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These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

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Continental News

Ghana child bride in police protection after outcry

A 12-year-old girl has been placed under police protection in Ghana after it emerged she had been married to a 63-year-



The 12-year-old bride is seen here after arriving at the wedding reception

children's minister and the social welfare department to ensure the 12-year-old gets the necessary support while investigations continue, their statement

old traditional high priest. There was public outrage after footage of Saturday's customary wedding was shared on social media. The office of the influential priest, who serves an indigenous community in the capital, defended the marriage, saying it was only ceremonial.

The legal minimum age to get married in Ghana is 18. The prevalence of child marriage has declined in recent years, but it continues to happen. Police say they have identified and tracked down the girl and she is now under their protection, along with her mother. Contact had been made with the government's

added. The story is huge news here - and the move by the police has elicited some praise, though others are questioning why there have been no arrests.

The priest in question, Nuomo Borketey Laweh Tsuru XXXIII, is a much-respected member of a community that lives in the Nungua area of the capital, Accra. As a spiritual leader, the priest - known as a "Gborbu Wulomo" - performs sacrifices on behalf of the community, prays for their protection, enforces cultural practices and leads traditional rites during events such as the installation of traditional chiefs. Videos and photos of the elaborate wedding show it was attended by dozens of community

members and in the footage women are heard telling the girl to dress teasingly for her husband. They also advise her to be prepared for wifely duties and to use the perfumes they gave her to boost her sexual appeal to her husband. Community leaders say such duties would not be expected for another six years, when she would be 18. However, civil society groups continue to condemn the marriage. "The perceived acceptance of child marriages and the open brazen approval or defence of the practice by influential leaders of the community have the potential to embolden certain deviant behaviours like paedophilia," the Paediatric Association of Ghana has said in a statement. According to the UN's children's agency (Unicef), the West African nation has two million unions in which the wife was a child bride at the time of the marriage.

More than nine out of 10 married girls are not attending school, it adds.

Another recent study showed one in five young Ghanaian women aged between 20 and 24 years were married before the age of 18. The members of the community in Nungua are part of the Ga people, who live along the south-eastern coast of Ghana. BBC

Ex-prisoner president giving young Africans hope

Few political turnarounds can match the last month in Senegal.

Just over two weeks ago, Bassirou Diomaye Faye was a little-known opposition leader languishing in jail, detained without trial on charges including inciting insurrection, who had never held elected office. One week ago, he defeated the governing party's candidate, Amadou Ba, in the country's presidential election, winning 54% in the first round. On Tuesday, the 44-year-old has been sworn in as the fifth president of Senegal, becoming Africa's youngest elected head of state.

In a region where a large majority of the population are under 30, his victory offers hope to those young people frustrated by a lack of economic opportunities, with old elites seemingly clinging to power. Mr Faye's spectacular

The inspirational impact of Mr Faye's success will be magnified by the fact that it did not come easily. Ahead of the election the government of President Macky Sall took a number of undemocratic steps in what was seen as an attempt to try and hold on to power against a backdrop of growing popular discontent.

This included the sustained persecution of opposition leaders and critical voices and a last-ditch attempt to delay the elections in a desperate bid to avoid defeat, which led some commentators to ask whether we were seeing the death of Senegalese democracy.

Many of these measures were aimed at undermining the momentum behind the popular opposition party, the African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (Pastef).

This included detaining the party's popular leader Ousmane Sonko and Mr Faye, who was Pastef's secretary-general. There was also widespread intimidation



There were celebrations in the capital, Dakar, as early results indicated that Bassirou Diomaye

Afrobeats star Davido to sue over April Fool's joke

Nigerian music star Davido has instructed his lawyers to sue over an April Fool's joke that has spectacularly backfired. The prank story alleged that Afrobeats singer had been arrested in Kenya after cocaine was found on his private jet. The 31-year-old, who has just finished an East African tour, said the fake report was "extremely irresponsible". "I have never been arrested by anyone in any country for any crime in the world," he said on social media.

"Not my home Nigeria, my home America, or any of the hundreds of countries I've made home throughout my career," his statement on X, formerly Twitter, continued. The April Fool's story - first published by Kenya's K24 TV on Monday - went viral on social media.

The Nigerian megastar, who had just performed to packed audiences at the Timeless Concert in Kampala and Raha Fest in Nairobi, said it led to him receiving a barrage of

calls. Such was the backlash that Kenya's Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) tweeted a screengrab of the headline with "Fake News" stamped across it mid-morning on Monday. "I want to assure my fans that these reports are entirely untrue. I successfully completed my scheduled shows in Uganda and Kenya and have since returned home to Nigeria," Davido said on Tuesday.

"I find the fabrication of allegations of such international crimes extremely irresponsible

regardless of the light of 'April Fools', and my lawyer is seeking legal recourse against the media parties responsible for generating this misinformation."

K24 TV has not responded to Davido's move to initiate legal action.

Many Kenyans felt the prank was inappropriate, but some have been commenting on social media that they hope the debacle can be resolved amicably. BBC



Davido recently performed to packed audiences at the Timeless Concert in Kampala and Raha Fest in Nairobi

rise is a powerful reminder that elections still represent the best way to remove a failing government for many citizens in Africa. Not only has his win removed an unpopular government from office, it has strengthened the country's democratic institutions and reinvigorated popular confidence in democracy at a time when coups in other West African states have done the opposite.

The story of Mr Faye's victory will also inspire other leaders across the continent, who have experienced years of rising repression, intimidation and censorship.

According to long-time Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye, who has recently worked with his younger counterpart Bobi Wine to campaign for democracy in his country, "Senegal's extraordinary electoral process has demonstrated, again, that with a well-mobilised, resilient and well-led population, it's possible to non-violently achieve the desired democratic transition in Africa".

of Pastef supporters. The jailing of Mr Sonko - for allegedly acting immorally towards an individual younger than 21 after allegations by a massage therapist - along with a number of inflammatory moves, sparked some of the biggest protests Senegal has seen in recent years. In turn, a heavy-handed response from the security forces led to numerous deaths.

Mr Sonko described the charges as trumped-up and aimed at barring him from running for president. Pastef itself was dissolved by the authorities last year after it was accused of stoking violence in the country - but its leadership continued operating.

It took incredible bravery and hard work from opposition leaders, civil society groups, journalists and those working in some of the country's democratic institutions to ensure that this bleak situation ended in an election that Mr Faye was in a position to win.

It was the members of the Constitutional Council, Senegal's top court, that ensured the election would go ahead as scheduled when they stood up to

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.

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COMMENTARY

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.

OP-ED

By Niclas Hällström, Yacob Mulugetta,
Dean Bhekumuzi Bhebh

Solar Geoengineering Is a Dangerous Distraction

LONDON/JOHANNESBURG - At the most recent United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), held in Nairobi, African countries took a strong stand against potential new technologies that, if developed, could tip an already disrupted climate into chaos.

The continent's leaders, with the support of other developing countries, helped shoot down a resolution that called for more research into the benefits and risks of solar radiation modification (SRM). Also known as solar geoengineering, SRM is the controversial idea that deliberately modifying the atmosphere to reflect some of the sun's rays back into space could help cool a warming planet. Instead, these policymakers supported the International Non-Use Agreement on Solar Geoengineering and emphasized the need for effective and equitable climate solutions.

Geoengineering encompasses a range of speculative technologies, of which SRM is just one, intended to address the effects, not the root causes, of climate change. Many solar-geoengineering techniques have been proposed, but the most contemplated is stratospheric aerosol injection, which envisages fleets of high-flying airplanes continuously spraying large amounts of sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere to mimic the temporary cooling effects of volcanic eruptions.

