the frontline could one day be in Taiwan, a global technology hub, producing the world’s most advanced microchips, and a flourishing democracy less than 100 miles off the coast of China, which seems bent on annexing the island.

Winning the race for future technologies demands a united front. Just as the West came together to deter Soviet expansionism and stop the spread of communism in the postwar period, the United States and the European Union must revitalize the transatlantic alliance to win the competition for global tech leadership. That means developing a new joint strategy, pooling resources and capabilities, streamlining regulations, and leveraging their strengths - such as advanced tools for semiconductors and lasers, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genomics in Europe, and fusion energy, commercial space operations, and synthetic biology in the US.

It will also be necessary to build resilient supply chains. With China dominating the supply of metals and rare-earth elements necessary for batteries, semiconductors, and other technologies, the US and the EU are sleepwalking into a critical-minerals crisis. For example, China’s market share of high-powered permanent magnets for offshore wind turbines is nearly 90%.

Lastly, both the US and the EU must focus their efforts on achieving new breakthroughs in vital sectors, including AI, biotech, advanced networks, clean energy, and the manufacturing technologies of tomorrow. To that end, the US CHIPS Act and the European Chips Act offer a blueprint - or at least the beginnings of one - for bolstering competitiveness in the next big technologies.

Cooperation on technology is not new. From the Council of Europe in Strasbourg to the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva, from the OECD to the European AI Act, the race to artificial intelligence seems sometimes to be a policymaking race, to control and coordinate it - and rightly so, in some cases. For example, the main risks identified by the interim report of the UN’s AI Advisory Body include risks to the stability of financial systems and to critical infrastructure, as well as strains on the environment, climate, and natural resources.

These issues are too important to be overlooked. In a recent report, the French AI Commission called for the creation of a World AI Organization to “evaluate and oversee AI systems.” This could be a good idea, but it is not the only way to move forward. After all, the existence of the WHO is fundamental, but while it has played a vital role in the eradication of some diseases, it did not prevent the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, regulation should be a means to an end, not an end in itself. Despite the so-called Brussels effect, the EU’s alleged ability to set global standards, the bloc’s landmark regulations on electric vehicles or the General Data Protection Regulation have hardly made the EU a superpower in electric mobility or in data privacy. That is why transatlantic cooperation should be broadened to include research and development programs and large “moonshot” projects.

Just as sanctions alone have not curbed Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, regulation will not be enough to prevent bad actors from misusing AI. Similarly, the West will have to go on the offensive against China’s techno-authoritarian model. Sharing intelligence can identify supply-chain vulnerabilities and facilitate “friend-shoring.” In addition to developing technological ecosystems with like-minded partners, it will be crucial for US and EU policymakers to expose short-sighted private ventures that play into the hands of those who see technology as a tool of oppression, not liberation.

Moreover, the US and the EU cannot expect to win the technology race - which is also a war of ideas - when their citizens have been herded into social-media echo chambers, and when 44% of children globally use TikTok. On this cognitive battlefield, the West must lead the charge to develop technologies that encourage critical thinking and protect privacy, and to stop the destabilizing fragmentation of the digital sphere and the spread of online hate and disinformation.

A revitalized transatlantic alliance must ensure that emerging technologies reflect democratic principles and boost strategic autonomy. Forging partnerships with like-minded countries, including Australia, India, Japan, and South Korea, and enhancing cooperation among the G7 and the OECD could support these efforts. Together, they could develop an alternative model of technological empowerment - free of digital repression and authoritarianism - for developed and developing countries alike.

Western leaders should take inspiration from the COVID-19 vaccines, which, building on collaboration, massive experimentation, and decades of fundamental science, were developed in a record eight months. We must keep this spirit alive. Democracies risk being outmaneuvered in the technologies that will shape the future, with dire economic and security consequences. A robust transatlantic tech partnership is an imperative. The destiny of free and open societies depends on it.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)



# CENTAL applauds FIA Boss' suspension

Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia applauds President Joseph Boakai for acting against corruption.

Lewis S Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 2, 2024 - The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia, or CENTAL, has commended President Joseph Nyuma Boakai for suspending the executive director of the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) Stanley Ford over alleged corruption at the entity.

CENTAL recently called on the President to immediately suspend the FIA Boss, who is the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) for

sanctions and other efforts made to enforce their very important mandate.

He cited as an example that fines imposed on insurance companies, banks, gaming companies, and other entities for violation of financial procedures could face stiff challenges.

Also, responsible institutions might hesitate to make suspicious transaction reports to FIA, as required by its 2022 amended act.

"We note multiple occasions during which FIA sanctioned individuals and institutions accused and investigated for



corrupt practices at the institution.

"This is a win for the fight against corruption. Mr. President, thank you for listening to our call to suspend the director general of the Financial Intelligence Agency, Mr. Stanley Ford", the Center noted.

Executive Director Anderson Miamen recalled that on February 27, 2024, it was reported that the Financial Intelligence Agency of Liberia (FIA), which is mandated to investigate financial crimes, is alleged to have been caught in the web of dubious financial dealings and crimes.

"Therefore, we call on President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., to immediately suspend Mr. Stanley Ford, the institution's director general, and all those at the center of the saga. Their continued presence as leaders and managers casts a dark shadow over the institution and neutralizes its ability to fight financial crimes and other related crimes."

Maimen said CENTAL sees those reports as disturbing and as having the potential to erode citizens' and development partners' trust in institutions like the FIA, which is authorized to fight corruption and other shady financial dealings, including money laundering.

He quoted the report as saying over one million United States Dollars was disbursed in the name of the Comptroller, including over US\$500,000 withdrawn on the same day transferred by the Central Bank of Liberia.

He said another report, which he did not name, placed the total amount involved in the scandal at over US\$6 million. He said that if not properly disposed of, these allegations could hamper the credibility of the institution, including the outcomes of

alleged dubious financial dealings and money laundering, similar to that which the current leadership is accused of"

Miamen recalled that in 2021, while granting a motion filed by FIA, the Presiding Judge of Criminal Court C ordered the proceeds of over US\$234,000 confiscated and transferred to the General Revenue Account of Liberia.

He said the company at the center of the saga, Korlane Investment Limited Liability Company, and its corporate owners were investigated by FIA for alleged wire fraud and money laundering.

The FIA, which has a mandate to fight such a crime, cannot be at the center of similar and even more egregious incidents; it thus needs timely and appropriate action (s) from the country's leadership.

At the same time, the CENTAL Boss noted that they have been reliably informed that the FIA Director General, Mr. Stanley Ford, is undergoing investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), which he says is welcoming.

The President has made it clear that there is no tolerance for any form of malpractice, and, as such, he has directed the Ministry of Justice to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the matter. He expressed confidence that the investigation will ensure that justice is served.

The President has further urged Mr. Ford to submit himself to the investigation and cooperate fully to ensure the matter is resolved expeditiously. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 7

# WHO and MOH launch

She said the theme of this year's World Health Day, "My Health, My Right," resonates profoundly, "particularly when we consider the critical role of HPV vaccination in safeguarding the health of our future generation, you, the young women of Liberia."

According to her, cervical cancer is a silent predator, claiming the lives of countless women worldwide each year.

In Liberia alone she noted that the toll of cervical cancer is overwhelming.

The Grand Cape Mount Senator noted in in 2023, 656 more were diagnosed with the disease and tragically 469 women lost their lives.

But she said despite the danger cervical cancer poses, the good news is that it can be prevented with a powerful weapon - the HPV vaccine.

"The HPV vaccine stands as a beacon of hope in our fight against cervical cancer. It is safe, effective, and cost-effective to prevent this disease."

She mentioned that the World Health Organization has implemented a Global Strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, and countries, including Liberia, have an obligation to realize it. The strategy, she

added, recognizes the importance of HPV vaccination and has recommended it for every girl aged 9-14.

Senator Varpilah said Liberia is resolute in its commitment to this cause with the support of valued partners, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and GAVI, to achieve targets set by 2030.

She stated that the aim is to vaccinate 90% of girls by the age of 15, ensure 70% of women between 35 and 45 receive regular checkups for cervical cancer and ensure that 90% of women with the cervical disease receive treatment.

These targets, she noted, align seamlessly with the government's "ARREST" agenda, which seeks to improve healthcare access and outcomes for all Liberians.

Also speaking, Dr. Cuallau Jabbeh Howe, Director of the External Aid Coordinating Unit at the Ministry of Health, thanked W.H.O. for the support and pledged the Ministry's commitment to working with partners to fight cervical cancer in Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

# Deputy Finance Boss reveals

longer obtain refinancing.

In response to these pressing concerns, the deputy finance boss said that in consultation with stakeholders, the ministry initiated negotiations with commercial banks to restructure the commission on these debts.

Despite the effort, he also revealed that the country was at risk of losing its status in many ways on the external front.

He added, "For example, the African Development Bank threatened to drop Liberia or take some primitive measure against the country." He indicated that the government needed to make an additional payment to trigger funds into the many projects supported by the World Bank.

According to him, the ministry is doing its best to meet all necessary timelines

and schedules for debt service on a weekly basis.

At the same time, Myers also shared a positive economic outlook, projecting GDP growth to expand to 5.3 percent this year and by an average of 6.4 percent in the medium term (2025-2027), driven by growth in the mining, manufacturing, and services sectors.

The draft FY2024 National Budget, recently submitted to the 55th Legislature, totals US\$692,409,245.53, with 28 percent in domestic currency and 72 percent in US dollars. Domestic resource mobilization is projected to contribute US\$649.9 million (93.9%), while external resources account for US\$42.4 million (6.1%) - the first financial instrument from the Boakia administration. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR: OUSMAN F. FEIKA ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF SHARON D. FRANKLIN PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "SHARON F. DOE."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

00012438

The Petitioner by and thru her legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from Sharon D. Franklin to "Sharon F. Doe."

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true husband's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on May 20, 1997, County of Montserrado, Republic of Liberia, and that she was born unto the union of Mr. Burgess A. Doe and Madam Ruth P. Franklin, and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly and that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Sharon D. Franklin be changed to "Sharon F. Doe" beginning this 12th Day of March, A. D. 2024. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within(10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT SEAL:



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 12th DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 2024.

OUSMAN F. FEIKA  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 03-024 PAGE(S) 0001243  
REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

13/26/2024

MARCH 2024 1:00 26

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Citizens snub Nimba Superintendent Kou Gono

Newly appointed Superintendent of Nimba County Kou Meapeh Gono get poor reception from citizens.

By Thomas Domah,  
Nimba County

Ganta City, Liberia, April 2, 2024 - Local government appointees for Nimba County

leaders have been well received, but the stories of Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono, County Inspector Daniel Zekpeh, Development Superintendent Peter

Boakai regarding government appointments.

According to them, those who fought to bring the UP to power are being ignored by those referred to as helpers, benefiting from their sweat.

A few days ago, the District Coordinator for the nine electoral districts of Nimba Moses Ghicarn expressed disappointment and frustration, accusing Vice President Jeremiah Koug of prioritizing members of his MDR party for appointment.

Printiss T.K. Domah, youth chair of the Nimba Chapter of the UP told reporters in the county that they as partisans and Nimbaians will not cooperate with Vice President Koug and County Chairman Nelson Bearngar for what they term their bad leadership.

Districts coordinator Ghicarn and Youth Congress chair Domah expressed disappointment and frustration with President Joseph Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah Koug for not recognizing them for local government positions.

Recently, Nimbaians threatened not to work with local authorities appointed in the county.

According to them, those



Superintendent Gono confers with some citizens

last Thursday, March 28, 2024, received a very poor reception from Nimbaians in Ganta City.

Though the Liberian Senate has not confirmed the local county authorities, they visited the county recently.

As the local officials entered the provincial city, the people on the streets of Ganta were very poor.

In the past, local county

Kangbay, Assistant Superintendent for Fiscal Affairs Dudley Debois, and Ganta City Mayor Samuel Hardy were poorly received by Nimbaians.

Prior to their arrival in the county, most citizens, including partisans of the ruling Unity Party, had expressed disappointment and frustration with President

▶ CONT'D page 11

# House begins special session today

President Boakai recalled the 55th Legislature from its first break, and this special session is expected to run up to 30 April 2024.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, April 2, 2024: The House of Representatives is expected to begin a legislative session today, Tuesday, 2 April 2024, after President Joseph Nyumah Boakai recalled the 55th Legislature from its first break.

During this special session, the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate will discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern including the fiscal year 2024 draft national budget, among others.

The session is expected to run from Monday, 1 April 2024 to 30 April 2024. The 55th Legislature had closed for its first session before being recalled by President Boakai.

The first constituency break of the 55th Legislature started on 14 March 2024 and was expected to end on 10 May 2024. But a proclamation was issued to the 55th Legislature through the Speaker of the House of Representatives Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa and Senate President Pro-Tempore

Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence for its return to run from 1 April to 30 April 2024. President Boakai used Article 32 (b) to extend the session. The provision states that the President shall, on his initiative or upon receipt of a certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each House, and by proclamation, extend a regular session of the Legislature beyond the date for adjournment.

The provision also states that the President shall call an

extraordinary session of the body to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.

"When the extension or call is at the request of the Legislature, the proclamation shall be issued not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the certificate by the President," the provision said. President Boakai informed the Legislature that the recall of the Legislature is based on critical national issues that must be resolved as a matter of urgency.



# IJG welcomes Legislative actions on war crimes court

The House of Representatives has signed a resolution for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court and sent the instrument to the Liberian Senate for its action.

Monrovia, April 2, 2024: The International Justice Group (IJG) has acknowledged the legislative actions taken toward the establishment of Liberia's War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC). However, the IJG has encouraged the executive to be more proactive in fully implementing all the recommendations of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

According to a dispatch, the IJG has called on President Joseph Nyumah Boakai to honor his commitment to establishing the WECC in the interest of justice and the rule of law.