In reality, such measures would likely destabilize an already severely disrupted climate. Consider that volcanic eruptions have historically precipitated extreme weather events and famines. Moreover, climate models have long indicated that stratospheric aerosol injection could alter Indian monsoons and cause more frequent and persistent droughts in the volatile Sahel region. According to the UN Human Rights Council, solar geoengineering could "seriously interfere with the enjoyment of human rights for millions and perhaps billions of people."

Some SRM proponents argue that if spraying sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere does not achieve the desired result, it is always possible to stop. But that could prove dangerous: the masking effect of the injected particles would disappear, causing a rapid rise in temperatures. This so-called termination shock would be a nightmare scenario.

Africans see how their continent is being used as a testing ground for these dangerous technologies. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, the argument goes, and thus would benefit the most from geoengineering. In fact, Africans have the most to lose from failed geoengineering technologies.

Furthermore, disagreements over the use of SRM could exacerbate geopolitical conflicts and even trigger wars. And, given that geoengineering technologies are largely promoted by US-based interests and institutions funded by tech billionaires, African countries have good reason to fear that they would have little to no say in decisions about their deployment.

In addition to concerns about security and equity, geoengineering raises serious ethical questions. SRM and other related technologies appeal to those who repudiate the need for rapid, transformative societal change to limit global warming. Even entertaining this fantasy could become a dangerous distraction, especially as it gains traction as a tactic of delay for the fossil-fuel industry.

That is why African countries - together with Mexico, Colombia, Fiji, and Vanuatu - pushed back forcefully against Switzerland's solar-geoengineering resolution at the UNEA, arguing that research has already demonstrated the catastrophic risks. They advocated for the UNEA to reaffirm a precautionary approach to these speculative technologies and to acknowledge the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment's call for a non-use agreement - a pioneering decision taken in August 2023. But the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Japan opposed this. Given the lack of consensus, Switzerland was forced to withdraw its resolution.

The negotiations underscored the importance of the call for the International Non-Use Agreement on Solar Geoengineering, an initiative that has been endorsed by more than 500 scholars and backed by almost 2,000 civil-society groups. The agreement concludes that because solar geoengineering poses unacceptable risks and is inherently ungovernable, countries must reject outdoor experimentation, patents, public funding, or deployment of the technology.

The international community should adopt a strict ban on solar geoengineering, as it has done for human cloning and chemical weapons, and it must do so before the technology is commercialized. In fact, governments agreed to a de facto moratorium on geoengineering under the Convention on Biological Diversity more than a decade ago. The Non-Use Agreement would further reinforce this prohibition.

But it is not enough to resist dangerous distractions like SRM. Addressing the climate crisis requires a razor-sharp focus on real solutions and South-South cooperation. Two of us, as part of the Independent Expert Group on Just Transition and Development, recently outlined how African countries can pursue an effective climate and development agenda - and how efforts such as the Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative could support this. Likewise, the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, a binding plan to phase out oil, gas, and coal rapidly and equitably, is gaining momentum. We anticipate and welcome a wave of countries joining Colombia, Fiji, and Vanuatu in simultaneously championing the International Non-Use Agreement on Solar Geoengineering and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson,
Oleg Ustenko

Russian Revisionism and the Sources of Western Weakness

WASHINGTON, DC/KYIV - Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine at the end of February 2022 marked the start of a new geopolitical epoch. Following the end of the Cold War in 1989-91, it was widely agreed that European countries would no longer invade each other. Too many wars over too many centuries had shown that promoting trade and investment is a much better way to build and sustain prosperity. By launching a war of aggression, Russia flagrantly violated that understanding, killing and wounding tens of thousands of civilians in the process.

Russia is huge in geographic terms, but its economy is tiny relative to the economies of the West, with GDP amounting to just \$2 trillion, compared to over \$27 trillion in the US and nearly \$20 trillion in the European Union. Including the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Australia, the Russian economy is perhaps one-thirtieth the size of the economies which proclaim strong support for Ukraine (\$2 trillion versus \$60 trillion). And Russia has benefited greatly from its trade and investment links with Europe and other industrial democracies in recent decades.

Given this, why have Western economic sanctions proved unable to stop Russia's illegal aggression? What, if anything, can be done to make them more effective?

The advanced economies of the G7 and the EU have three obvious problems: dependence on oil, an unwillingness to confront China, and the moral poverty of some business leaders. But there is a deeper weakness - politicians' unwillingness to do anything that would impose economic costs on their own citizens. This is not lost on Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Unless the West toughens up soon, it should expect a lot more trouble.

The oil problem is easy to understand. Russia exports about 7.5 million barrels of oil per day to a world that consumes just over 100 million barrels per day. If this oil was suddenly withdrawn from the world market (or if Russian oil exports fell sharply), energy prices would rise substantially - and Putin might actually get more revenue (depending on how much the price rose as the volume fell). In response, the G7 imposed a price cap of \$60 on Russian oil exports.

This was a clever improvisation, which has squeezed Russian revenue while keeping the oil flowing. But there has not been enough follow up. In particular, there needs to be much stricter enforcement, which includes punishing shipping companies and anyone else who helps Russia earn more than the cap allows. Effective enforcement combined with lowering the cap, for example to \$30 per barrel, would decisively cut Russian revenue.

The China problem is also hiding in plain sight. Without Xi's continued diplomatic and trade support, Putin's regime could not survive. China supplies critical military and civilian inputs to the Russian economy and imports more than two million barrels of oil per day from Russia; if it wanted to, it could buy all of Russia's daily output (China's total oil imports are over 11 million barrels per day).

But, because Russia's entire economy is about half the size of China's exports, China must continue to sell to the world, which means selling to the West. In fact, industrial democracies allied with Ukraine account for about 70% of China's potential overseas markets. By continuing to trade with China, as if nothing were happening, the West is implicitly allowing Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine to continue.

The third problem is Western business leaders. Some withdrew from Russia as soon as the invasion began. But others have remained and now dig in their heels. As the CEO of SLB (the world's biggest oilfield services company) said recently, "We are protecting our assets, that's our priority. We are protecting our people." By which he means there are no plans to exit Russia despite Putin's continuing atrocities in Ukraine. This immoral attitude is helping to destabilize the world.

The West should obviously lower the oil-price cap (and improve enforcement), put greater pressure on China, and tighten sanctions (and the associated penalties) on its own companies. Some efforts, including increased scrutiny of Indian companies refining Russian oil shipped by sanctioned companies, are producing results. But the pro-Ukraine coalition is not doing more because too many political leaders are afraid of imposing any cost on their own voters.

This failure of political will is a major structural weakness that resembles the attitude of British and American policy during the 1930s. As long as Germany threatened other countries, the government of Neville Chamberlain was willing to acquiesce to whatever Hitler wanted. And with its prevailing isolationist sentiment, the US refused to get involved.

North Korea, Iran, and other aggressive autocratic regimes and organizations are allying themselves ever more closely with Russia. Now the world must confront a "cartel of aggression" that has common interests, deepening trade relations, and shared methods of repression. If Russia's effort to revise the post-Cold War geopolitical order is bearing fruit, the West has only itself to blame.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How Gov't kills local businesses in Liberia

Monday, March 4, 2024:-Ideally, business failure means a company ceasing operations because of its inability to make a profit or to generate enough revenue to cover its expenses. Equally so, a profitable business can fail if it does not generate adequate cash flow to meet expenses.

In Liberia, the failure of businesses is not only the presence of the conditions listed above but lack of government support is the main reason why businesses failed here. The country's dual currency regime, tax incentives, and laws protecting investments make it an appealing destination for investors.

However, political interests, corruption, and the country's weak legal system influenced by government actors continue to kill off small businesses and some foreign investments.

Ideally, to grow their economies, countries put in place regulations and laws to protect local industries, small businesses, and or indigenous businesses which are the engines of economic growth in any society, but in Liberia, those laws and regulations only exist on the books, while politically motivated interests take precedent.