The IJG noted that it has been almost fifteen years since the TRC report was presented, and

It continued that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Administration initiated both national visioning and decentralization programs, while immediate past President George Weah implemented a dual citizenship law, whistleblower law, and the decriminalization of free speech laws, which are all part of the TRC Recommendations.

"These past leaders initiated these legal instruments, though, without acknowledging that they were TRC Recommendations and pursuing thereby, the reconciliation, Good Governance, and peace objectives inherent in those recommendations and their subsequent political actions."

The IJG, in a statement signed by its Executive Director, Cllr. Jerome Verdier, and Chairman for the partners, Mike Mueller, said Boakai



Cllr. Verdier

previous administrations have made some strides, albeit without explicit recognition of the TRC recommendations.

Being the nation's eldest statesman and the anti-corruption and rule of law icon he has been regarded for many years, the IJG called on President Boakai to honor the commitment to have the court established.

"It is nearly fifteen (15) years since the TRC presented its final report to the Government of Liberia and two successive prior administrations failed to make conscious efforts to implement these recommendations or make any progress whatsoever," the dispatch said.

While past administrations have taken steps towards incorporating aspects of the recommendations, the IJG said, there is a perceived need for a more explicit acknowledgment and dedication to the reconciliation, good governance, and peace objectives outlined in the TRC report.

needs to be candid with the Liberian people and the world, who are waiting to see an end to the culture of impunity in Liberia. The legal framework, as outlined in Article X Section 48 of the TRC Act, places the onus on the Head of State to report to the Legislature on the implementation of the TRC recommendations.

Article X Section 48 of the TRC Act says: "The Head of State shall report to the National Legislature within three months of receipt of the report of the TRC, and every quarter thereafter, as to the implementation of the Commission's recommendations."

"All recommendations shall be implemented. Where the implementation of any recommendation has not been complied with, the Legislature shall require the Head of State to show cause for such noncompliance."

The IJG leaders stated that these past leaders initiated these legal instruments, though, without acknowledging that they were TRC Recommendations and pursuing

▶ CONT'D page 11



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# WHO and MOH launch HPV Vaccine awareness

*The World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Liberia, has launched an awareness campaign on HPV Vaccine for Cervical Cancer.*

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Grand Cape Mount Couty, Liberia, April 2, 2024 - The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has launched HPV vaccine awareness in World Health Day celebration

when the whole world came together, it should remain united in educating people about this vaccine.

He explained that the global development agenda requires that by 2030, child health should have been prevented and maternal death reduced.

Dr. Clement added that to

He revealed that the Organization turned 75 last year, stressing that under this year's theme, "My Health, My Right," every child has the right to health.

Dr. Peter said he expects the W.H.O., the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health to work together to protect the youngest population.

However, he underscored that, along with Health and Education, young people should have opportunities to become active citizens in the future.

Delivering the keynote address, Grand Cape Mount Senator Dabah M. Varpilah, stressed the need for carrying out the initiative in all parts of the country. She said every Liberian must have access to preventable, curative and rehabilitative health care.

Senator Varpilah explained that cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide and continues to disproportionately impact women and their families in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), according to W.H.O.

She added that the HPV vaccine is available in most health facilities in Liberia and encouraged parents to get their children vaccinated, saying, "It is cheap, safe, and effective."

▶ CONT'D page 5



W.H.O. Representative Dr. Peter Lugala Clement

activities.

Speaking over the weekend at the launch held at the F-Sham of Faith Girls School in Soul Clinic, Paynesville, W.H.O. Representative Dr. Peter Lugala Clement noted that just as during the Covid-19 pandemic

achieve this, health services must reach everyone in health for all, adding, "All of us must accept health service."

He said World Health Day is the World Health Organization's birthday, founded on April 7, 1948.

# Deputy Finance Boss reveals strategy to address debts

*Liberia's Ministry of Finance and Development Planning outlines strategy to address domestic and external debts.*

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, April 2, 2024 - To tackle Liberia's increasing domestic and external debts, Deputy Finance and Development Planning Minister for Fiscal Policy Anthony Myers has unveiled comprehensive plans to manage the country's financial obligations.

The recently submitted draft national budget to the legislature highlighted the government's dedication to addressing its public debt service portfolio.

For fiscal year 2024, the projected total debt service and other payables amounted to a staggering US\$217.28 million, marking a significant 117.69 percent increase compared to the FY2023 forecast of US\$99.81 million.

During a regular briefing at the Ministry of Information in Monrovia, Deputy Minister Myers emphasized two crucial actions needed to manage the

country's debt effectively.

Firstly, he revealed that the country's aim is to reduce borrowing. For this fiscal year, the government plans to borrow only US\$40 million, using existing arrangements from the previous administration.

He said efforts will focus on debt repayment programs, and US\$129 million will be allocated for debt servicing to reduce the debt stock domestically and externally.

"On the domestic debt front,

it is important to note that the commercial banks in Liberia were struggling due to non-performing loans taken by government contractors who could not pay back refinancing that they took from various projects undertaken on behalf of the government.

He explained that when companies' debts could not be paid, the government had to convert them to its debts, increasing domestic debt.

However, it was also making it difficult for contractors who provided significant infrastructure services to the country because they could no

▶ CONT'D page 5



Anthony Myers

# South Sudanese women leaders end mission here

*A delegation of women leaders from South Sudan has ended an experience-sharing mission to Liberia ahead of the country's December election.*

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, April 2, 2024 - A delegation of esteemed women leaders from the Republic of South Sudan has successfully concluded a transformative learning and experience-sharing mission to Liberia.

The mission here sought to engage with Liberian officials, civil society representatives, and international stakeholders to understand how the West African country successfully conducted peaceful elections despite a tension-packed campaign during the 2023 election that brought President Joseph Nyuma Boakai to power.

However, South Sudan, the world's youngest nation and Africa's 54th country remains entrenched in a severe electoral crisis. This crisis is rooted in longstanding political tensions and power struggles within the country, characterized by

Political Parties Council, Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Judicial Reform Commission, National Transformational Leadership Institute at the University of Juba, the South Sudan Women's Coalition, Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace, and Justice, National Press Club of South Sudan, and UN Women South Sudan Office—arrived in Liberia on a mission to engage with various Liberian entities to glean valuable insights and acquire new skills to address the civic issues in Sudan as they prepared for the upcoming election scheduled for December this year.

During their visit, they met with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the National Elections Commission, the Ministry of Justice, and the security sector, as well as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Women Legislative Caucus, the ECOWAS Commission to Liberia, the Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON), Liberia



disputes over electoral processes, fairness, and transparency.

Historical divisions, economic challenges, and ethnic complexities often exacerbate these issues. Key concerns include allegations of voter suppression, manipulation of electoral results, and challenges to the legitimacy of electoral institutions.

Additionally, there are worries about excluding certain groups from the electoral process and the impact of military interference on democratic governance. These factors fueled ongoing instability and uncertainty surrounding Sudan's electoral landscape.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, a senior United Nations official and French diplomat serving as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations since April 1, 2017, informed the Security Council that South Sudan is not currently prepared to hold elections, given escalating internal and external challenges.