The Liberian government on paper appears to put in place some protective clog for indigenous businesses, but in practice, government actors are the canker worms that undermine these indigenous businesses for their selfish interests or kickbacks.

Take for example the Liberianization policy which reserved certain businesses for Liberians only. There are sixteen businesses exclusively reserved for Liberians. Those businesses are Supply of sand, Block making, Peddling, Travel agencies, Retail sale of rice and cement, Ice making and sale of ice, Tire repair shops, Auto repair shops with an investment of less than USD 550,000, Shoe repair shops, Retail sale of timber and planks.

The rest are the Operation of gas stations, Video clubs, Operation of taxis, Importation, or sale of second-hand or used clothing, Distribution in Liberia of locally manufactured products, and the Importation and sale of used cars (except authorized dealerships, which may deal in certified used vehicles of their make.

The reason for these exclusive reserves is to protect Liberians from competing with foreign investors in these sectors so that they do not become spectators in their own country due to the belief that the foreign investors who are mostly Indians and Lebanese have financial capacity as compared to the Liberian businessman or woman. Unfortunately, these exclusive businesses are being taken over by foreigners authorized by government agencies and ministries who grant them such licenses to operate, thereby pushing Liberians off their businesses.

A typical example is the supply of sand or sand mining. Today, the Chinese are supplying sand and crushed rocks all over the place with the blessing from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, while Liberians who once spearheaded this supply chain are now at the beg and calls of the Chinese who are siphoning millions of US Dollars out of the country.

A ten-tyre load of sand that was once sold between US60 to 75 USD is now being sold for between US 250 and US300, making it difficult for a poor man to build a concrete house.

Not only are the Chinese engaging in sand and crushed rocks supplies, but they are also into block making as well. These are proudly patronized by not just government officials but even government agencies as well during construction.

Next comes the Lebanese and Indians who are into retailing almost everything from used clothing to rice and cement. As if that was not enough, the Lebanese now control the auto repair industries with their garages on every street corner.

But these are supposed to be businesses reserved by laws for Liberians. However, these are the very businesses government officials will patronize over Liberian ones. In the Printing industry, for example, the Liberia Revenue Agency and other revenue-collecting agencies will squeeze taxes out of these businesses just to pay government officials.

In return, these government officials and agencies take their printing contracts to Ghana and China to businesses that pay no dime in taxes to the Liberian government.

The Liberian businesses are not alone. Policies to protect local industries and promote manufacturing are lacking and if they exist, the laws protecting them are weak. Yet government will want you to believe that it is bent taking the economy from being import-driven to consuming locally manufactured goods.

The rubber industry is a good example. Last year, former President George Weah, like his predecessor, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf put a moratorium on the exportation of unprocessed rubber.

The aim is to ensure that local rubber manufacturing companies here whose existence depends on unprocessed rubber have the supply to continue doing business.

As good as this intention is, the possibility of it being revoked to satisfy just a few political interests over the greater good of the country's economy is most likely. The question then is how can the country grow its local industries when raw materials needed are being allowed to be sold to companies operating outside of its borders with no Liberian in their employ.

Until, the new administration, takes an inner look, and puts in place appropriate policies that stop the killing of Liberian businesses and prioritize the same, the Liberian economy is bound to be stagnant forever.

COMMENTARY

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

NO WALK THE TALK AGAIN

The big problem of No Walk The Talk is still on. There is plenty of talk about the export of processed rubber. But this is "just talk" rather than Walk The Talk. This Commentary is not an April Fool's joke. It is about helping to solve the real problem.

Let us remember that this Walk No Talk problem is driven by persons who are money-driven. This problem comes up all the time when these money-driven persons are looking for more money. When a new State regime emerges, these money-driven persons come out as experts, having served as advisors to previous State regimes. The media institutions enjoy such because they create sensational stories to sell more their newspapers.

But the selling of more newspapers creates the opportunity to raise awareness to say that all of this plenty talk does not solve the problem. The problem is solved by doing not by talking. Clearly, the plenty talking shows that it is not about solving the problem because when the problem is solved, more money stops flowing into their greedy pockets. Da day way a eh na!

In the plenty talking, do you read or hear anything about stopping the export of raw materials to engage in local manufacturing that promotes local ownership, employment, production and sales for income generation and poverty reduction? No and a big no! And this is no April Fool's joke! The promotion of local manufacturing with the prioritization of Value Addition places the highest value on the Liberian Human Resource rather than the natural or financial resource.

With no prioritization of the Liberian human resource, the prioritization of the export of raw materials continues on the basis of dependance on the profit maximization manoeuvres of the World Bank and the IMF, not forgetting the other State foreign partners, like the African Development Bank (ADB), who continue to give loans and grants, even budget support funds.

Most fortunately, people who love Liberian have found the way to solve societal problems. And these problems are being solved through the Rule of Law, because the rule of outlaw, with its attendant violence is not the solution. The solution is found in the awareness raising that transforms the prevailing unfair electoral system into the enduring fair electoral system. It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)
MONTERRADO COUNTY)

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW
COURT ANNEX FOR MONTERRADO
COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS
MARCH TERM, 2024

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

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

VERSUS

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

**ACTION :
DAMAGES FOR
WRONG**

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO: THE SHERIFF FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY OR
HIS/HER DEPUTYGREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO NOTIFY THE PARTIES AND/OR THEIR LEGAL
COUNSEL(S) IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE OF ACTION TO APPEAR BEFORE
THE CIVIL LAW COURT ANNEX, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO
COUNTY, LIBERIA ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024, AT 10:00AM FOR TRIAL.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED TO MAKE YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS
ENDORSED AT THE BACK OF SAID NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT ON OR BEFORE THE
ABOVE MENTIONED DATE.

AND HAVE YOU THERE THIS NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF
THIS HONORABLE COURT THIS 25TH DAY
OF MARCH A.D. 2024

COURT'S SEAL:

ALFRED N. MORRIS
CLERK OF COURT/CIVIL LAW COURT ANNEX

ATTY. JOSEPH N. DOE/ CLLR. FESTUS NOWON
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

GRACE B. MINOR FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HERSELF
DEFENDANT

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

National agricultural development agenda proposed

The proposed National Agricultural Development Agenda seeks to guide the agricultural sector's trajectory over the next six years.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, April 2, 2023: The Ministry of Agriculture under the leadership of Mr. J. Alexander Nuetah, has proposed a National Agricultural Development

The proposed National Agricultural Development Agenda which is currently in formulation with technical assistance from partners seeks to guide the agricultural sector's trajectory over the next six years. Within the

outlined specific initiatives. They include food crops: allocation of 50,000 hectares for rice production, 20,000 hectares for mechanized cassava production, and 2,000 hectares for mechanized vegetable production. For tree crops, it is proposed to have provision of 10,000 hectares for small cocoa farms, 15,000 hectares for smallholder coffee farms, 5,000 hectares for smallholder cashew nut farmers, and establishment of 12,000 hectares of smallholder coconut farms in coastal counties.

Regarding fruit crops, it is proposed to develop 5,000 hectares of smallholder avocado farms, 7,500 hectares of citrus farms, and 200 hectares of smallholder papaya farms.

For livestock, the Ministry also proposed the revamping of cattle ranges nationwide, support for the establishment of poultry farms, and development programs for goat, sheep, and pig rearing. To achieve the NADP, Minister Nuetah stressed the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, including the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), to effectively administer the sector and conduct research.

Furthermore, he called for the promotion of agriculture



Agenda (NADP), aiming to address challenges amid budgetary constraints.

The agriculture minister highlighted the pressing need for human resource capacity and increased budgetary support to propel the agricultural sector forward during a press briefing Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at the Ministry of Information.

framework of the NADP, Minister Nuetah disclosed that the country will adopt a value chain approach to develop agriculture products including food crops, tree crops, fruit crops, livestock, and fisheries, among others.

In delineating the ambitious plans within the NADP framework, Minister Nuetah

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Senate names Defense and Judicial Committees as most productive

The leadership of the Liberian Senate says it recognizes the Senate Committee on Defense and Judiciary as the most productive committees.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, April 3, 2024: Liberian Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has named the Committees on Defense, Security, Intelligence and Veteran Affairs and Judiciary, Claims and Petitions as the most productive committees during the first quarter of that August body.

Since County Senator Cllr. Augustine S. Chea chairs the Judicial Committee, while Lofa County Senator Momo Cyrus chairs the Defense Committee.

Pro-Tempore Karnga-Lawrence named the two committees on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 while delivering a special statement to the Senate plenary.

Addressing legislative reporters at his Capitol Building Office, Senator Syrus thanked the Pro-Tempore for her farsightedness and recognition of the Defense and Security Committee. The Lofa

County Senator expressed gratitude to the leadership of the Liberian Senate for naming the Committee on Defense and Security which he chairs as the most productive committee during the first quarter of the Senate.

Senator Cyrus also recognized the joint efforts of all 15 members on the committee for their support and coordination to his leadership.

"I also want to thank my

office staff; my ... Chief of Staff, my Research Officer and all of my office staff for the support given to this committee," he said.

Mr. Cyrus explained that he was elected by the people of his county to work with passion in their interest and the country.

He added that the recognition is a clear demonstration of his commitment, dedication, and

▶ CONT'D page 11



WSR holds 3 days' dialogue

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 3, 2024 - Liberian women dialogue on political mediation and peace.

The Women Situation Room (WSR) of Liberia with funding support from the United Nations Peace Building Fund and UNDP has begun three days post-election forum on Women Political Mediation and Peace Dialogue, for female law enforcement officers, female politicians and other prominent women in the country.

Giving an overview of the dialogue at in the Cecil Dennis Auditorium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here Tuesday, April 2, 2024, former foreign minister now board chair of the Angie Brooks International Center, Olubanke King-Akerele said, the exercise is intended for women in politics and those in law enforcement alongside prominent women to reflect on

Elections Commission (NEC) and international participants, something she says will be but very exciting.

"What were the problems with the financing and those who didn't win? What happened, who will have the Senate will be there. Others who tried and got problem, they will also talk, so all of this is the backdrop to what this is about when we say before, during and after. This is the after you Okay, so that's the backdrop of what this is all about."

The WSR is a flagship initiative of the Angie Brooks International Center started in Liberia as a direct intervention by women in collaboration with youth to mitigate threat and incident of violence the country has faced during the past elections.

The dialogue is being held under the theme: "Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia - the Women Situation Room." Sharing her



challenges they encountered during the 2023 election, and share their experiences. "As you know, the board of coach in terms of the women's situation room, our scholarship portion, before, during and after, you have interacted with us before and during what we do is what we are involved in is what you call the after, where we ask ourselves what happened at various levels we want to hear so we can see how we can improve the next round, even though the actual general elections are next six years down the road, but we have a series of intermediates" Madam Akerele said.

According to her, opening session of the dialogue primarily focuses on media and security, followed by youth, the disaffected, the soulless, first time voters, the young people, how they were involved, how political parties used them.

She added that the WSR is primarily focusing on lessons learnt, and that the third day will involve supporters of the program, officers of the National

thought on challenges the Joint Security faced during the 2023 election, Cllr. Asatu Bah Kenneh, National Coordinator of Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association or LIFLEA, cited lack of vehicles, poor coordination as major challenges faced during the polls.

Cllr. Kenneh, also former deputy commissioner general of the Liberia Immigration Service stressed lack of communication, rapid respond, selectiveness in assigning female officers, vulnerable polling places where they never saw presence of security officers, among others. "There was also overlapping of functions and all these things caused challenges during the just-ended elections", she observed.

The publisher of the Women Voices Newspaper, Helena Nah Sammy, said the media is crippled with too many false and misinformation especially, the social media, something she believes pose huge challenges to the media landscape.

She told the audience that at her

▶ CONT'D page 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA to launch tax inspectors without borders program

[Monrovia, Tuesday, April 2, 2024]: The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) is set to host a one-day High-level Hybrid launch of the OECD/UNDP Tax Inspectors Without Borders for Criminal Investigations (TIWB-CI) program on Thursday, April 4th, at its headquarters in Paynesville.

The TIWB-CI program, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and

comprehensive framework to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of tax crime investigation practices.

In concert with various law enforcement agencies and competent authorities, including the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Ministry of Justice, and Financial Intelligence Unit, the LRA endeavors to foster robust inter-agency collaboration, enhancing the nation's capacity for tax crime investigations.

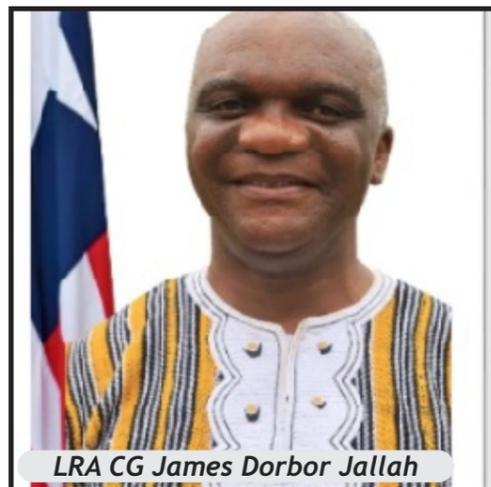
During Thursday's launch, LRA Commissioner General James Dorbor Jallah will indicate the LRA's commitments to the TIWB-CI project and its pivotal role in empowering Liberia to combat illicit financial activities, thereby bolstering domestic resource mobilization endeavors. The hybrid format of the event will enable both local and international participants, including domestic law enforcement and financial crimes agencies in Liberia, to participate either in-person at

the LRA premises or via Zoom, facilitated by the OECD.

Following the launch, an introductory session will convene for all participants, wherein the OECD will acquaint them with the TIWB-CI program, its objectives, and the forthcoming self-assessment workshop scheduled for the following week. Slated to take place from the 8th to the 11th of April 2024 in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, this workshop assumes paramount significance in fortifying the requisite capacity for effective tax crime investigations. It underscores our unwavering commitment to combat tax crimes effectively and foster international cooperation through the OECD and UNDP partnership.

Facilitated by Olivia Okello, boasting extensive experience in criminal investigations and intelligence garnered from the Kenya Revenue Authority, the workshop will further endeavor to evaluate Liberia's tax crime regime, representing the nation's active engagement in the joint OECD-UNDP TIWB-CI.

The TIWB-CI program, tailored to provide technical assistance, aims to fortify jurisdictions' tax crime frameworks and expedite the resolution of tax crime cases, including through real-time support on intricate investigations.



LRA CG James Dorbor Jallah

Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), aims to bolster the capacity of tax administrations in tackling tax crimes through the dissemination of knowledge and best practices.

According to a press release, central to this initiative is a self-assessment exercise employing the OECD Tax Crime Investigation Maturity Model (Maturity Model), offering a

Margibi District#4 gets yellow nachine

-Lawmaker urges colleagues to lead by legacy

Margibi, Liberia, April 3, 2024 - Lawmakers urges colleagues to lead by legacy after dedication of yellow machine to his district.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr
Margibi County District #4 Representative Emmanuel O. Yarh is seriously calling on his colleague lawmakers and Liberians in general to lead with legacy.

Over the weekend while presenting a new Lovol FL 936H yellow machine to the district, Rep. Yarh said leaders should be missed for something when they are no longer on the stage of leadership. "12 years, 6 years, 18 years, what can you boast of? You have to live with people with legacy", he said.