However, on Saturday, March 23, 2024, a delegation comprising representatives from key South Sudanese institutions—including

Women Mass Action for Peace, and various Civil Society Organizations advocating for inclusive women's political participation in elections. They also met with the former Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Jewel Howard Taylor.

Addressing a press conference marking the conclusion of their mission here, the head of the delegation and Secretary of Finance for the South Sudanese Women Parliamentary Caucus, Hon. Charity Yacob Kimbo, emphasized the innovative approaches and strategies learned from their interactions with Liberian women and youth organizations involved in addressing the structural barriers to women's electoral participation in Liberia.

Madame Kimbo expressed profound gratitude for the hospitality and knowledge-sharing extended by their Liberian counterparts. She emphasized the critical importance of awareness as Sudan approaches its December election.

Reading from a prepared text, the delegation head also disclosed that

▶ CONT'D page 11



# Français

## La CDC se plaint de Boakai

## Éditorial

L'ancienne coalition au pouvoir, la Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), n'est pas satisfaite de l'administration Boakai et adresse une plainte formelle au Président de l'Assemblée, à l'Ambassade des États-Unis et aux autres missions

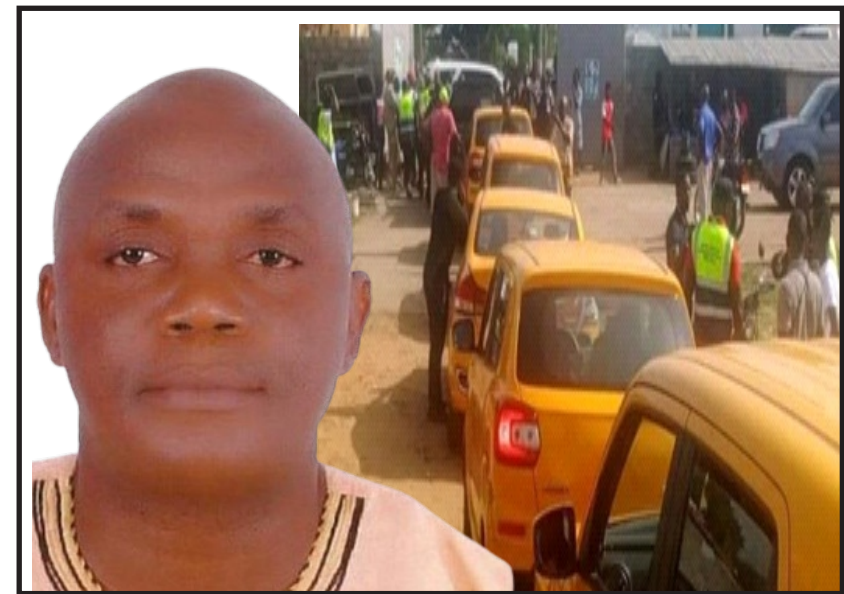
l'Ambassade des États-Unis et des autres missions étrangères près de Monrovia. "Nous écrivons pour attirer votre attention, ainsi que celle de tous les membres de la Chambre des Représentants, sur des questions de grave préoccupation nationale concernant de sérieuses violations de la

été attirée par ce qu'il a décrit comme des questions de grave préoccupation dans le pays.

Il a observé que depuis le début de l'administration Boakai le 22 janvier 2024, il y a eu une série d'actions qui violent clairement la Constitution, les lois statutaires et les protocoles établis. Le Président Kowo a expliqué que parmi ces actions perturbatrices du gouvernement, il y a le mépris manifesté envers l'ancien Président **George Weah**, lorsqu'il s'est vu refuser l'accès au salon VIP de l'aéroport international Roberts à son retour dans le pays en mars, ce qu'il a qualifié de total mépris envers l'ancien président.

Il a également allégué qu'il y avait eu du harcèlement envers les agents de l'**EPS** qui assuraient la protection de M. Weah, mais qui ont été suspendus et déclarés **Absence Sans Congé (AWOL)**. "Un autre problème que nous souhaitons porter à votre attention est le harcèlement des fonctionnaires civils et d'autres travailleurs du secteur public dans les agences, les commissions et les entreprises publiques", a-t-il déclaré.

► **CONT'D page 9**



étrangères près de Monrovia, citant des violations présumées.

La CDC, ancien parti au pouvoir, accuse l'administration Boakai de violer la Constitution du Liberia et rédige une plainte formelle à l'attention du Président de l'Assemblée, **Fonati Koffa**, de

Constitution libérienne et d'autres lois statutaires par le Parti de l'Unité dirigé par le Président Boakai", déclare la CDC.

Le Président national par intérim, l'avocat **Augustine Janga Kowo**, lors d'une conférence de presse récente au siège du CDC à Oldest Congo, a déclaré que leur attention avait

## Un incendie détruit une maison de 9 chambres

Un incendie à Kakaka, dans le comté de Margibi, a laissé plus d'une douzaine de personnes sans abri, dont une femme enceinte, des étudiants et un chauffeur de taxi, entre autres.

Un incendie a ravagé une maison de 9 chambres à New Kakata Community, Kakata, comté de Margibi, laissant plusieurs résidents sans abri, dont des étudiants, une femme enceinte, un chauffeur de taxi et des petits commerçants. L'incident s'est produit le mercredi 27 mars 2024 à 10h00, alors que la plupart des occupants de la maison vquaient à leurs occupations quotidiennes.

En leur absence, l'incendie a consumé de l'argent liquide, des pièces détachées de voiture, des documents de voyage, du matériel scolaire, des articles de commerce, des vêtements, de la nourriture et d'autres effets personnels, mais aucune vie n'a été perdue. La cause de l'incendie, qui n'a pas encore été établie, a plongé toute la communauté dans le désarroi. Presque tout le monde se demandait comment il avait commencé, alors qu'ils tentaient d'éteindre les

flammes en vain.

La maison louée abritait plus de 12 occupants.

S'adressant au NEW DAWN sur les lieux du sinistre, l'une des victimes, Othello Gesuah, qui est également étudiant, a raconté qu'il avait entendu la femme enceinte crier : "feu ! feu !" de l'intérieur de la maison alors qu'il était assis dehors. Il a ajouté qu'à ce moment-là, le feu avait presque englouti toute la maison.

D'autres résidents du quartier, a-t-il noté, sont venus pour aider, mais la fumée ne leur a pas permis d'entrer dans la maison.

L'étudiant Gesuah a déploré que rien n'ait pu être sorti de la maison, car la plupart des

chambres étaient fermées à clé et les occupants étaient absents.

Il a poursuivi en disant qu'il n'y avait pas de connexion de la LEC ou de toute autre source d'électricité à la maison et que personne n'avait allumé de feu dans la maison lorsque l'incident s'est produit. Il a déploré qu'ils soient sans abri et aient tout perdu.