The dedicatory ceremony brought together local leaders in and out of the district, China Union, religious communities, his supporters, representatives of some lawmakers in the county and others. The machine, according to the lawmaker, was purchased before he took seat at the Legislature at a cost of US\$67,000 from a renowned

company that has operated in Liberia for years.

He stated that on the basis of the need he saw for road connectivity in the district during the campaign, he thought to start to tackle the problem as soon as possible.

Rep. Yarh also said the machine is not just limited to Margibi District# 4 that he represents, but other parts of the county.

He also disclaimed information related to the machine that it was given to him by China Union, as he invited the company to speak to the information.

The Public Relations Officer of China Union Morris Tate clarified that the company didn't give the machine to the lawmaker, dismissing such information as untrue. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Bishop Brown underscores rule of law

Bong County, Liberia, April 3, 2024 -Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown emphasizes adherence to rule of law to achieve reconciliation.

By Naneka A. Hoffman
The general overseer of the New Water in the Desert Apostolic Pentecostal Church here, Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown says if Liberia must move forward, there has to be reconciliation and rule of law.

He said without application of rule by law that will require those who committed atrocities against Liberians during the country's fourteen years bloody civil crisis to apologize to their victims, there will never be reconciliation.

He noted there is too much cry amongst the citizenry due to lack of application of the rule of law. Speaking with reporters over the weekend in Gbatata, Bong County,

Bishop Brown said application of rule of law should not be selective if total political reconciliation must be returned to the country.

He appealed to the Unity Party-led government and politicians in the country to improve on gains made by previous governments to move Liberia forward.

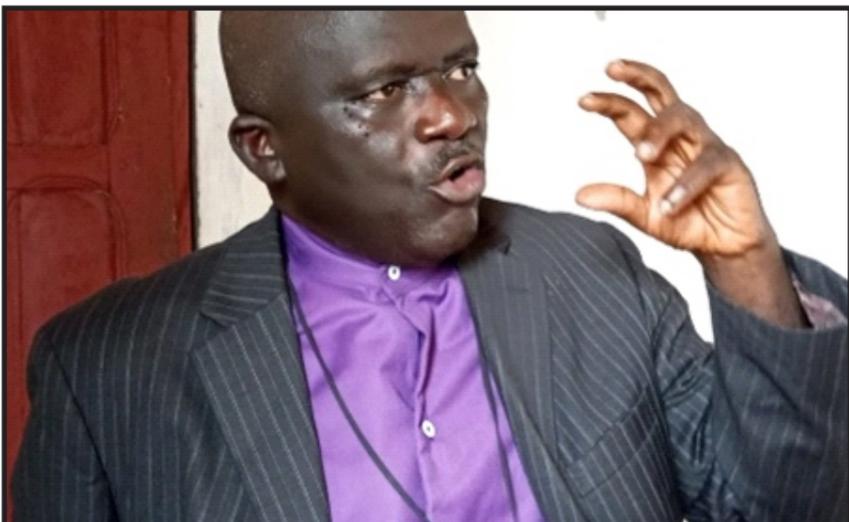
engaging projects only during electioneering period.

He stressed that projects should not be politically driven but bent on helping ordinary citizens.

He noted that citizens are confronted with numerous challenges across the country, so national leaders should double their efforts in addressing some of those challenges to ease the suffering of the people.

Meanwhile, the New Water in the Desert Apostolic Pentecostal Church has intensified its Hearing Healthcare campaign in Gbatata, Bong County, ahead of the church's annual conference next month in Monrovia.

The initiative which is implemented by its relief arm, Church Aid Incorporated, screened and tested several persons in Gbatata, who have suffered from hearing impairments over the years. About twenty persons were screened and treated during the exercise, among them ten persons need to obtain Hearing aid to restore normal hearing once again, while one person was restored immediately.



According to him, every government one way and the other made some gains in the country despite the challenges confronting citizens, so they deserve commendation from the citizenry. At the same time he criticized politicians who served their respective constituents and counties for twelve to eighteen years and above without any impact on the people they served something, he described as shame and embarrassing.

Bishop Kortu Brown challenged every Liberian, including politicians to focus on i

initiative that will help move the country forward, instead of

Bishop Brown revealed that his team will take the initiative to Bomi County this week to screen and test people who have some hearing problems. Meanwhile, Miss Zouwroh Partuah, a beneficiary whose hearing was restored, lauded the church for the exercise. She narrated that since she became to know herself, she had never used her left ear to hear but through the help of God, the Church restored her hearing. Miss Partuah, a resident of Plebe, Bong County, extended thanks and appreciation to Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown for thinking of people who have suffered from hearing impairment across the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 7 Senate names Defense and Judicial

love for the country. The lawmaker indicated that he has just entered the Liberian Senate and in the period of at least of four months. He, however, said he was shocked that a very key committee he chairs has bagged such an award from the leadership of Pro-Tempore Kargala-Lawrence.

"I want to give this appreciation to God, my family, my wife and kids who have continued to support me in my sojourn as the Senator of Lofa County and Chairman of the Committee on National Defense and Security," he added.

At the same time, Senator Cyrus has promised to serve with diligence for the people of Lofa

Français

Les gens du Nimba s'abattent sur le vice-président Koung

Le vice-président du Libéria, Jeremiah Kpan Koung, est critiqué par ses proches pour des promesses de campagne non tenues.

Des citoyens déçus ont déclaré aux journalistes que depuis qu'ils ont élu Koung d'abord à la Chambre puis au Sénat, où il a passé trois ans avant de devenir vice-président, il n'a jamais terminé aucun

projet. Cela les a encouragés à soutenir son rêve pour le Sénat, mais après son élection en tant que sénateur, ces projets n'ont jamais vu le jour.

Deux citoyens déçus, Emmanuel Suah et Ericson Dahn, ont qualifié ces projets de promesses de campagne que l'ancien sénateur, aujourd'hui vice-président Koung, avait utilisées pour tromper les Nimbaïens en votant pour lui.

Ils ont spécifiquement mentionné les écoles élémentaires et les cliniques proposées que l'ancien législateur aurait dû construire après avoir posé la première pierre il y a plus de six ans, notamment des ponts, une salle communautaire, une maison d'attente maternelle et des théâtres.

Cependant, en répondant aux préoccupations des citoyens lorsqu'il est apparu sur une station de radio communautaire du comté, le chef de cabinet du vice-président, Prince Mankalo Gbieu, a annoncé que ces projets débuteraient bientôt et seraient menés à terme.

Prince a assuré que le vice-président Koung est déterminé à mener à bien chaque projet qu'il a initié.



Jeremiah Kpan Koung a été critiqué par les habitants de Nimba pour avoir apparemment abandonné plusieurs projets dans le comté lorsqu'il était membre du législatif.

projet qu'il avait initié.

Ils ont cité deux projets scolaires qu'il avait prévus lorsqu'il était à la Chambre et qui n'ont jamais vu le jour. Ensuite, il est allé au Sénat, où il aurait posé la première pierre de la

La BCL confirme la prolongation du retrait d'espèces

La prolongation du délai de retrait des anciens billets de banque libériens est rendue nécessaire par plusieurs facteurs, notamment les conditions routières difficiles et les précédentes élections présidentielles et législatives.

La Banque Centrale du Libéria (BCL) a annoncé la prolongation du délai du 31 mars 2024 pour l'échange de devises de six semaines, jusqu'au 15 mai 2024.

Selon un communiqué de presse publié le lundi 1er avril 2024, le Conseil des gouverneurs de la BCL, lors de sa réunion d'urgence tenue le vendredi 29 mars 2024, a décidé de prolonger le délai de cessation de la validité légale des anciens billets de banque.

Il a été indiqué que le Conseil des gouverneurs de la BCL a décidé de poursuivre l'exercice d'échange par l'intermédiaire des banques commerciales et des Institutions Financières des Communautés Rurales (IFCR).

"Malgré les progrès réalisés, la date limite du 31 mars a été impactée par plusieurs facteurs, notamment les conditions routières difficiles dans les comtés du Sud-Est et du comté de Lofa", indique le

communiqué.

Il ajoute que d'autres facteurs ont inclus les élections présidentielles et législatives, l'intensité du second tour de l'élection présidentielle et le processus de transition.

Selon le communiqué, la Banque était prudente quant au déplacement de l'argent à travers le pays pendant ces situations.

Il est précisé que la prolongation signifie que l'ancienne monnaie, connue sous le nom de Séries Libériennes 1 ou LS1 et Séries Libériennes 2 ou LS2, imprimée avant 2021, reste un moyen de paiement légal jusqu'au 15 mai 2024 et peut être utilisée pour acheter des biens et payer

des services au Libéria.

Après la nouvelle date limite, la BCL a déclaré que les anciens billets de banque ne seront plus acceptés pour échange dans aucune banque commerciale et IFCR. L'exercice d'échange se poursuivra uniquement dans les installations de la BCL à travers le pays.

"La BCL exhorte donc le public à profiter de cette prolongation pour échanger leurs anciens billets de banque et appelle la communauté des affaires à continuer à accepter les anciens billets de banque et à les déposer dans les banques commerciales et les IFCR en échange de la nouvelle

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Éditorial

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 Libéria a semé la panique chez les Libériens", le NEW DAWN a appris de source sûre que les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria 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

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La BCL confirme

monnaie", note le communiqué.

Pendant ce temps, la Banque a exprimé sa reconnaissance à tous les intervenants, et plus particulièrement à l'Exécutif et au Législatif, pour leur soutien dans cette entreprise nationale.

"La Banque compte sur la pleine coopération du public avec cette nouvelle date limite pour assurer l'achèvement réussi de cet exercice", indique le communiqué.

Le programme national de retrait des anciens billets de banque du marché a été lancé avant les récentes élections législatives et présidentielles.

Mais l'exercice a connu quelques retards en raison des élections, ainsi que des mauvaises conditions routières.

Ce lundi, ce journal a rapporté que les autorités de la BCL étaient sur le point de demander l'approbation du Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai pour prolonger l'exercice de retrait d'espèces en cours à travers le pays.

La BCL a commencé le 22 octobre 2022 la campagne nationale de remplacement des anciens billets de banque et pièces de monnaie par la nouvelle famille de billets de banque et de pièces de monnaie.

Conformément au mandat de la 54e législature, l'initiative a été lancée pour être menée à bien par l'intermédiaire des banques commerciales et

d'autres institutions financières réglementées afin de récupérer les anciens billets de banque.

En juillet 2023, les autorités ont fixé la date limite du 31 mars 2024 pour la cessation de la validité légale des anciens billets de banque.

En cours de route, certaines activités nationales majeures, notamment les élections, les transitions présidentielles et les mauvaises conditions routières, semblent avoir eu un impact sur le calendrier établi pour le retrait d'espèces à travers le pays.

Malgré les défis, ce journal a appris que la BCL a récupéré de manière significative une grande partie de ses anciens billets de banque ciblés, mais qu'il reste un volume important d'anciens billets de banque en circulation.

Ces dernières semaines, certains membres du public ont exprimé des préoccupations quant à leur incapacité à respecter la date limite du 31 mars fixée par la BCL en raison de leur situation dans des endroits éloignés et de l'absence de banques commerciales.

Le journal NewDawn a appris que la BCL a pris en compte ces préoccupations du public et voulait que le Président Boakai approuve une prolongation de l'exercice.

Par le biais d'une résolution conjointe en 2021, la 54e législature a autorisé la BCL à imprimer et à frapper une nouvelle famille de monnaie d'une valeur de LS48,734,000,000.00 sur la base de la demande de la Banque.

Le Groupe de Justice Internationale (GJI) salue les actions législatives concernant la cour des crimes de guerre

La Chambre des Représentants a signé une résolution pour la mise en place d'une cour des crimes de guerre et économiques et a envoyé l'instrument au Sénat libérien pour action.

Monrovia, le 2 avril 2024 : Le Groupe de Justice Internationale (GJI) a reconnu les actions législatives entreprises en vue de la création de la Cour des Crimes de Guerre et Économiques (CCGE) du Libéria.

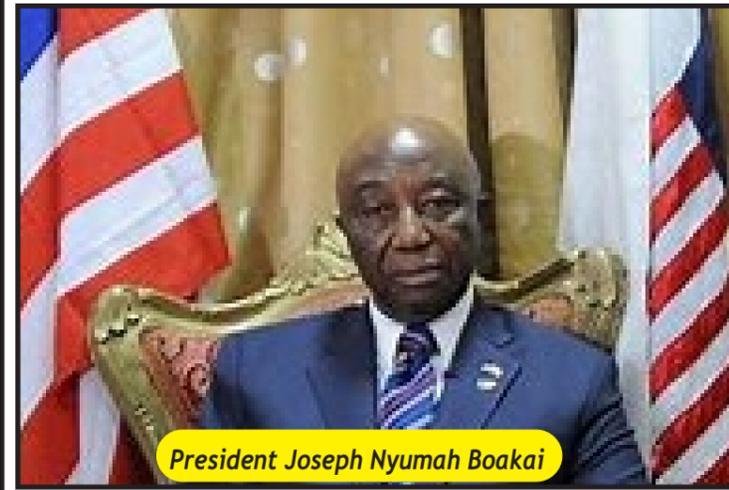
Cependant, le GJI a encouragé l'exécutif à être plus proactif dans la pleine mise en œuvre de toutes les recommandations de feu la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR).

Selon un communiqué, le GJI a appelé le Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à honorer son engagement envers l'établissement de la CCGE dans l'intérêt de la justice et de l'État de droit. Le GJI a noté qu'il s'est écoulé près de quinze ans depuis la présentation du rapport de la CVR, et que les administrations précédentes ont fait quelques avancées, bien que sans reconnaissance explicite des recommandations de la CVR. En tant que doyen de

la nation et icône de la lutte contre la corruption et l'État de droit depuis de nombreuses années, le GJI a appelé le Président Boakai à honorer l'engagement d'établir la cour. "Près de quinze (15) ans se sont écoulés depuis que la CVR a présenté son rapport final au gouvernement libérien et que deux administrations précédentes ont échoué à faire des efforts conscients pour mettre en œuvre ces recommandations ou à faire le moindre progrès", indique le communiqué.

Bien que les administrations précédentes aient pris des mesures pour incorporer certains aspects des recommandations, a déclaré le GJI, il semble nécessaire de reconnaître explicitement et de se consacrer à la réconciliation, à la bonne gouvernance et aux objectifs de paix énoncés dans le rapport de la CVR. Il a ajouté que l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a lancé à la fois des programmes de vision nationale et de décentralisation, tandis que le président sortant George Weah a mis en œuvre une loi sur la double citoyenneté, une loi sur les lanceurs d'alerte et la dépenalisation.

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 Américano-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 Américano-Libériens.

"Le gouvernement d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf était pour les Américano-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'initiative 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 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, 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.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Perception of Corruption in the Liberian Society: An Opinion Poll.