Il a lancé un appel au gouvernement, aux philanthropes et aux Libériens bien intentionnés pour qu'ils leur viennent en aide afin de leur permettre de

► **CONT'D page 9**



## Refonte de la monnaie libérienne : la Banque centrale revoit son échéance

Suite à notre éditorial du vendredi 28 mars 2024 intitulé "La Banque centrale du Liberia a semé la panique chez les Libériens", le NEW DAWN a appris de source sûre que les autorités de la Banque centrale du Liberia reconsidèrent la date limite du 31 mars 2024 précédemment fixée pour le retrait de la circulation des anciens billets de banque (monnaie fiduciaire) et pièces de monnaie. Elles sollicitent actuellement l'approbation du président Boakai pour une prolongation de 40 jours de l'exercice dans tout le pays.

La Banque centrale a plutôt décidé de prolonger le délai d'échange et de cessation du cours légal des anciens billets de banque de 45 jours, du 1er avril 2024 au 15 mai 2024.

Le 22 octobre 2022, la Banque avsit lancé une campagne nationale visant à remplacer les anciens billets de banque et pièces de monnaie par la nouvelle famille de billets et de pièces. Par la suite, en juillet 2023, elle avait annoncé le 31 mars 2024 comme date limite pour la fin du cours légal des anciens billets de banque, ce qui a provoqué la panique du public et son refus catégorique d'échanger les anciens billets et pièces, affectant négativement les transactions sur le marché.

Le réexamen de la date limite du 31 mars par les autorités de la CBL est louable, car il démontre un leadership réfléchi et une écoute attentive des préoccupations du public concernant cette échéance.

Nous applaudissons le leadership du gouverneur exécutif J. Aloysius Tarlue pour cette décision éclairée, confortée par notre éditorial de vendredi, visant à atténuer l'embarras des consommateurs qui détiennent encore des cours légaux mais qui se les voient refusés sur le marché en raison de la panique liée à la date limite du 31 mars 2024.

Nous avons appris que l'ensemble de l'exercice a été entravé par le mauvais état des routes, principalement pour l'accès aux zones rurales, ainsi que par les élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, entre autres défis.

Cependant, la Banque centrale aurait réussi à retirer une quantité importante d'anciens billets de la circulation pendant la période considérée, et aurait remplacé un montant total de 21,41 milliards de dollars libériens d'anciens billets, ce qui représente environ 85 % du montant estimé de 25,258 milliards de dollars libériens de billets que la Banque cherche à retirer du marché. C'est un résultat louable !

Nous nous joignons au gouverneur exécutif Tarlue et à son équipe de direction de la CBL pour appeler le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à approuver la demande de prolongation de 40 jours de l'exercice afin de permettre aux banques commerciales et aux citoyens en général d'apporter les anciens billets de banque en leur possession pour les échanger contre les nouveaux billets et pièces de monnaie imprimés en 2022.

Il est important de le faire pour que le processus puisse se conclure de manière définitive, bien que les autorités de la CBL affirment que les anciens billets de banque pourront être échangés contre les nouvelles familles de billets même après la date limite officielle, ce qui est une bonne chose.

Par cette demande de prolongation de l'échéance du 31 mars, la CBL a démontré qu'elle dirige véritablement une administration sensible à la population, qui écoute ses préoccupations et cherche des moyens d'y répondre pour le bien général.



# Français

## Starts from page 8 La CDC se plaint

Il a ajouté que le harcèlement des travailleurs du secteur public pour des raisons politiques est contre-productif et constitue une violation flagrante de la Constitution, qui garantit à chaque citoyen le droit au travail et la liberté d'expression et d'association.

“Nous appelons le gouvernement à cesser de harceler les partisans présumés de la CDC au sein du gouvernement”, a-t-il averti, soulignant que les licenciements sommaires et les suspensions injustifiées pour des motifs futiles sont totalement inacceptables, inappropriés et répréhensibles. Le Président Kowo a noté que depuis l'investiture du Président Boakai, le gouvernement s'est lancé dans le harcèlement et la tentative de licenciement de responsables occupant des

postes à durée déterminée.

Selon lui, la plupart des lois concernant les postes à durée déterminée au sein du gouvernement ont été créées pendant les douze années d'administration du gouvernement dirigé par l'UP, au cours desquelles le Président Boakai a occupé le poste de vice-président et a signé ces lois.

Il a soutenu que l'ignorance de la sécurité des responsables à durée déterminée contrevient à l'esprit de bonne gouvernance et à l'État de droit.

“Sur cette base, nous appelons le législatif national, le gouvernement des États-Unis et les autres missions étrangères à prendre connaissance de ces questions et à diligenter une enquête urgente”, a-t-il déclaré, conseillant à l'exécutif de s'abstenir de prendre des mesures illégales.

## Starts from page 8 Un incendie détruit une

recommencer leur vie.

Joseph Masay, chauffeur de taxi, a également raconté sa déception totale. Lui et sa famille dorment maintenant dans une église le long de Bong Mines Road à Kakata, tandis que les autres occupants n'ont d'autre choix que de dormir dans une seule pièce fournie par un voisin, bien qu'ils soient nombreux.

Il a poursuivi en disant que ses pièces détachées de voiture, son argent totalisant 90 000 dollars libériens et 1 000 dollars américains, ainsi que tous les autres articles, ont été consumés par les flammes. M. Masay a révélé qu'il était sorti dès 5h00 du matin pour travailler, mais qu'il avait reçu un appel l'informant que la

maison avait été incendiée. Il a précisé que l'incendie s'était déclaré du côté de la maison et qu'il avait loué trois chambres dans la maison. En expliquant, il s'est rappelé que sa femme et certains occupants avaient eu un malentendu auparavant et que les voisins étaient fautifs selon ce que la communauté avait établi, mais que le problème avait été résolu. Il a observé que le lendemain, le feu avait ravagé la maison, en commençant par leur chambre.

Le journal a également vu une boîte d'allumettes juste derrière la maison sous la fenêtre de la pièce où l'incendie a commencé.

Il a affirmé qu'ils continueraient à dormir à l'église jusqu'à ce qu'ils trouvent une solution, mais a appelé le gouvernement et tout le monde à leur venir en aide.

## Un juge accuse Boakai de népotisme et de tribalisme



President Joseph Nyumah Boakai

Le juge Dixon allègue que sept nominations sur dix seraient pour des proches du président Boakai en provenance du comté de Lofa.

Un juge de circuit à Monrovia, Blamo Dixon, a accusé le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai de s'adonner au népotisme et au tribalisme dans la nomination des fonctionnaires.

S'exprimant lors d'un rassemblement de collecte de fonds à la D. Tweh Memorial High School le jeudi 28 mars 2024, le juge Dixon a allégué que sept sur dix nominations viennent du comté du président Boakai, Lofa. Le juge de la Cour criminelle “C” a accusé le président Boakai de pratiquer le tribalisme, le népotisme et le favoritisme dans la nomination de fonctionnaires publics. Le juge Dixon a argumenté que bien que la Constitution de 1986 donne au président l'autorité exclusive de nommer qui il veut à des postes au sein de son gouvernement, le président a nommé davantage de ses proches au gouvernement. “Pour chaque vingt (20) personnes nommées au gouvernement, quatorze viennent du comté de Lofa”, a allégué le juge Dixon.