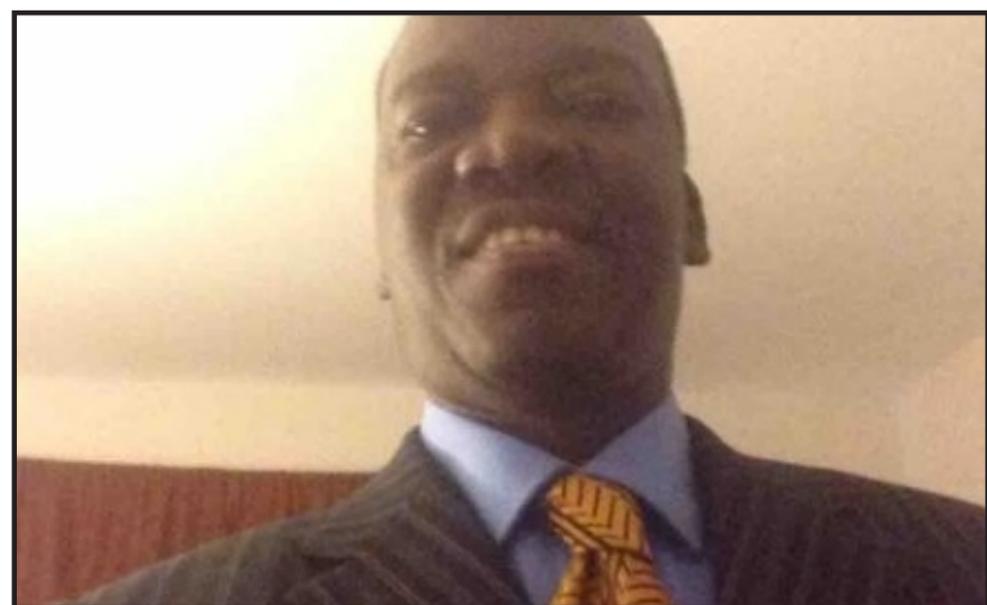
Author's Comments

We are grateful to everyone who responded to the online survey and/or shared the link with other participants. Perceptions change over time, so we intend to conduct future surveys. We appeal that you kindly assist us whenever we send out a new link. Your participation is important; your views could affect policy decisions in our society. Please note that our surveys are anonymous; we cannot trace your response back to you.

Introduction

The author created this anonymous survey to collect information about perceptions of corruption in the Liberian society. We distributed the Google-form survey online (via WhatsApp and Facebook) between February 22nd and March 24th, 2024.

In earlier surveys, we examined citizens' views on the audit of the previous government, human rights, and service in government (<https://www.liberianobserver.com/liberia-priorities-new-liberian-government-opinion-poll>). We also examine perceptions of the free tuition policy and early opinions of the new government (<https://thenewdawnliberia.com/liberians-perception-of-the-free-tuition-policy-and-views-of-the-incoming-government-an-opinion-poll/?fbclid=IwAR08D4xmHb55Ks0kYJ1tf7zzE3PKgooMXTeuCChdSL-NVAMTsIOu9ScQcfU>).



Limitations

Before presenting the findings, here are limitations: (1) Citizens' perception is a fluid measure that can change over time depending on prevailing circumstances. The result of the survey reflects current perceptions and could be vastly different in days, weeks, or months from now. (2) The analysis is based on self-reported information. It is quite possible that some respondents did not share their true feelings but provided a socially desirable response. (4) The study used a convenience sample. It is likely that this sample is not truly representative of the population.

Demographics

The survey had 634 respondents. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the respondents were university students, while the rest (52%) were not students (referred to as other members of the society).

Of the university students who responded to the survey, the majority (60%) attended a public university (e.g., the University of Liberia), while the rest (40%) attended private universities. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the university students were females, and 26% were males. Members of the society reported the following as their highest level of education: 5% attended high school but did not graduate, 5% were high school graduates, 50% earned a bachelor's degree, 30% earned a master's degree, and 10% earned a doctorate. Sixty percent (60%) were males, while 40% were females.

Findings

Corruption in Education

This survey section was answered only by respondents who identified as students. When asked if they have experienced corruption, most students (57%) reported they paid an instructor at least once (22% reported one time; 28% reported 2 to 5 times; 7% reported more than five times) to pass a course. Forty-three percent (43%) of the students indicated they never paid an instructor to pass a course. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the students indicated they were forced to pay for pamphlets or course materials at least once (32% reported once, 21% reported 2 to 5 times, and 31% more than five times) to pass a course. Sixteen percent (16%) indicated they were not forced to buy educational supplements.

Students attending public universities (64%) were more likely to report they paid an instructor to pass a course than students attending private universities (44%). Additionally,

all students attending public universities (100%) reported they were forced to pay for a pamphlet or course material to pass. In comparison, 44% of the students attending private universities reported having a similar experience.

Female Students

Forty-three percent (43%) of female students indicated they felt pressured at least once (15% reported once, 14% reported 2 to 5 times, 14% reported more than five times) to sleep with a male instructor to earn a passing grade. Further, 43% of female students indicated they failed a course or earned a lower grade at least once (15% reported one time, 21% reported 2 to 5 times, and 7% reported more than five times) because they refused to sleep with a male instructor. Conversely, 57% of female students indicated they have never felt pressured to sleep with an instructor or did not earn a lower grade because of sexual advances. Females attending private universities (43%) were almost equally likely to report sexual intimidation as females attending public universities (42%).

Corruption in Larger Society

This section of the survey was answered by respondents who identified as members of the society (respondents who were not students). When asked whether they have been forced to pay more money than required to get service from a government institution during the last year, 55% of respondents reported doing this at least once (10% reported one time, 20% reported 2 to 5 times and 25% reported more than five times). Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents indicated no negative experience with public institutions.

When asked whether they have been forced to pay more money than required to get service from a private institution (e.g., banks, etc.) during the last year, 35% of the respondents reported doing this at least once (20% reported 2 to 5 times and 15% reported more than five times). Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondents indicated they did not have a negative experience with private institutions.

Job Seekers

Seventy-six percent of the members of society stated they tried looking for a job during the last year. Sixty percent (60) of the job seekers were males and 40% were females.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of job seekers reported they were asked to pay a bribe at least once (15% reported one time, 20% reported 2 to 5 times, and 13% reported more than five times) as a precondition for a job. Fifty-three percent (53%) of job seekers indicated they were never asked to pay a bribe as a precondition for a job. Female respondents (51%) were more likely to report being asked to pay a bribe than male respondents (44%). Female Job Seekers While 83% of female job seekers did not report sexual advances from potential male employers, 17% indicated that a potential male employer demanded sexual favors as a precondition to giving them a job.

Corruption Confidence Perception

This section of the survey was answered by all respondents (students and members of the society). Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree) with statements about categories of leaders in the Liberian society.

Thirty-one percent (31%) agreed (23%) or strongly agreed (8%) that their community leaders would not engage in corruption. Forty-six percent (46%) agreed (22%) or strongly agreed (24%) that their immediate family members (parents, children, brothers, and sisters) would not engage in corruption. Of the respondents with a job, 37% agreed (29%) or strongly agreed (8%) that their supervisor would not engage in corruption. Respondents had a lower opinion of their elected representative and senator. Just 18% agreed (10%) or strongly agreed (8%) that their representative would not engage in corruption. Additionally, only 20% agreed (10%) or strongly agreed (10%) that their senator would not engage in corruption.

Respondents had relatively higher opinions of their spiritual leaders (pastors, imams, etc.) and the President. While three percent (3%) indicated they did not have any religious affiliation, 74% agreed (28%) or strongly agreed (46%) that their spiritual leader would not engage in corruption. Over half of the respondents (51%) agreed (33%) or strongly agreed (18%) that the President would not engage in corruption.

About the Author

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War crimes T-shirt disrupts House

Distribution of T-shirts among Lawmakers advocating for war and economic crimes court disrupts a special session of the House here on Tuesday.

By Bridgett Milton

Capitol Hill, Liberia, April 3, 2024 - The first day sitting of the Special Session of the House of

He maintains that it is their duty, as lawmakers, to implement the TRC reports, and they have a department of investigation and monitoring

Koon and District# 7 Representative Emmanuel Dahn, who argued that it should not be passed now because they needed time to go and reach out to their people.