“Pourtant, une erreur est commise dans le processus de nomination qui doit être corrigée. Le président continue de

pratiquer le tribalisme, le népotisme et le favoritisme dans la nomination de fonctionnaires publics”, a déclaré le juge.

Le juge Dixon a suggéré que la culture politique du Libéria sous le président Boakai n'a pas changé.

“Le gouvernement du True Whig Party était pour les Américo-Libériens. Le gouvernement de Samuel K. Doe était pour le peuple Krahn. Le gouvernement d'Amos C. Sawyer était pour le mouvement pour la justice en Afrique et le groupe de l'Union des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria”, a expliqué Dixon.

Il a poursuivi en disant que le gouvernement dirigé par Gyude Bryant était pour les factions combattantes dissoutes, et le gouvernement dirigé par Charles Taylor était pour les Américo-Libériens.

“Le gouvernement d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf était pour les Américo-Libériens. Le gouvernement de George Weah était pour les habitants du sud-est. Par conséquent, le gouvernement de Joseph Boakai n'est pas une exception, mais plutôt pour le peuple de Lofa”, a déclaré le juge Dixon.

Le jeudi, le juge Dixon a été invité en tant que conférencier lors du programme d'intronisation et de collecte de fonds du nouveau leadership de la D. Tweh Memorial High School à New Kru Town, sur l'île de Bushrod.

## Le Programme financé par l'USAID diplôme sa deuxième cohorte au Liberia

L'программы (programme) de promotion de l'entrepreneuriat à l'appui de la recherche (HEALR), financé par l'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international (USAID), a formé sa deuxième cohorte au Liberia. Cette initiative en santé et entrepreneuriat s'inscrit dans le cadre du projet Bridge-U : Appliquer la recherche pour une santé solide au Liberia, financé par l'USAID et mis en œuvre par la faculté des sciences de la santé de l'Université du Liberia.

L'objectif d'programme est de renforcer le système de santé du pays dans son ensemble.

Lors de la cérémonie de remise des diplômes qui s'est déroulée récemment à Congo Town, Lila Kerr, directrice du projet au Centre d'enseignement, d'apprentissage et d'innovation (CTLI), s'est félicitée que son équipe puisse célébrer une nouvelle réussite du programme HEALR. « Nous sommes ravis de célébrer la deuxième cohorte du programme de création avec cette cérémonie de clôture, la remise des diplômes et un dîner », a déclaré Mme Kerr. Elle a rappelé que Bridge-U avait soutenu il y a quelques années la création du CTli (CTLI) au sein de la faculté des sciences de la santé de l'Université du Liberia.

« Les participants étaient désireux d'apprendre. Nous remercions les jurys d'avoir pris le temps de sélectionner les participants. » Le Centre propose également divers programmes qui enrichissent les activités académiques de la faculté, afin de renforcer le personnel de santé et, à terme, le système de santé dans son ensemble.



« Ces programmes vont du développement du corps professoral et des projets de recherche à la simulation clinique, et c'est l'activité qui nous réunit aujourd'hui », a-t-elle ajouté. Lors de la remise des diplômes, Dr. Plenseh Paye McClain, directrice adjointe du CTli (CTLI), a souligné qu'il est intéressant de voir comment les gens ont pu développer des idées au cours des derniers mois qui vont être mises à l'échelle pour soutenir l'économie. Elle s'est réjouie de célébrer la deuxième cohorte du programme de création avec la cérémonie de clôture et a exhorté les bénéficiaires à impliquer d'autres personnes dans la formation de courte durée.

Pour leur part, les diplômés ont remercié leurs mentors de les avoir poussés loin, affirmant qu'au-delà des cours, ils entretiennent de bonnes relations.

« Avant de commencer ce programme, beaucoup d'entre nous avaient des idées, mais pas du niveau des connaissances acquises maintenant. Nous tenons cependant à remercier nos mentors de nous avoir poussés très fort », ont-ils déclaré à l'unisson.

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!



# Laws creating tenured positions are unconstitutional & officials who are removed are not entitled to pay, says labor expert

Laws creating tenured positions within the Executive Branch of government are unconstitutional and officials removed from those positions before the expiration of their tenures are not entitled to pay for the remainder of their tenures, says Liberian labor expert and journalist.

Citing several constitutional provisions as well as U.S. case law, Mr. Alphonso Nyenuh says it would be unfortunate if the administration of President Joseph Boakai pays officials in those positions who are replaced. “It will cost the government millions of dollars that could and should be used to pay nurses, fund education and road construction, etc., Mr. Nyenuh said.

“The President has the exclusive constitutional authority to remove tenured officials in the Executive Branch who perform purely executive functions. They are executive officers restricted to the performance of executive functions, they are not entitled to salary for their unexpired tenures because those tenures were unconstitutional in the first place,” Nyenuh pointed out.

Article 50 of the Constitution gives the president the duty to administer the executive functions of government as the Chief Executive and with that duty comes the authority to hire and fire. How else would the president exercise his/her chief executive functions if he does not have the authority to hire competent people and to fire non-performing and undesirable ones, Nyenuh argued.

He cited a U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Myers Case in which the Court, relying on Article II of the US Constitution ruled that officials in the Executive Branch of Government who perform executive functions serve at the will and pleasure of the president. In that ruling the U.S. Supreme Court relied on Article II of the U.S. Constitution which vests the executive power of the country in the president.

Article II of the U.S. Constitution states:  
“The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America”

Invoking the president’s executive power, the U.S Supreme Court noted that, to deny the President that power to remove executive officers would not allow him to “discharge his own constitutional duty of seeing that the laws be faithfully executed.”

Pointing out the similarities between Article II and Article 50 of the U.S. and Liberian constitutions respectively, Nyenuh noted that the two provisions read almost exactly the same, therefore we could take our cue from that ruling. Article 50 of the Liberian Constitution states:

“The Executive Power of the Republic shall be vested in the President who shall be Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia...”

THE MYERS CASE: Frank S. Myers was appointed a Postmaster of the first class for a four year term but was removed by the Postmaster General with the approval of the President before the expiration of his tenure and without the approval of Congress. Myers’ lawyers filed suit claiming that his removal violated the law assigning him tenure and that he was entitled to salary for his unexpired tenure.

They cited section 6 of an Act of Congress of July 12, 1876, 19 Stat. 80, 81, c. 179, which reads:

“Postmasters of the first, second and third classes shall be appointed and may be removed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall hold their offices for four years unless sooner removed or suspended according to law.”

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Act of Congress was unconstitutional, to the extent that it assigned tenured protection to executive officers such as postmasters. The Court wrote:

“: Whether the power of the President to remove an officer shall prevail over the authority of Congress to condition the power by fixing a definite term and precluding a removal except for cause, will depend upon the character of the office...”