"It will be better you give us at least one week for us to go



Representatives Tuesday, April 2, 2024 was abruptly adjourned over distribution of T-shirts among lawmakers, promoting the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

Members of the 55th Legislature were on April 1, 2024 recalled from their break for a special session that runs from April 1st - 30th, 2024, by President Joseph N. Boakai to discuss or act on matters of national emergency and concern.

But the business that they were called for came to a standstill when some lawmakers began distributing T-shirts to their colleagues in support of a war crimes court, with some chanting "War and Economic Crimes Court is a must!"

After Speaker J. Fonati Koffa could not calm the exuberance of his colleagues, he abruptly adjourned the session.

But the sudden adjournment did not go down well with Nimba county Representative Musa Bility, who thinks it was premature.

Representative Bility notes that they were called back by President Boakai for a special reason and he doesn't know why the Speaker would adjourn the session abruptly without them acting on what they were called for.

Montserrado County district#4 Representative, Michel Thomas, explains that issues of human rights and abuses are concerns already addressed by the Independent National Human Rights Commission, an offspring of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

to honor this obligation.

Thomas reveal the complaint office under this department has been closed to the public for several years, despite many human rights violations seen across the country therefore, he wants Commissioners of the INHRC and head of IMACRO make a presentation before the body.

His of Montserrado county district#10, Representative Yekeh Kolubah, a strong supporter of War and Economic Crimes Court, they will wear the T-shirts for 10 days consecutively until their colleagues from the senate act on a resolution signed by the House, supporting the establishment of the court.

Kolubah notes that there are people who committed heinous crimes in the country and they are moving around freely, underscoring that it is time they pay for what they have done.

Over 40 of the 73 members of the House of Representatives early February passed a resolution for the establishment of a World and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

The proposition coming from the TRC was presented to the 53rd and 54th Legislature on so many occasions but never forwarded to the Senate for action.

After reading of the resolution and Grand Bassa county district #5 Thomas Goshua moved that it be passed and sent to the Liberian Senate for concurrence.

This is didn't go down well with some members of the ruling Unity Party, who did not sign the resolution, including Montserrado County district# 11 Representative Richard

back to our people, who we represent to hear what they have to say on this matter", Rep. Koon requested at the time.

Out of nine Representatives of Nimba County, where warlord-turned politician and evangelist, Senator Prince Johnson hails from, only one Representative, - Taa Wangba signed.

According to the resolution sponsored by Montserrado County district #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah and others, the civil wars from 1989 to 2003 resulted to deaths and destruction across Liberia, including displacement of nearly half of the population, characterized by horrific abuses, summary executions, massacres, rape, and other forms of sexual violence, mutilation, torture and forced conscription and use of child combatants.

The resolution partially reads:

"WHEREAS, Article XIII of the Liberian Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on August 18, 2003, provided for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to provide a forum that will address issues of impunity, as well as an opportunity for both victims and perpetrators of human rights violations to share their experiences in order to get a clear picture of the past to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation; and, WHEREAS, the Liberian legislature enacted the Act to Establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC ACT) in 2005, formally creating the TRC with a mandate to promote national peace, security, unity, and reconciliation by investigating

House Report Anti Investment

to hearing. But the representative said, the report section 14 of the petitioner of the count recommended that Mr. Debar Allen, serving in his capacity as Country Manager, is a recipe for continues resistance from the workers. The committee craves the indulgence to invite Mr. Allen to address himself to it.", he said. In this light, he said, the committee failed to invite Mr. Allen.

But contrary to inviting Mr. Allen, he said, the committee went ahead to recommend his removal and transfer to another

position. According to him, "what if citizens from Grand Bassa one day come out and say all citizens from Grand Cape Mount should not work in Bassa, what will happen? I think this is wrong." He said Mr. Allen should have been invited to address himself to these allegations, but that was not done. More to that, there are visual evidence in their possession that show the protestors saying Mr. Allen should leave because he is a Bassa man.

He considered it as complete xenophobic and does not augur well for the country. He said this report if considered will be serving a bad precedent in the country.

National agricultural development

mechanization, improved farmer access to production technologies, and standardization of agricultural commodity markets.

To address the financial constraints, Minister Nuetah proposed the establishment of an Agricultural Development Bank to facilitate access to finance for value chain development.

The Ministry also revealed that they have launched a cooperative production program for rice and other commodities, including land preparation initiatives benefiting hundreds of people across various regions.

To enhance practical learning, the Ministry unveiled the University of Liberia Farms, aimed at providing students with hands-on agricultural experience.

Despite strides made, challenges persist, with Minister Nuetah acknowledging staffing shortages within the Ministry. According to him, efforts are underway to address these gaps, including the recruitment of district agriculture officers and specialists.

Minister Nuetah reiterated the Ministry's commitment to agricultural development, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to overcome challenges and realize the sector's full potential.

WSR holds 3 days' dialogue

newspaper, she places specific focus on women issues, thereby lifting their voices in all areas. "The other thing that we fought for was to always protect female characters from their male counterparts, because in most cases whenever a woman decides to take political office, their male counterparts will want to bring their bedroom to the public." She also said some of the challenges during the election were battling politicians with fake news and misinformation on one hand, while women candidates or supporters did not avail themselves for interview.

Also speaking about challenges the media encountered during the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, Marka Davis, talkshow host at Truth FM stressed the lack of sufficient safety for media practitioners. He name lack of finance, protection of journalists, misinformation and disinformation from social media users.

"Training and capacity

building also poses serious challenge to the media; we believe when media practitioners are well trained, they will understand their role", Mr. Davis explained, and frowned at politicians for branding some media practitioners partisans and regime journalists. Meanwhile, former Montserrado County electoral district#10 representative candidate Karishma Pelham, said it was important for organizers to conduct more of such dialogue, saying "we need more of this not only during election time, there are more women who want to share their agenda and views."

Accordingly, Pelham said women should be given the platform to share their views, adding "We understand that station needs to make money but there's a need for women to be given the space and not be threatened."

The opening of the dialogue brought together scores of female law enforcement officers from the Liberia National Police, Liberia Immigration Service, Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, female contestants, including media practitioners, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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House Report Anti Investment

-Rep. Ghousa says it sends bad image for business climate

Following the release of the House of Representative Special Committee report on the violent protest in Bea Mountain, Kinjor, last month, a lawmaker said that the report is anti-investment and sends a

called for the resignation or transfer of the Country Manager of BMMC, Mr. Debar Allen, to foster accountability and restore community confidence. He said they have

According to him, it violates Mr. Allen's constitutional rights. "Our constitution says that any Liberian can work in any place once he or she is qualified. And by them denying Mr. Allen from not working there is a complete violation of his constitutional right. This is wrong and we should not encourage that."

He added, "similar protest was carried out on an employee, Jackson You from Nimba. That he was not a citizen from Cape Mount County."

Rep. Ghousa said that such an attitude by citizens is unhealthy for the country.

Recently, the speaker of the house of Representatives set up a committee to investigate the protest which took place in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County. The Committee submitted its report in session on Tuesday.

He said the committee in its report said Mr. Allen was accused of standing in the way of development and other charges. Mr. Allen should have been invited by the committee to vindicate himself, but the committee failed to do so. That, he said is a violation of his rights



Rep. Thomas Ghousa

bad business image of Liberia to the outside world.

Representative Thomas Ghousa of district number five Grand Bassa County told a team of reporters on Tuesday that part of the report does not send good image of the country to the outside world.

He said part of the report

documentary and visual evidence that protestors wanted him out because of his ethnicity-Bassa. "Some banners called for Mr. Allen to go because he is from Grand Bassa County, and they wanted a citizen from Grand Cape Mount to occupy the position. This is wrong," he said.

▶ CONT'D page 11

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