“A postmaster is an executive officer restricted to the performance of executive functions. He is charged with no duty at all related to either the legislative or judicial power. The actual decision in the Myers case finds support in the theory that such an office is merely one of the units in the executive department and, hence, inherently subject to the exclusive and illimitable power of removal by the Chief Executive, whose subordinate and aide he is. . . .” (U.S. Supreme Court)

Mr. Nyenuh also cited Article 56(a) of the Liberian Constitution which he said reaffirms

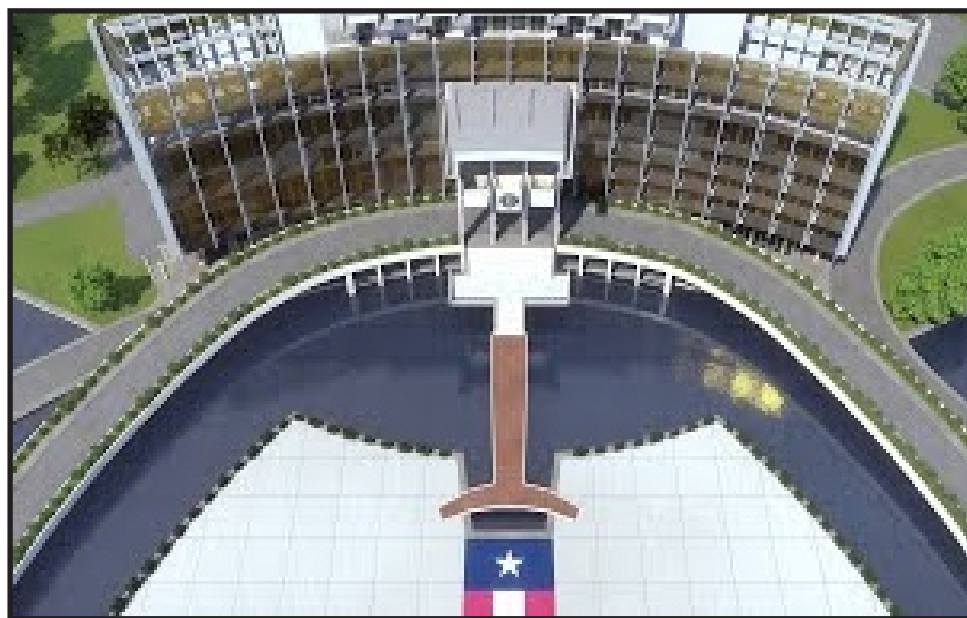
the President’s authority to hire and fire executive officers who perform executive functions. Article 56(a) reaffirms this point. It states: “All cabinet ministers, deputy and assistant cabinet ministers, ambassadors, ministers and consuls, superintendents of counties and other government officials, both military and civilian, appointed by the President pursuant to this Constitution shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the President.

“Combining the two provisions, Article 50 and Article 56(a), you will see that the president’s power of removal of executive officers appointed by him, is full and complete. Article 50 gives the president the power by virtue of his duty to administer the affairs of the executive branch while Article 56(a) is explicit in assigning appointment and removal powers of executive officers to the president.

## LAWS CREATING TENURED POSITIONS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATIVE OVERREACH

The relevant Acts of the legislature, by creating tenures within the Executive Branch of government are unconstitutional. By assigning tenures to officers who perform purely executive functions, thereby putting those executive officers outside the control of the president, not only violates Articles 50 & 56(a), they handicap the president’s ability to execute the functions assigned to him by the Constitution.

Relying on Article 2 of the Constitution, Nyenuh maintained that the laws providing tenured protections to executive officers against the president’s hiring and removal authority are null and void because they are in contravention of Articles 50 and 56(a) of the Constitution.



Article 2 sections 1 & 2 make that abundantly clear. Article 2 sections 1 & 2 of the Constitution state:

- This Constitution is the supreme and fundamental law of Liberia and its provisions shall have binding force and effect on all authorities and persons throughout the Republic.
- Any laws, treaties, statutes, decrees, customs and regulations found to be inconsistent with it shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void and of no legal effect. The Supreme Court, pursuant to its power of judicial review, is empowered to declare any inconsistent laws unconstitutional.

1) Note that Section 1 states that the Constitution shall have “binding force and effect on ALL AUTHORITIES, this includes the Legislature; the legislature MUST operate within the confines of the Constitution as it exercises its lawmaking powers. If the legislature makes any law that is ultra vires to the constitution, that law is VOID AND HAS NO LEGAL EFFECT,” Nyenuh argued.

## THEY ARE NOT ENTITLED TO SALARIES FOR THEIR UNEXPIRED TENURES

Accordingly, Mr. Nyenuh argued that tenured officials in the Executive Branch who are removed before the expiration of their tenures are not entitled to salaries for the unexpired terms of their tenures because the laws that gave them tenures are unconstitutional and therefore void. They were not entitled to tenures in the first place, and therefore cannot claim that their tenure “rights” were violated.

## THE NEED FOR INDEPENDENT PUBLIC AGENCIES IN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Nyenuh criticized some who he said have confused executive entities with autonomous public entities, noting that the argument does not extend to independent entities provided for under Article 89 and therefore does not put the independence of autonomous public corporations in jeopardy. “The architects of our Constitution did a good job at building safeguards against presidential overreach as far as autonomous agencies are concerned, he said.

## HOW DO WE DISTINGUISH AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES FROM EXECUTIVE ENTITIES

He said to distinguish an autonomous public entity (Article 89 entity) from an executive entity, we must look to the Character of the Entity-I.e., its functions- is it performing a purely executive function, or a quasi- legislative function, or a quasi-judicial function, or multiple functions that draw from the powers of more than one branch of government?

Article 89 (autonomous) are those whose functions are so critical that they are placed above political interference and control by the constitution. They are divided into three main categories:

1. Those explicitly named in Article 89 of the Constitution- A) the Civil Service Agency, B) the Elections Commission, and C) General Auditing Commission
2. Those that are quasi- judicial (like the Liberia Anti- Corruption Commission- LACC- because it has a judicial function); or those that are quasi-legislative such as a Trade Commission. If the Legislature chooses to create one, a Trade Commission would be quasi-legislative because the constitution assigns the country’s trade functions to the Legislature, as stipulated in Article 33 (g).



# Court demands proof of vehicles' ownership

Based on a complaint filed against the Assets Recovery Team, Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba has ordered the Taskforce to pause all seizures of vehicles and to release the ones already seized, pending the outcome of a conference he called.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 2, 2024: Chamber Justice Yussif D. Kaba has ordered the Taskforce to pause all seizures of vehicles and to release the ones already seized, pending the outcome of a conference he called.



Kaba has ordered Gracious Ride to provide proof of ownership of vehicles recently confiscated by Liberia's Assets Recovery and Property Retrieval Taskforce.

Gracious Ride through its manager Francis T. Blamo petitioned the Supreme Court last week for a writ of prohibition against the Asset Recovery Task Force headed by Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin. Justice Kaba subsequently ordered the Taskforce to release all vehicles seized and stay all seizures pending the outcome of a conference which was held on Monday, 1 April 2024 in the Chambers of the Supreme Court.

The Gracious Ride's vehicles were released over the weekend, setting the stage for Monday's hearing. At

the conference, the Chamber Justice ordered Gracious Ride to provide every title document regarding its exhibit or title documents in connection with the seized vehicles. A document of title is a written description, identification, or declaration of goods that allows the holder, usually a bailee, to receive, hold, and dispose of the document and the goods it covers.

In line with Justice Kaba's order halting the Taskforce's asset seizure operations pending an outcome of a conference, Liberia's Assets Recovery and Property Retrieval Taskforce appeared before the Associate Justice

on Monday in connection with the case.

After listening to the rival parties in the case, Chamber Justice Kaba ordered the company to provide its documents on Friday, 5 April 2024 to show its ownership since it was not attached to its petition filed with the court. In an interview with judicial reporters, Assets Recovery Team chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin disclosed that the Chamber Justice gave Gracious Ride Friday, 5 April to prove its title.

Martin stated that the company did not attach any document to its petition to show or justify its ownership of the vehicles. "The capacity of the petitioner was challenged on grounds that he has no standing and legal capacity to file the petition with the Supreme Court," said Cllr. Martin. "Therefore, the Justice in Chamber gave them up to Friday, April 5, 2024, to show their legal capacity regarding the properties," he continued.

According to the former Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) boss, the order from the court also mandates the company to provide the title document that it relies on to file the petition with the court.

"Well, we go up to Friday. The burden has now been shifted to them to show their legal capacity because you can't come to the court, and you claim title and you can't exhibit the title. So, they have to exhibit the title which is the basis," Cllr. Martin stated.

# Nimbaians descend on VP Koung

Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung faces criticism from kinsmen for unfulfilled campaign promises.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Nimba County, Liberia, April 2, 2024—Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has been criticized by the people of Nimba for allegedly abandoning several projects in the county while he served in the Legislature.

Disappointing citizens told reporters that since they elected Koung first in the House and then in the Senate, where he spent three years before becoming Vice President, he had never completed any project he initiated.

They named two school projects he earmarked when he was in the House that never

projects never saw the light of day.

Two disappointed citizens, Emmanuel Suah and Ericson Dahn, referred to those projects as campaign promises that the former senator, now Vice President Koung, used to fool Nimbaians into voting for him.

They specifically named proposed elementary schools and clinics that the former lawmaker should have constructed after he broke ground over six years ago, including bridges, a town hall, a maternal waiting home, and theaters.

However, responding to the citizens' concerns when he appeared on a community radio station in the county, the chief of the office staff of the Vice President, Prince Mankalo Gbieu,



Vice President Jeremiah Koung donating hospital machine to Health center in Saclepea years ago

took off the ground. Then, he announced that those projects went to the Senate, where he would shortly start and be allegedly broke ground for the completed.

construction of various projects. This encouraged Prince assured that Vice President Koung is resolved to them to embrace his dream for complete every project he initiated the Senate, but after he got fully. Editing by Jonathan Browne elected as senator, those

# CBL confirms extension of cash retrieval

Starts from back page

the commercial banks and RCFIs in exchange for the new currency," the release noted.

Meanwhile, the Bank has extended its appreciation to all stakeholders, and more importantly the Executive and the Legislature for their support in this national endeavor.

"The Bank looks forward to the full cooperation of the public with this new deadline to ensure a successful completion of this exercise," the release said.

The national program to retrieve the legacy banknotes from the market was launched before the just-ended legislative and presidential elections.

But the exercise faced some delays due to the election, as well as bad road conditions.

On Monday, this paper reported that CBL authorities were about seeking President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's

approval to extend the ongoing cash retrieval exercise across the country. The CBL on 22 October 2022 commenced the nationwide campaign to replace the legacy banknotes and coins with the new family of banknotes and coins.

In keeping with the 54th Legislature's mandate, the initiative was launched to be carried out through commercial banks and other regulated financial institutions to retrieve the legacy banknotes. In July 2023, the authorities set 31 March 2024 as the cut-off date for the termination of the legal tender status of the old banknotes.

Along the way, some major national activities including elections, presidential transitions, and bad road conditions, appeared to have impacted the timeline set for cash retrieval across the country. Despite the challenges, this paper has learned, the CBL has significantly retrieved a large amount of its targeted old banknotes, but there is still a

large volume of old banknotes in circulation.

In recent weeks, some members of the public have been raising concerns about not being able to meet the CBL deadline of 31 March due to their location in remote places and the absence of commercial banks. The NewDawn newspaper has learned that the CBL has considered these public concerns and wanted President Boakai to approve an extension of the exercise. Through a joint resolution in 2021, the 54th Legislature authorized the CBL to print and mint a new family of currency to the tune of LS48,734,000,000.00 based on the Bank's request.

# Starts from page 6 Citizens snub Nimba

appointments were made based on the interest of Vice President Jeremiah Koung rather than the general interest of the people of Nimba.

They referred to Superintendent Kou Meapeh Gono as an American citizen who had no idea about county politics, as she had spent all her years in the United States.

Due to the very poor reception, citizens of the county were seen at a local entertainment center, Jackie Guest House, where they greeted and welcomed the new superintendent alongside her

team instead of an official ceremony at the administration hall in Sanniquellie.

Daniel Nya Gboe and others were seen pledging their support to her rather than citizens turning out in huge numbers to welcome her.

Superintendent Goo told a few citizens who came to greet her that she didn't come as a superintendent but rather to see the county.

She and her group were unable to tour other parts of the county except Ganta. Editing by Jonathan Browne



## CBL confirms extension of cash retrieval

The extension of the deadline for the retrieval of legacy banknotes from the Liberian is necessitated by several factors, including the challenging road conditions and the past presidential and legislative elections.

MONROVIA, April 2, 2024: The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has announced the extension of the 31 March 2024 deadline for the tender status of the old banknotes.

It said the CBL Board of Governors resolved to continue the exchange exercise through the

other factors included the presidential and legislative elections, the intensity of the run-off presidential election, and the transitional process.

According to the release, the Bank was cautious about moving cash across the country during these situations. It detailed that the extension means that the old money, known as Liberian Series 1 or LS1 and Liberian Series 2 or LS2 banknotes printed before 2021 remains legal tender until 15 May 2024 and can be used to buy goods and pay for services in Liberia. After the new deadline, the CBL said the old banknotes will not be accepted for exchange at any commercial banks and RCFIs. The exchange exercise will continue only at the CBL facilities across the country. "The CBL, therefore, urges the public to take advantage of this extension to exchange their old banknotes and calls on the business community to continue to accept the old banknotes and deposit them at



currency exchange exercise by six weeks, up to 15 May 2024. According to a press release issued Monday, 1 April 2024, the CBL Board of Governors at its emergency meeting held on Friday, 29 March 2024 resolved to extend the deadline for the termination of the legal

commercial banks and Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFIs).

"Despite the progress, the March 31st deadline was impacted by several factors, including the challenging road condition to counties in the Southeast and Lofa County," the release said. It added that

▶ CONT'D page 11

**RECHARGE & BUMPAY!**

100 mins 5GB Data

**Dial \*156\*2#**

Recharge with Airtime or Bundle to become a Landlord

# The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

**DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing**

0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street  
0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia