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

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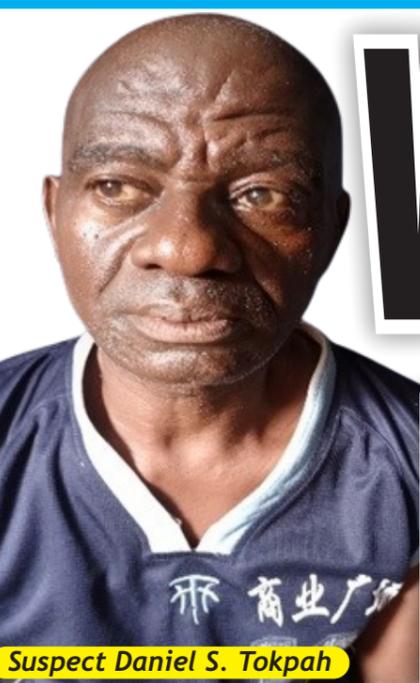
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Margibi caucus in deal with China Union?

-A NEW/DAWN's probe uncovers reasons behind unpaid social funds



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Woman loses left arm



Victim Jessica Davis

-in Ganta violence, attacker suffers arson revenge

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Continental News

Mozambique ferry disaster kills over 90 - officials

More than 90 people have died after a ferry sank off the north coast of Mozambique, local authorities say. Officials in Nampula province said there were 12 survivors out of the 130 or so people believed to have been on board. They were fleeing after disinformation but later said it had sunk after taking on water. A crew member who survived, Menque Amade, told national broadcaster TVM that "water filled the boat... and the tragedy happened". Photos taken soon afterwards show dozens of bodies lying on a beach. The boat was travelling from Lunga to Mozambique Island,



Fishermen on Mozambique Island

about the ongoing cholera outbreak caused panic, Nampula Secretary of State Jaime Neto said. Many children were among the dead, he added. Rescue efforts are continuing. Initially on Sunday the authorities blamed the shipwreck on overcrowding,

off the coast of Nampula, Portuguese broadcaster RTP reported. It is a Muslim-majority area and some of those who died have already been buried, in line with Islamic rites. Ordinary Mozambicans say the news of the boat tragedy shocked them, particularly because of the huge number of deaths. Boat accidents

are not uncommon in Mozambique but rarely do so many people die. Thousands of boats are said to ferry passengers around with little oversight.

"It's shocking - the authorities are partly to blame for not doing enough to control and monitor sea traffic," local journalist Charles Mangwiro told the BBC.

Another reporter in Mozambique, Berta Madime, told the BBC that this latest accident comes despite recent pressure on ferry operators to improve safety.

Nampula province has been one of the worst-affected by the cholera outbreak which has spread over several countries in southern Africa since January last year. According to Unicef, the current outbreak is the worst in 25 years. Since October 2023, Mozambique has reported 13,700 confirmed cases and 30 deaths.

An Islamist insurgency in neighbouring Cabo Delgado province has claimed the lives of at least 4,000 people and displaced nearly one million others since it began over six years ago. For nearly 400 years, Mozambique Island was the capital of Portuguese East Africa, when the region was under colonial rule. The island is designated a Unesco world heritage site for its colonial architecture and history as a trading post. BBC

President says world failed Rwanda over 1994 genocide

Rwanda's president said the international community "failed all of us", as he marked 30 years since the 1994 genocide that killed around 800,000 people.

President Paul Kagame addressed dignitaries and world leaders who had gathered in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, to commemorate the bloodshed. "Rwanda was completely humbled by the magnitude of our loss," he said. "And the lessons we learned are engraved in blood."

On this day in 1994, extremists from the Hutu ethnic group launched a 100-day killing spree, in which members of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates were slaughtered. The mainly Tutsi forces who took power following the genocide were alleged to have killed thousands of Hutu people in Rwanda in retaliation.

On Sunday, Mr Kagame and a group of dignitaries placed wreathes on mass graves at the

acknowledged that his country and its allies could have stopped the genocide but lacked the will to do so. France, under then-president François Mitterrand, was a close ally of the Hutu-led government of Juvenal Habyarimana prior to the killings, and Rwanda has accused France of ignoring or missing warning signs and of training the militias who carried out the attacks. France has consistently denied complicity, but a report commissioned by Mr Macron three years ago concluded that France bears "heavy and overwhelming responsibilities". French Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné attended the ceremony in Kigali in place of Mr Macron on Sunday. Other visiting dignitaries included Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Israel's President Isaac Herzog. Sunday's events mark the beginning of a week-long mourning period across Rwanda. Music, sport and films will be banned from broadcast on



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame said the country was "humbled by the magnitude of our loss"

Nigerians arrested for sextortion after Australian boy's suicide

Two people have been arrested in Nigeria over an alleged sextortion attempt against an Australian schoolboy who took his own life.

Australian police say the teenage victim had traded explicit images with a person online before they began making threats and demanding money.

After a global investigation, the pair allegedly responsible were tracked down in Nigeria, where they will face court. Police say sextortion - particularly of young people - is dramatically rising.

Details of the boy's age or where he lived in New South Wales (NSW) have not been released publicly to protect his family's privacy. New South Wales Police described the alleged extortionists as "young males" and said they had threatened to send photos to the teenager's friends and family if he did not pay them

A\$500 (£260; \$330).

"The messages are horrific. They're aggressive and put a lot of pressure on the boy to pay the money," the police force's cyber-crime commander, Matthew Craft, told the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH). The boy died by suicide on the same evening, late last year.

Australian detectives worked with their counterparts in South Africa and Nigeria to trace the suspected perpetrators to a slum in Nigeria. The BBC has contacted the Nigerian police for comment.

Evidence that the pair had also

tried to extort other people was found on their phones, according to the SMH. They have been charged over the alleged extortion of the Australian boy, but not his death. There have been several cases in Canada and the US in recent years of teenagers who have killed themselves after being targeted by sextortion plots. Det Supt Craft said his team had seen a "huge spike" in sextortion cases and has appealed for anyone targeted to contact police."



Australian police have released a blurred photo of two people arrested in Nigeria

Kigali Genocide Memorial - where more than 250,000 victims are believed to be buried. The president also lit a remembrance flame. In a speech later, Mr Kagame thanked fellow African countries including Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania for their assistance in accepting Tutsi refugees and ending the genocide. "Many of the countries representing here also sent their sons and daughters to serve as peacekeepers in Rwanda," he said. "Those soldiers did not fail Rwanda. It was the international community which failed all of us. Whether from contempt or cowardice."

The failure of other nations to intervene has been a cause of lingering shame.

Former US President Bill Clinton, who was among the visiting leaders present, has called the genocide the biggest failure of his administration.

In a video message recorded for the memorial, French President Emmanuel Macron

radio or TV and national flags will be flown at half-mast. The streets of Kigali have been unusually quiet, according to the BBC team there, with no traffic, many shops closed, and few pedestrians. The genocide was sparked on the night of 6 April 1994, when Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was assassinated - the plane he was on was shot down.

Hutu extremists blamed the Tutsi RPF rebel group, and launched a well-organised campaign of slaughter. Their victims were shot, beaten or hacked to death in killings fuelled by vicious anti-Tutsi propaganda spread on TV and radio.

Thousands of Tutsi women were abducted and kept as sex slaves.

After 100 days of violence, the RPF rebel militia, led by Mr Kagame, succeeded in overthrowing the Hutu authorities and ending the genocide. Human rights groups say RPF fighters killed thousands of Hutu civilians as they took power - and more after they pursued Hutu militia members who had fled into the Democratic Republic of Congo.

EDITORIAL

GOL should act to halt black sand mining

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Mines and Energy seems tightlipped on the mining, exporting or smuggling of black sand from Liberia by Chinese sand mining company.

A recent video footage obtained by the NEW DAWN reveals hundreds of bags of black sand compiled by Chinese miners from Virginia, Montserrado County ready for export.

In the video, a resident of Waterside community, Virginia alarms that tons of black sand bags are exported from Liberia monthly by Chinese miners. The Chinese are also engaged in beach sand mining here, for sale to people and institutions involved in construction.

But the mining of black sand for export is raising questions in the public on whether authorities at the Ministry of Mines and Energy are aware and have given approval for such exportation.

Authorities at the Ministry of Mines and Energy claim they are investigating the matter. But there seems to be foot-dragging or sheer lackadaisical attitude, with residents' complains growing louder by the day.

Black sand also known as magnetite sand or iron ore sand, is a heavy mineral commonly found in coastal area. Black sand is too much, though it may seem trivial at first glance, it has many important applications in many different industries.

Experts highlight the importance of black sand in the construction industry. Due to its high iron content, it used as an additive in concrete and asphalt production. The addition of black sand improves the strength and durability of these materials, making them more resistant to wear. Additionally, its magnetic properties make it useful in making magnets used in construction projects.

Black sand also plays an important role in steel production because it contains significant amounts of iron oxide. Iron ore extracted from black sand is an essential raw material for steelmaking. Through smelting and refining techniques, iron ore is converted into steel, which is widely used in infrastructure development, automobile manufacturing, and in many other industries. The unique properties of black sand make it an excellent medium for water filtration systems.

Residents and owners of land on which Chinese are illegally operating describe the act as disastrous, calling on government to "wake up" and protect the area from plunder. The environmental havoc of black sand mining has raised serious economic concern among locals.

According to them, activities of these illegal miners aren't only destroying their land but also having a devastating impact on the environment something, they lament, is travesty against the State, as dredging is crisscrossing the Mangrove swamp "(Wetland)" preserved for Liberia environmental benefits.

We believe this is important and needs government's prompt attention to avoid our people being robbed of their God-given endowment broad daylight, while few officials sitting somewhere benefit at the expense of the majority.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
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COMMENTARY

By Jane Kabubo-Mariara

Africa's Prosperity Depends on Achieving Gender Equality

NAIROBI - Despite the progress made toward gender equality over the past century, women worldwide still lag behind men in pay and job quality. The global labor-force participation rate for women is just 53%, compared to 80% for men. This is not due to a lack of will or effort. Childcare obligations, limited access to education, and poor workplace and public-safety measures often curtail women's ability to secure "decent" work.

For this reason, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to achieve "full and productive employment and decent work for all" by 2030 (SDG 8). But this objective cannot be achieved as long as African women face significant barriers to equal pay and job opportunities.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), "decent" employment implies fair wages, safe and healthy working environments, job security, and equal opportunities and treatment. While several African countries have made efforts to improve women's access to decent work opportunities, recent research by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) underscores the challenges facing policymakers.

The study, which involved researchers in six countries, covered two African states: Kenya and Senegal. In Kenya, researchers found that while more than 75% of women participate in the labor market, only 39% are employed in the formal sector. In Senegal, the study revealed that 70% of women have been engaged in vulnerable jobs over the past 30 years, with little to no improvement despite government interventions. Consequently, most women in both countries work in precarious jobs, mainly in agriculture, the informal sector, and domestic service, and often lack access to social benefits.

A separate study focusing on women's integration into the labor market in eight Sub-Saharan countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone - found that, with the exception of Sierra Leone, women are less likely to be employed than men. Moreover, women are primarily engaged in insecure, low-paying, and informal jobs. On average, eight out of ten women in these countries hold vulnerable jobs.

Unsurprisingly, motherhood and childcare-related duties significantly impede women's ability to realize their full potential in the labor market, owing to regressive social norms that perpetuate gender inequality. To address these disparities, public policies must be thoughtfully designed and tailored to specific contexts. For example, PEP researchers recommended that governments offer affordable, high-quality, and safe public childcare services. This includes establishing daycare centers within public schools and subsidizing private childcare services in countries like Kenya and Senegal.

A 2019 randomized control trial in Nairobi, underscored the vital role of free childcare in boosting women's participation in the labor market. The study pointed to cost as the main barrier to accessing

childcare services, with nearly 25% of local mothers unable to afford them. Childcare subsidies, in the form of vouchers for daycare centers, resulted in a 17% increase in job opportunities for impoverished urban mothers with children aged one to three. Those who received these subsidies benefited from an average 24% increase in their earnings.

A 2018 ILO report, based on data from more than 90 countries, also highlighted the role of caregiving work in advancing women's economic empowerment. Globally, 19.3% of women work in care jobs, compared to 6.6% of men. Given that the number of people who need care is expected to grow to 2.3 billion by 2030 (from 2.1 billion in 2015), the report advocated doubling investment in the care economy to \$18.4 trillion. The ILO projected that this would create 269 million new jobs by 2030 and enable countries to meet multiple SDGs, including universal health care, education for all, gender equality, and decent employment.

But there is no one-size-fits-all model for creating high-quality care jobs. With this in mind, the African Population and Health Research Center assembled a team of international and regional experts to evaluate the early childcare and long-term care systems in Kenya and Senegal. Through an in-depth examination of indigenous expertise and the current support structures in these countries, the project aims to lay the groundwork for a care economy tailored to Africa's unique needs.

Drawing on insights from Kenya, the researchers outlined several steps that governments can take to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work among different stakeholders. These include investing in high-quality, affordable childcare services, particularly for early childhood; enhancing the capacity of county-level government departments to oversee unpaid caregiving through adequate budgetary support and intra-governmental cooperation; aiding local entrepreneurs who serve low-income women through public and private investment; exploring community-based models or those tailored to pastoralist communities; and recognizing long-term care for the elderly as an integral part of this work.

This study, which provides a template that could be applied across Africa, represents a crucial step toward gender equality on the continent. Its findings have the potential to influence the Kenyan government's efforts to draft policy guidelines on unpaid care work as part of its Vision 2030 development initiative.

Among its seven core objectives, the African Union's Agenda 2063 highlights the need to achieve gender equality and parity in the political, economic, and social domains. But this goal will remain out of reach until we develop a holistic, evidence-based, Africa-centric care economy that enables women to participate as equals in the labor market.

This commentary is published in collaboration with the International Economic Association's Women in Leadership in Economics Initiative, which aims to enhance the role of women in economics through research, building partnerships, and amplifying voices.

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OP-ED

By Hippolyte Fofack

The Way Out of Africa's Debt Doom Loop

CAMBRIDGE - "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others," George Orwell famously wrote in *Animal Farm*, his allegory of Stalinism. But Orwell's maxim could just as easily apply to the sovereign-debt crisis in Africa. Low-income African countries have the smallest share of global public debt but are more likely to be in debt distress or at high risk of it.

This paradox reflects a dysfunctional international financial system. Unlike advanced economies, which have highly developed local-currency bond markets, African countries are subject to prohibitively high interest rates and often cannot borrow from international investors in their own currency (the "original sin" of sovereign-debt markets). Instead, over 80% of African countries' external debt is denominated in dollars or euros, which heightens their vulnerability to monetary-policy changes by a handful of systemically important central banks - and thus to a "debt doom loop" that only exacerbates their debt burdens.

Unless the policymakers convening next week for the annual Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund pursue reforms that address the inequities in the global financial system, a few privileged countries will continue to be more equal than others. Inaction would have negative consequences for macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability, global growth, and income convergence, and could undermine the World Bank's institutional credibility as it embarks on a new mission "to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet."

Amid increasing financial volatility, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and inflationary pressures, many African countries have already adopted difficult and unpopular policies - including removal of government subsidies and aggressive interest-rate hikes, despite widespread poverty and Great Depression-levels of unemployment - in a bid to escape the debt doom loop and foster macroeconomic stability.

For example, in Nigeria, where unemployment currently hovers around 30%, the central bank recently raised its main lending rate by 400 basis points, to 22.75%, to bolster the naira and tame inflation, stoked by exchange-rate pass-through resulting from the naira's sharp depreciation against the dollar. This exchange-rate depreciation - which increases debt-service costs - has been further exacerbated by capital outflows, with investors chasing higher relative returns following interest-rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

The sub-investment grade of African sovereigns has further heightened the challenges of managing the debt doom loop. In fact, most African countries suffered large-scale procyclical downgrades at the height of the pandemic, which only further curtailed their access to global finance, considering the cliff effect. This, in turn, has raised refinancing risks and increased the likelihood of default.

The few African countries that could still tap capital markets faced significantly higher borrowing costs. An analysis of bond yields in 2022-23 shows that the borrowing rates for African countries (11.6% on average) are almost twice as high as rates for countries in Asia and Oceania (6.5%), nearly four times higher than in the US (3.1%), and eight times higher than in Germany (1.5%). These growth-crushing and default-driven borrowing rates set unrealistic expectations for return on investment. Given these figures, it is unsurprising that Africa has suffered from financial repression for decades.

Africa's most recent debt doom loop began at the end of the commodity super-cycle in 2014-15, which led to widening fiscal and current-account deficits and rising external liabilities. Emergency government relief measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend, pushing debt levels to new highs. From 2019 to 2020, the number of African countries with public debt exceeding 60% of GDP - considered to be a threshold for sustainability - increased sharply, from 18 to 27, while public debt on the continent (both domestic and external) reached \$1.8 trillion in 2022, up 183% from 2010.

But that still pales in comparison to the total debt of advanced economies such as France and Italy, both of which owe more than \$3 trillion each. The European Union's combined national government debt stood at \$14.6 trillion in September 2023, while the US owes \$34 trillion. Africa's debt-to-GDP ratio was 62.5% at the end of 2022, far below the global average (92.4%) and well below that of the US (121.4%) and Japan (261.3%).

Moreover, Africa's interest payments-to-revenue ratio - a key metric for assessing debt-servicing capacity - has doubled since the early 2010s and is now around four times the ratio in advanced economies, largely because of default-driven interest rates. Debt service has become the largest item in many governments' budgets, with interest payments projected to consume nearly 40% of Nigeria's revenue this year.

These shifts in the composition of public spending have reduced fiscal space, preventing governments from addressing critical social and environmental challenges and expanding growth-enhancing public investments. This is especially damaging for Africa, given that the continent has immense development needs and is already contending with widespread poverty and unemployment, escalating climate emergencies, and conflict and insecurity. Moreover, the region has long suffered from a chronic infrastructure deficit that has impeded structural transformation to sustain heightened exposure to global volatility and narrowed governments' capacity to crowd in private capital to diversify the sources of growth and reduce the imbalance between debt and exports.

Ethiopia - the latest African country to default on its debt - illustrates how the massive inequalities built into the international financial architecture have subjected African sovereigns and corporate entities to punishing borrowing costs. Although Ethiopia has one of the lowest post-pandemic debt-to-GDP ratios (33.8%), the combination of prohibitively high interest rates and the sharp currency depreciation has dramatically increased its external debt burden. Given Africa's remarkably small share of global public debt, the continent's mounting debt crisis attests to the underlying problem: the lack of affordable financing. Providing African countries with the fiscal space to meet growth and development objectives requires fixing the global financial system. Although urgent, this is hardly a new idea: French President Emmanuel Macron made the case for "fairer financing rules" for African economies at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while recent summits and initiatives have called on multilateral development banks to increase financing capacity.

But the big question remains: Are all countries equal, or are some countries more equal than others? Whether the World Bank can fulfill its new mission will largely depend on the answer.

OPINION

By Graça Machel

The World's Moral Failure in Gaza

JOHANNESBURG - The relentless siege on Gaza is a dark reflection on humanity. Well over 100,000 Palestinians have been declared killed, injured, or missing over the past six months, and the overwhelming majority are innocent civilians who bear no responsibility for Hamas's appalling attack on October 7, 2023.

The United Nations Security Council has finally passed a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages held by Hamas. Now, all UN member states - particularly Israel's political and military allies - must do everything in their power to ensure that the resolution is implemented in full as soon as possible.

For Gazans who survive Israel's military assaults, a lethal combination of displacement, hunger, and disease awaits. Israel's blockade of humanitarian supplies, food, and clean water has made life in the enclave a nightmare. Aid agencies report mothers giving birth without anesthetics, babies dying from dehydration and malnutrition, and sickness ravaging entire communities. With no one in Gaza safe from massacre, we have reached the threshold of population-scale annihilation.

The trauma is now reverberating across the whole region. Gazans are haunted by post-traumatic stress disorder and grief, and more than one million children are in dire need of psycho-social support. The latest devastation adds to the suffering inflicted by Israel's 18-year-old blockade of Gaza. And in the West Bank, Palestinians face multiple threats, from unconstrained settler violence and forced displacement to the constant threat of arbitrary detention. At the same time, more than 100 Israelis are still held hostage by Hamas, in contravention of international humanitarian law, prolonging the pain felt by their families and those of the civilians killed on October 7.

Worse may come if Israel defies warnings from its closest allies and moves ahead with its plans for an assault on Rafah, which is currently host to 1.5 million people, including over 600,000 children. Many of those seeking refuge in this border city have already endured the trauma of multiple displacements over the past half-year. A full-scale Israeli military incursion must not be allowed to happen.

I write these words as someone who looked into the eyes of young Palestinians while preparing the 1996 UN report *The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*. Speaking to children in refugee camps, we promised that their suffering would end. Not only have we failed to make good on that promise; we have left an even more hostile world for children who happen to be born Palestinian. I carry this haunting failure with me.

I also write these words as a member of The Elders, the group of independent global leaders that I co-founded with my late husband, Nelson Mandela, and which was chaired in its early years by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Madiba (Mandela) gave us a mandate to work for peace, justice, and human rights worldwide, and he always considered Palestinian liberation to be key to achieving a just and free world for all. How can any of us speak credibly of universal human rights and the international rule of law when we permit brutality and occupation to continue for decades?

Amid such despair and lack of moral courage by those with the power to stop the current carnage in Gaza, I am proud of the exceptional leadership that South Africa has shown in bringing a complaint against Israel for violating the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice. The ICJ's preliminary ruling, on January 26, and the additional measures ordered on March 28, explicitly condemn the atrocities taking place in Gaza and are unambiguous about the steps Israel must take to protect innocent Palestinians, including unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance at scale.

Israel and the countries providing it with military and financial assistance must heed the court's findings and adhere to their obligations under international law. But we are not helpless in the face of this monumental suffering. As members of one human family, we have an ethical duty to speak out against these injustices in our own circles of influence. We can wield power through our own individual and community activism. With our votes and protests, we can - and must - demand accountability from our political leaders.

Here is what we must demand. First, additional humanitarian land routes urgently need to be opened to meet the overwhelming need for life-saving aid. The safety of aid deliveries must be guaranteed at all times. Air drops and the recently proposed maritime corridor are insufficient, and must not be allowed to absolve Israel of its own responsibility to civilians in Gaza.

Second, world leaders must use military and financial leverage to compel Israel to cease its violations of international law and comply with the ICJ's orders. All countries providing military assistance to Israel should immediately put these shipments under review and set new conditions for future provision. Those that continue supplying arms are enabling the carnage and may be complicit in war crimes.

Third, decision-makers must provide full financial and political support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Many donors have rushed to suspend funding for the organization, pending the outcome of investigations into Israel's allegations that some UNRWA staff participated in the October 7 attack. This premature, disproportionate response is now irresponsibly endangering the rights and well-being of millions of Palestinian refugees. The Israeli government has made no secret of its desire to dismantle UNRWA once and for all. Will we allow it to become yet another casualty of the war?

The situation cries out for concerted action by a broad coalition of countries committed to a just and permanent peace that enables Israelis and Palestinians to co-exist under conditions of mutual respect, self-determination, dignity, and security. Palestinian and Israeli lives and security are of equal worth. If this fundamental truth does not prevail on political leaders and ordinary citizens, we will continue to forsake generations of innocent children.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Broadening the Discourse: U.S. Sanctions in Liberian Jurisprudence

By: Austin S Fallah-A True Son of Mama-Liberia:

The ongoing debate in Liberia regarding the issue of U.S. sanctions calls for attention and contemplation from all quarters of the society. Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh's recent call for a debate limited only to legal minds has ignited a multitude of questions and concerns.

The primary question that arises in this context is why Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, seen as the embodiment of impartiality and wisdom, would request exclusivity in discourse typically characterized by inclusivity and diversity of viewpoints.

To comprehend the reason behind the Chief Justice's insistence on a legal minds debate, it is crucial to grasp the basis and significance of the issue at hand. Several officials of Liberia were placed on U.S. sanctions during former President George Manneh Weah's regime for allegations related to corruption and human rights abuses. However, there has been no prosecution, an aspect that most likely raised concerns in the Chief Justice's perception.

The law is typically concerned with matters of legality and constitutionality.

Thus, the Chief Justice, presumably, calls for an exclusive legal debate to discuss the implications and legality of the U.S. sanctions within the context of Liberian jurisprudence.

By limiting the discussion to legal minds, the Chief Justice is seemingly striving to maintain the debate's focus on the strictly legal nuances of the issue a dimension undoubtedly crucial to the understanding and resolution of the matter.

However, the layers of complexity encompassing the issue of the U.S. sanctions extend beyond the spectrum of legal perimeters.

These sanctions do not originate from the Liberian government, creating a conundrum around postulating the legality and constitutionality within Liberia's legal framework.

Moreover, the sanctions' impacts and implications reach into the realm of social, political, and economic aspects, thereby exceeding the bounds of strictly legal contemplations.

By including intellectuals with a good understanding of these interplays, the discourse around the sanctions under Liberian jurisprudence would present a comprehensive picture one that is not blinded by the rigidity of law but enriched by it.

They could elucidate how the sanctions, born out of alleged corruption and human rights abuse, can influence Liberia's socio-political atmosphere and its economic standing.

Additionally, these intellectuals can deconstruct the intricacies of upholding sanctions initiated by a foreign power under national jurisprudence.

The explicit emphasis on the social and economic benefits of the sanctions also reveals another dimension of the debate.

Honoring these sanctions under Liberian jurisprudence could signal a stance against corruption and human rights abuses, hence sending a resounding message dreaded by corrupt public officials.

The economic benefits, albeit indirectly, can be traced to improved international relations and possible enhanced Foreign Direct Investment inflows, leading to improved living standards and economic prosperity.

A broader perspective on the U.S. sanctions issue is indispensable for an insightful and constructive debate.

While legal viewpoints are crucial to gauge the implications within national jurisprudence, social, political, and economic analytical lenses are vital to understanding the broader impact within Liberia.

Limiting the conversation to legal minds seems restrictive and detached from the wider reality.

Hence, while Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh's call for a legal minds debate is respectably valid, her openness to involve intellectuals with diverse perspectives would be a commendable decision and an embodiment of inclusive leadership.

This approach not only welcomes a more comprehensive debate but also fosters a spirit of collective ownership in shaping Liberia's future.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Why are investors shunning Liberia despite huge opportunities?

Liberia provides investment opportunities, mainly in the mining, agriculture, fishing, and forestry industries and in other sectors such as energy, agribusiness, telecommunication, tourism, and financial services.

However, despite these opportunities, the country has failed to attract any investment over the last seven years. Many factors are responsible for this lack of investment, such as the government surrendering its responsibilities to investors to build roads, schools, hospitals, and, in some cases, housing units.

An investor's primary objective in investing in any country is to minimize risk and maximize returns, not to assume the government's responsibilities. The latter, coupled with the lack of favourable conditions such as political stability, market potential, infrastructure, human capital, and legal protection, has turned potential investors away from Liberia.

Liberia is certainly rich in natural resources and has the raw materials lacking in many of its neighbouring countries. However, it has failed to attract any investment since the regime of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

In fact, few companies that took the risk to invest during former President Sirleaf's 12 years have either folded up or transferred ownership to someone else.

The case of Sime Darby, BHP Billiton, Buchanan Renewables, and West African Telecom, among others, in the mining and agriculture sectors, are classic examples of investments that folded up on the heels of former President Sirleaf's regime.

Repeated protests orchestrated by local political rivalry (political instability) forced the Malaysian Oil Palm Company Sime Darby to park up and leave its investment in the hands of a company with little or no experience in the sector.

In addition to repeated protests at concession areas backed by political actors, the government's dedication to its responsibilities to investors, requesting them to build schools, roads, and hospitals in concession communities, also makes investing in Liberia a risky venture.

It is the government's responsibility to build roads, hospitals, and schools for its people from the taxes and revenue collected from investors and not to burden them with such tasks.

When a government surrenders its corporate social responsibility to a company or an investor, it puts itself in the pocket of the investor, who sits at an advantageous point of the table during negotiations.

The recent negotiation between Arcelor Mittal Liberia and the Liberian Government and the company's refusal to allow a multi-user rail unless it becomes regulated are explicit examples.

Another factor that makes investors shun Liberia despite its rich natural resources is its huge human capacity gap and weak legal system, which does little or nothing to protect investments amidst an inherently corrupt and skill-less human resource capacity.

An investor once said she could not invest in Liberia because she could not afford to pay people for stealing from her- simply put, most Liberian workers could not be trusted.

Liberia lacks skilled workers, which would require an investor to bring in experts at additional costs—something every investor wants to avoid. Liberia's investment incentives do not include immigration waivers.

When considering investment destinations, investors also consider the cost of doing business. Liberia's poor infrastructure and lack of stable electricity also make it unattractive to investors.

Foreign direct investment in the Liberian economy will continue to decline unless the government creates an enabling environment for investment, including favourable conditions such as political stability, market potential, infrastructure, human capital, and legal protection.

The situation at Bea Mountain in Capemount County, where increasing protests forced Sime Darby to abandon its plantation, could also force Bea Mountain Company out of Liberia. The Government should begin to rethink the practice of surrendering its responsibilities to investors while signing concession agreements. Investors aim to minimize risk and maximize returns, not assume the government's responsibilities.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lawyers pass war crimes court resolution

The campaign for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court has divided Liberians, as those seeking impunity for their ties to historical atrocities and economic crimes seek to obstruct the process.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 8, 2024: Over the weekend, the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) passed a resolution unanimously to lead a robust campaign for establishing the War and

signed and sent by the House of Representatives about a month ago for Senators' approval.

At the end of its assembly, the LNBA read a seven-count resolution, but the key within the resolution was the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. When

assembly held in Kakata, Margibi County, most of the lawyers attending the assembly resolved to support the implementation of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations, especially the establishment of the court. Subsequently, the LNBA drafted a bill for the establishment of the war and economic crimes court and led an array of representatives of the Civil Society Organizations of Liberia to present 103 copies of the draft bill to members of the Legislature through the House Committee on Claims and Petitions, Representative Gonpu Kargon.

The LNBA even appeared before the Liberian Senate to persuade it to support establishing the war and economic crimes court.

Delivering the keynote address at the LNBA assembly, renowned Liberian Human Rights Lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe said as a body, the LNBA has already chosen the path to addressing the general question of impunity in Liberia.

According to him, the implication of choosing this path is that justice will prevail, and Liberia will experience sustained peace, progress, and prosperity for all.

the resolution was read, the entire body at the convention expressed readiness to lead the charge for the establishment of the court.

During the LNBA's 2019



Economic Crimes Court (WCC) in Liberia. The lawyers passed the resolution at the LNBA's National Assembly as members of the Liberian Senate continue to review a resolution

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LERC conducts public hearing on ENERGENCY Liberia Proposal to Electrify Gbarpolu County

ENERGICITY Liberia has presented a proposal to residents of Gbarpolu County and the Board of Commissioners (BoC) of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) on how it will provide access to electricity in ten communities in the county.

Mr. Femi A. Coker, Director for Market Development, speaking at a public hearing organized by the Commission on 5 April 2024 informed the BoC that following extensive engagements with the Rural Renewal Energy Agency (RREA) and the Liberia Electricity Commission (LEC) it narrowed its focus for mini grid development in Gbarpolu County.

In 2021, it applied to the Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA) and was selected to develop and operate a portfolio of mini grids in 10 communities with approximately 4,000 customers in Gbarpolu County.

Initial communities to benefit from the solar electrification are Bopolu City, Totoquolle, Henry Town, Farwanta, Gbana, Zuo, Yagaryah, Takpoima, Smith Camp and Wesua.

"ENERGICITY has a strong commitment to partnering with the Government of Liberia to enhance energy access in the country and contribute to the development of the Liberia electricity sector", Mr. Coker averred.

If licensed by the Commission, Mr. Coker pinpointed, ENERGENCY will commission its first site by the second and or third quarter of 2024 with the total initial installed capacity proposed of 970 kWp (Solar) and 4 MWh battery energy storage

system (BESS).

He explained that ENERGENCY had already begun the construction and completion of several power houses and the erection of light poles in several of the communities.

Mr. Coker's submission at the public hearing was followed by comments, questions, and answers. Residents in separate comments lauded the Commission for organizing the public hearing and noted that the electrification of Gbarpolu County has been long overdue.

In opening remarks, Dr.

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Now Offering Budget-Friendly FDA-Approved Over-the-Counter Medications in Liberia

TOPNK Medical Supplies and Banjoo Superstore have announced a groundbreaking collaboration to make high-quality, low-cost FDA-approved over-the-counter medicines more accessible in Liberia.

This partnership aims to address the challenge of counterfeit medicines in the country. By joining forces, the two companies seek to bring life-saving medications to some of the world's poorest people at an affordable cost.

Liberia, like many other less developed countries, has been grappling with the issue of counterfeit medicines, which pose a significant threat to public health.

The lack of access to high-quality medications has been a pressing concern, and the collaboration between TOPNK Medical Supplies and Banjoo Superstore is a significant step

collaboration, stating, "By working together with TOPNK Medical Supplies we can leverage our respective strengths to overcome the challenges associated with providing high-quality medicines in a cost-effective manner.

This partnership is a significant step towards combating the proliferation of counterfeit drugs and improving healthcare outcomes in Liberia." adding, as a registered Nurse of over 17 years of experience and now a United States Service Disabled Veteran, I have worked across 9 counties in Liberia helping in the Healthcare Sector as volunteer Administrator and have helped Organized medical trips, brought US doctors to Liberia to performed surgeries for free.

In addition I worked in the Mining industry in English and French West Africa. It's from these experiences that made me realize the need to partner with Banjoo Superstore to help make things easy and affordable for our people in Liberia



towards addressing this challenge.

The collaboration will not only make FDA-approved medicines more readily available but also contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare in Liberia. By providing access to genuine and affordable medications, the initiative is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the well-being of the local population.

"This is a dream come through and we are grateful to God for this partnership with Banjoo Superstore to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people in Liberia," said Mrs. Peterlyn Killen-Morrison, the CEO of TOPNK Medical Supplies. "Our goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their economic status, has access to the medications they need to lead healthy lives. This collaboration is a testament to our commitment to serving the most vulnerable, low income people in less developed countries."

The CTO and co-founder of Banjoo Superstore, Mr. Caesar Morris, also expressed enthusiasm about the

and across the region; Mrs. Peterlyn Killen-Morrison added.

The joint effort will involve the introduction of a wide range of over-the-counter medications, including those for common ailments and chronic conditions. The products are ship from the United States to Banjoo ecommerce storage facility in Liberia for sales online at Banjoo Superstore website <https://banjoosuperstore.com> under the pharmaceuticals category.

Since January 2016, Banjoo superstore has been delivering foodstuffs, home, cleaning and office supplies etc to homes and offices across Montserrado county and offer local pick up in 12 cities/towns across Liberia including: Marshall, Harbel, Kakata, Gbarnga, Buchanan, Ganta, Pleebo, Harper, Robertsport, Gbah, Voinjama and Zwedru; this collaboration has added over-the-counter medicines to the company on-demand-delivery service.

The collaboration between TOPNK Medical Supplies and Banjoo Superstore represents a laudable example of private sector initiatives aimed at addressing pressing global health challenges.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UNICEF donates cold chain equipment to Health Ministry

By Lincoln G. Peters

The United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF) has donated essential cold chain equipment and accessories to the Ministry of Health. The donation ensures the safe storage and delivery of vaccines to support the routine immunization of children and mothers.

(CDC)-Africa to procure the equipment. The CDC Africa then engaged UNICEF to intervene in the procurement process. Officially, UNICEF Liberia turned over the equipment to the CDC-Africa for a formal presentation to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health. Speaking at the ceremony, UNICEF Deputy County

presentation today fulfills what you asked for," he pointed out.

For his part, West Africa Regional program lead, Africa CDC Dr. Olayinka Stephen Ilesanmi said the gesture highlights the government's and its partners' intensive efforts toward Liberians' wellbeing. "It is important to note that the CDC Africa is committed to [serving] the people," he noted. Also remarking, Sinoe Country Electoral District #2 Representative Sampson Weah commended the partners, saying Cold Chain Equipment & Accessories has been a major challenge for Liberia, especially in the rural areas.

Meanwhile, Dr. Cuallau Howe has assured the partners that the equipment will be used for the intended purpose. She urged the members of the Ministry of Health to utilize the equipment and avoid charging mobile phones on the equipment since it uses solar panels.

"Don't charge [your] phone on it, don't store your food inside. It's not for that purpose," she said. Cold chain equipment, both electrical and non-electrical, is used to store and/or transport vaccines at appropriate temperatures.



The Equipment & Accessories were officially presented to the Ministry of Health on Wednesday, 3 April 2024, in Paynesville. The Cold Chain Equipment & Accessories is worth over US\$400,000. The Ministry of Health recently engaged the Center for Disease Control

Representative Amadou Cisse disclosed that the items were turned over to fulfill a commitment made to the government through the Ministry of Health. "UNICEF is always willing to support the health of children around the world, and Liberia is no exception. The equipment's

Liberia Revenue Authority is hosting a four-day TIWB-CI workshop

The Liberian Revenue Authority has embarked on training sessions following the launch of its TIWB-CI program as it position its employees ahead of vigorous revenue collection exercise.

Monrovia, Liberia; April 8, 2024: After the launch of a one-day High-level Hybrid of the Tax Inspectors Without Borders for Criminal Investigations (TIWB-CI) program by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) last week at its headquarters in Paynesville, this week the LRA is holding a four-day training workshop in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Starting on April 8 - 11, 2024, this workshop is the result of LRA's expression of interest in self-assessment of needs to the TIWB and will focus on the Tax Crimes Investigation skills of selected participants from the Government.

Among other key objectives, this workshop will delve into evaluating the level of existing skills among national actors regarding tax crimes/criminal investigations; deliver a 5-days in-person self-assessment workshop; present the landscape available in fighting tax crimes and increase

Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This workshop is part of Liberia's participation in the joint OECD-UNDP Tax Inspectors Without Border for Criminal Investigation Programme (TIWB-CI). The TIWB-CI is a bespoke technical assistance programme designed to strengthen jurisdictions' tax crime frameworks and enhance the resolution of tax crime cases, including through real-time support on complex investigations.

TIWB-CI is centered on government approaches to combatting illicit financial flows and this self-assessment workshop is the first major step and relies on the participation of a broad cross-section of financial crime authorities.

The workshop is bringing together participants from each financial crime agency, including a senior representative with decision-making authority, a total of 30, excluding representatives from the UNDP and the OECD.

At the close of the workshop,



understanding of respective agency's mandate in this area as well as present an overview of the maturity model's self-assessment procedures.

Designed to support developing countries in their capacity-building efforts for augmenting domestic resources and implementing a fairer tax system, TIWB is a joint initiative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and

with the input of the participants, the TIWB-CI-UNDP expert Ms. Olivia Okello will develop an action plan with priority recommendations aimed at developing the investigative capacity of LRA and involved law enforcement agencies in the government's approach methodology.

On Friday 12 April, following the close of the workshop, there will be a debriefing meeting by LRA with other key stakeholders.

Starts from page 6

Lawyers pass war crimes

Unfortunately, he stated that after drafting and distributing the bill, the Senate decided to obstruct the establishment of the court. Instead, Cllr. Gongloe said the Senate passed a resolution to establish a transitional justice commission, ignoring the fact that the TRC was established by the Legislature.

"The Senate must not be an obstructionist for the second time. I call upon all members of the Bar to support this position of the bar by leading the process of creating awareness throughout the country," said Cllr. Gongloe. "Awareness cannot be

created by remaining silent. The Liberian people and the world are looking to the Senate to concur with the House of Representatives," he stated.

According to the former political leader of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Liberians should not allow the momentum now existing in the country for the establishment of the war and economic crimes court to die.

"We commend our colleague, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the leadership he demonstrated in the House of Representatives in establishing the war and economic crimes court," Cllr.

Gongloe continued.

Based on Cllr. Koffa's hard work, Cllr. Gongloe indicated that the House passed a resolution to establish the war and economic crimes court.

The LNBA's 2024 Assembly was celebrated under the theme: "Addressing The General Question of Impunity in Liberia: The Implications for Liberia's Rule of Law System."

The program which lasted for two days, brought together several prominent judicial actors and lawyers including present and past justices of the Supreme Court as well as international partners and the diplomatic community.

Starts from page 6

LERC conducts public hearing on ENERGENCY

Lawrence D. Sekajipo, the Chairman of the BoC said the purpose of the hearings was to "ensure that all affected parties have a fair and meaningful opportunity for participation in the decision-making process of the Commission".

He told participants at the hearing that was in accordance with the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia related Regulations which mandates the

Commission to conduct public hearings

Dr. Sekajipo informed ENERGENCY and the residents at the hearing that the Commission will review and analyse all the comments received and will be considered in its final decision on this matter.

This matter is currently scheduled for decision by the Commission within 20 working days and when a decision is

made, ENERGENCY LIBERIA, will be informed within 10 working days, Dr. Sekajipo said.

The public hearing brought together the local government authorities, Atty. Ela-Edward Toomey, II, Commission LERC, Augustus V. Goanue Managing Director LERC, representatives from RREA and LEC, stakeholders, residents, ENERGENCY, businesses, civil society organizations, interest groups and residents.

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Français

Les habitants de Marshall s'opposent à l'extraction de sable noir

L'extraction illégale de sable prend de l'ampleur ici, en particulier depuis la récente découverte de sable noir d'une valeur de plusieurs millions de dollars, exploité illégalement par des Chinois. Mais les habitants et les

Les conséquences environnementales de l'extraction du sable noir suscitent de graves inquiétudes économiques parmi les populations locales.

Selon eux, les activités de ces mineurs illégaux ne font pas seulement détruire leurs terres, mais ont également un impact

M. Alex C. Gontee, ancien candidat à la vice-présidence pour le Grassroots Development Movement (GDM), et son épouse Mme Talloh K. Gontee, possèdent une partie de 6,7 hectares de terrain, occupée illégalement par une société chinoise anonyme à Marshall, dans le bas comté de Margibi.

Selon eux, malgré l'interdiction gouvernementale d'exporter du sable noir, un groupe de Chinois continue d'opérer la nuit, empiétant sur leurs terres, tout en exportant vers la Chine ce qu'ils qualifient de minéraux stratégiques.

La famille Gontee a expliqué au NEW DAWN le samedi 6 avril 2024 que ce minéral stratégique, "s'il était protégé et préservé par le gouvernement, pourrait apporter d'immenses avantages économiques et améliorer les moyens de subsistance des citoyens".

M. Gontee a souligné la nécessité d'une intervention urgente du gouvernement, tout en demandant le retrait immédiat des Chinois, afin de protéger leur environnement des ravages.

Il déplore que l'extraction illégale et le dragage intérieur sur leurs terres puissent conduire à de futures catastrophes, s'ils ne sont pas stoppés immédiatement.

dévastateur sur l'environnement, ce qui, selon eux, est une parodie de l'État, car le dragage sillonne la mangrove ("zone humide") préservée pour les avantages environnementaux du Liberia.

Éditorial

Le gouvernement libérien doit agir pour stopper l'extraction de sable noir

Le gouvernement libérien, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, semble garder le silence sur l'extraction, l'exportation ou la contrebande de sable noir du Liberia par une compagnie d'extraction de sable chinoise.

Des images vidéo récentes obtenues par le NEW DAWN montrent des centaines de sacs de sable noir collectés par des mineurs chinois de Virginia, dans le comté de Montserrado, prêts à l'exportation.

Dans la vidéo, un habitant de la communauté de Waterside, en Virginie, tire la sonnette d'alarme : des tonnes de sacs de sable noir sont exportées du Liberia chaque mois par des mineurs chinois. Ces derniers se livrent également à l'extraction de sable de plage, destiné à la vente aux personnes et aux institutions du secteur de la construction.

Or, l'extraction de sable noir à des fins d'exportation soulève des questions au sein de la population quant à savoir si les autorités du ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie sont au courant et ont donné leur accord pour une telle exportation.

Les autorités du ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie affirment enquêter sur la question. Cependant, on observe des lenteurs ou un manque total d'enthousiasme, alors que les plaintes des riverains se font de plus en plus pressantes.

Le sable noir, également appelé sable de magnétite ou sable de minerai de fer, est un minéral lourd que l'on trouve couramment dans les zones côtières. L'exploitation du sable noir, qui peut sembler banale à première vue, a de nombreuses applications importantes dans de nombreuses industries.

Les experts soulignent l'importance du sable noir dans l'industrie de la construction. En raison de sa teneur élevée en fer, il est utilisé comme additif dans la production de béton et d'asphalte. L'ajout de sable noir améliore la résistance et la durabilité de ces matériaux, les rendant plus résistants à l'usure. De plus, ses propriétés magnétiques le rendent utile pour la fabrication d'aimants utilisés dans les projets de construction.

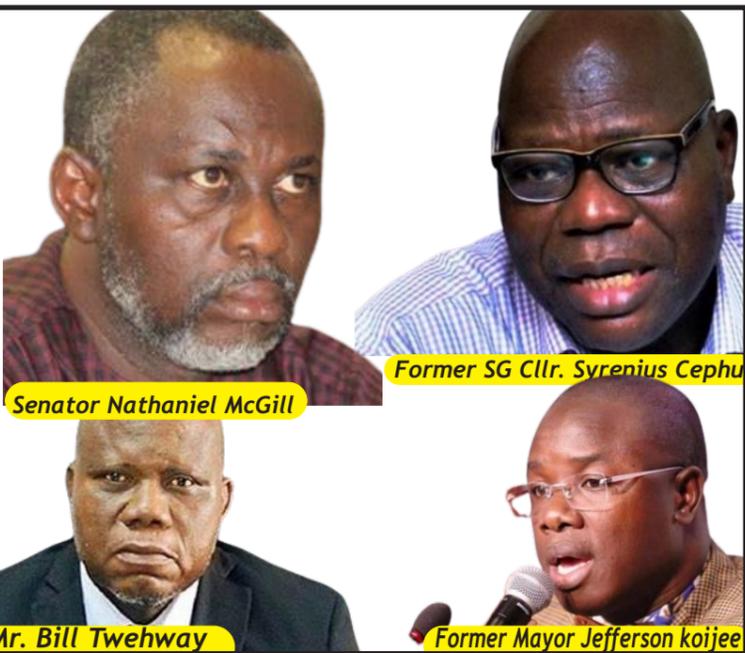
Le sable noir joue également un rôle important dans la production d'acier car il contient des quantités importantes d'oxyde de fer. Le minerai de fer extrait du sable noir est une matière première essentielle pour la sidérurgie.

Grâce à des techniques de fusion et d'affinage, le minerai de fer est transformé en acier, largement utilisé dans le développement des infrastructures, la construction automobile et de nombreuses autres industries. Les propriétés uniques du sable noir en font un excellent milieu pour les systèmes de filtration de l'eau.

Les riverains et les propriétaires des terrains sur lesquels les Chinois opèrent illégalement qualifient ces agissements de désastreux et appellent le gouvernement à se "réveiller" et à protéger la zone du pillage. Les ravages environnementaux causés par l'extraction de sable noir suscitent de graves inquiétudes économiques parmi les populations locales.

Selon eux, les activités de ces mineurs illégaux ne font pas seulement détruire leurs terres, mais ont également un impact dévastateur sur l'environnement, ce qui, déplorent-ils, constitue une parodie de l'État, car le dragage sillonne la mangrove, zone humide pourtant préservée pour le bénéfice environnemental du Liberia.

Nous pensons que cette situation est importante et nécessite l'attention immédiate du gouvernement afin d'éviter que notre population ne se fasse voler ses richesses naturelles en plein jour, pendant que quelques fonctionnaires assis quelque part en profitent aux dépens de la majorité.



Senator Nathaniel McGill

Former SG Cllr. Syrenius Cephu

Mr. Bill Twehway

Former Mayor Jefferson Kojjee

Le compte à rebours contre Boakai est erroné - l'ancien candidat à la présidence Yorfee

Le président Boakai est soumis à une immense pression de la part de ses critiques concernant sa promesse de campagne de livrer des produits concrets dans les 100 jours. Cependant, un ancien candidat à la présidence et chef du Parti pour la reconstruction du Libéria (LRP) a pris la défense du président, affirmant que les critiques sont trop hâtives.

À moins de 25 jours de la fin des 100 premiers jours du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai et du gouvernement dirigé par le Parti de l'unité (PU), l'ancien candidat à la présidence, l'avocat Luther Yorfee du LRP, est venu défendre le président face à la pression croissante pour la promesse de réalisations en 100 jours.

Le président Boakai a eu du mal à tenir les promesses faites dans son programme ARREST pour la nation lors de la campagne politique houleuse de l'année dernière au Libéria. Le dirigeant libérien avait notamment promis à sa population l'amélioration du réseau routier et d'autres développements infrastructurels.

Il a promis de paver toutes les routes du pays, assurant que pendant ses 100 premiers jours de mandat, aucune voiture ne resterait bloquée dans la boue, et il a également promis de stabiliser les prix des produits de base.

Mais s'exprimant au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à Congo Town, en marge de l'assemblée générale du barreau national du Liberia, l'avocat Yorfee a critiqué ceux qui ont lancé le compte à rebours contre les 100 jours de Boakai.

"Je ne critique pas les gens par animosité personnelle, à leur détriment, non ; je suis un homme politique, mais je dis la réalité. Ce

qui se passe, je vois l'opposition critiquer le président Boakai pendant ses 100 jours de mandat. Je pense que c'est injuste de critiquer un président en exercice, qui n'a pris ses fonctions que depuis quelques mois, et qui n'a pas eu de ressources pour travailler", a déclaré l'avocat Yorfee.

Il a déclaré que le budget national, qui est l'outil financier indispensable, n'a pas été adopté. Par conséquent, il n'y a pas d'éléments essentiels pour critiquer Boakai et son

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Français

Starts from page 8 **Les habitants de**

Dans le même ordre d'idées, Mme Julia Mionyah Karmo, qui possède 12 hectares de terres envahies, appelle à une action rapide du gouvernement pour expulser les sociétés impliquées dans l'extraction illégale à travers le pays.

Elle demande au gouvernement d'interdire l'extraction de sable noir par des individus sans scrupules dans le pays, avertissant que si de telles activités ne sont pas stoppées plus tôt par le gouvernement libérien, elles pourraient constituer une menace non seulement pour l'environnement, mais aussi devenir préjudiciables à la durabilité économique future et aux moyens de subsistance des citoyens.

Mme Karmo, soulignant la valeur et l'utilisation du sable noir sur le marché mondial, révèle qu'une tonne de sable noir dans un sac de riz de 25 kg coûte environ 3 000 dollars américains et qu'une telle quantité enlevée sans scrupules par des ressortissants étrangers est préjudiciable à l'avenir du Liberia.

"Nous avons fait des recherches, l'un de ces sacs de sable noir se vend 3 000 dollars américains sur le marché mondial. De quoi le Liberia profite-t-il ? Personne ne le sait, car l'utilisation du sable noir nous est inconnue", a raconté Mme Mionyah.

Parallèlement, dans le but de contacter les autorités chinoises occupant la terre à Marshall, dans le comté de Margibi, et leur implication présumée dans le dragage

illégal de sable noir pendant la nuit et son exportation vers la Chine, les dirigeants de la société chinoise anonyme, Mme Caro Qin Huang et M. Qin Huang, ont nié tout acte répréhensible.

Ils indiquent que depuis que le gouvernement a ordonné l'arrêt de l'activité minière à Marshall, ils ont immédiatement cessé leurs activités.

Mme Caro Qin Huang a rejeté les affirmations selon lesquelles ils opéreraient illégalement, mais a plutôt déclaré qu'ils disposaient de tous les documents leur ayant été accordés par le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie pour effectuer une exploitation minière légale sur ladite parcelle de terrain.

Selon elle, la société chinoise a obtenu le terrain desdits propriétaires fonciers dans le cadre d'un accord de location dont les détails n'ont pas été divulgués au moment de la mise sous presse.

Par ailleurs, les activités de l'entreprise soulèvent des questions sur des pratiques de travail déloyales. En effet, des employés locaux se plaignent de leurs conditions de travail difficiles et de l'exploitation dont ils sont victimes de la part des Chinois.

Ils dénoncent la marginalisation qu'ils subissent et les conditions de travail déplorables. Ils ne touchent que le salaire minimum, soit cinq dollars américains par jour et 120 dollars par mois, et n'ont ni logement, ni soins de santé adéquats. La société chinoise manquerait également à ses obligations sociales.

Starts from page 8 **Le compte à rebours contre Boakai**

administration, car ils ont hérité d'une économie chancelante.

Il a soutenu que le compte à rebours contre les 100 jours du président Boakai n'aurait été nécessaire que si le décompte avait commencé après l'adoption du budget national. "Un gouvernement ne fonctionne qu'avec un budget, et c'est le budget que vous utilisez comme outil pour réaliser des développements, construire des routes et d'autres projets. On ne devrait donc pas blâmer le président Boakai parce qu'il n'y avait pas de fonds disponibles, et nous savons tous que c'est uniquement avec un budget qu'un gouvernement peut fonctionner efficacement", a-t-

il dit. L'avocat Yorfee a ajouté : "Je dis qu'ils se trompent sur le compte à rebours, car on ne critique pas un gouvernement qui n'a pas de budget, pas de ressources pour travailler. Au moins, le compte à rebours pourrait être pertinent si le gouvernement avait un budget pour travailler ; un gouvernement ne peut pas fonctionner efficacement sans budget."

Le chef du LRP a indiqué que même si un tiers du budget a été récemment adopté pour les salaires et les dépenses, les critiques du président devraient garder le silence jusqu'à l'adoption du budget, moment où les travaux effectifs commenceront.

Modad menace démissionner s'il ne reçoit pas de soutien



Le ministre du Commerce a déclaré que l'allocation de 256 000 dollars américains dans le budget pour soutenir les entreprises libériennes était une goutte d'eau dans l'océan et a exprimé sa déception.

Le ministre du Commerce, M. Amin Modad, a menacé de démissionner de son poste s'il ne recevait pas le soutien nécessaire du gouvernement libérien.

Lors d'un discours jeudi 4 avril 2024 sur des questions cruciales relatives à la loi sur l'autonomisation des petites entreprises, M. Modad a qualifié l'allocation gouvernementale de 256 000 dollars américains pour soutenir les entreprises libériennes de "goutte d'eau dans l'océan".

Déçu et choquant de nombreux législateurs par ses propos lors de sa comparution devant eux jeudi, M. Modad, ancien président du parti au pouvoir, l'Unity Party (UP), a exprimé sa frustration face au manque de soutien à ses efforts pour faire avancer le programme du gouvernement, en particulier dans le domaine de l'autonomisation des petites entreprises. Il a appelé à un soutien cohérent de la part du président et du corps législatif pour mettre en œuvre efficacement des politiques et des programmes pouvant bénéficier le secteur des petites entreprises du pays. Le ministre Modad a souligné les défis qu'il a rencontrés en essayant d'instaurer des changements significatifs et d'améliorer les conditions pour les petites entreprises.

Il a souligné le rôle vital que jouent les petites entreprises dans la stimulation de la croissance économique et la création d'emplois, soulignant la nécessité d'un soutien solide et d'une coopération de toutes les branches du gouvernement.

L'Agence de la Fonction Publique du Liberia exige la régularisation des employés de l'État

L'Agence de la Fonction Publique du Liberia (CSA) exige des entités publiques dépendantes qu'elles régularisent la situation des employés ajoutés à leurs effectifs entre juillet 2019 et décembre 2023.

Pour ce faire, la CSA demande aux entités dépendantes de collaborer avec leur directeur des ressources humaines respectif afin de se rendre à la CSA et de traiter les Notices d'Action du Personnel (NAP) de leurs employés.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le jeudi 4 mars 2024 à Monrovia, le Directeur Général de la CSA, Josiah Joekai, a exhorté les entités dépendantes à respecter le délai de 90 jours.

Cette directive est conforme à la Loi sur la Fonction Publique, aux Arrêtés Permanents de la Fonction Publique de 2012 et à la Politique Révisée des Ressources Humaines.

M. Joekai a souligné l'importance de la coordination entre les directeurs des ressources humaines et les analystes correspondants de la CSA pour traiter ces questions efficacement.

Le Directeur Général Joekai a assuré que la CSA dispose d'une équipe spécialisée capable de gérer l'afflux de demandes de NAP au sein de sa Division des Services à l'Emploi.

Il a révélé l'existence de lignes directrices et de procédures établies pour la délivrance, la conservation et la mise à jour des NAP pour les fonctionnaires.

Le chef de la CSA a rappelé que le 16 février 2024, la CSA, sous la direction de M. Alfred Drosaye, alors responsable par intérim, en collaboration avec le Ministère des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, a temporairement gelé certaines opérations de ressources humaines.

Cette mesure visait à maintenir l'ordre dans les mouvements de personnel, en particulier pendant la période de transition. Le Directeur Général Joekai a annoncé la

levée du gel uniquement pour les remplacements directs, tandis que les nouvelles embauches et les transferts restent gelés en attendant les résultats de l'audit de conformité de la paie de la Commission Générale de Contrôle (GAC).

"Nous ne leverons pas la totalité du gel, mais aujourd'hui, nous ne le levons que pour les remplacements directs. Le gel des nouvelles embauches et des transferts sera levé après que la Commission Générale de Contrôle (GAC) aura effectué l'audit de conformité de la paie", a déclaré M. Joekai.

Il a souligné que tous les mouvements de personnel, à l'exception des remplacements directs, doivent recevoir l'approbation du Directeur Général avant leur mise en œuvre, comme le stipulent les Arrêtés Permanents de la Fonction Publique.

De plus, le Directeur Général Joekai a décrit les actions en cours menées par la CSA dans le cadre du processus de nettoyage de la paie. Ces actions comprennent le traitement des remplacements directs, les réintégrations et le traitement des nouvelles embauches effectuées en violation des directives présidentielles.

Le Directeur Général Joekai a souligné l'importance du respect des exigences de déclaration de présence, telles que définies dans les Arrêtés Permanents de la Fonction Publique. Il a averti que la CSA tiendrait les directeurs des ressources humaines responsables de tout non-respect.

En conclusion, le Directeur Général Joekai a réaffirmé l'engagement de la CSA envers la transparence, la responsabilité et la bonne gouvernance dans la gestion des finances publiques. Il a souligné la détermination de la CSA à mener des efforts de réforme de la fonction publique pour aborder les questions critiques et améliorer les performances et la productivité.

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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Chinese involvement in sand mining

By Naneka Hoffman

Reports of Chinese involvement in black sand mining and smuggling has generated debate among some Liberians, who think the Government of Liberia should intervene and stop such practice, as you may read below.



Famon K. Fofana

and exportation of black sand from Liberia, because of our brothers, sisters and parents' lives in Clara Town, Via Town, and Doe Community, etc. If you continue digging the sand and when the rivers get full, the water will start flooding into houses and slum communities around here, so the government has to stand strong to put stop to it, because Liberians are not getting resources from anywhere, so the little slum where they have their houses, they need to protect the area."

"Yes, of course I am supporting this government but I am calling on the Government of Liberia under President Joseph N. Boakai to put stop to the Chinese sand mining company

"For me, the sand mining currently is not good for our country, because the sea, anytime you doing sand mining you should expect erosions to come. If you give people the right especially, Chinese, to start doing sand mining all over, it will affect everybody in the various communities - Clara Town, Doe Community, Logan Town, West Point and all these areas will be affected through sea erosion because there is no sand in those areas to stop the erosion, and at the end of



Mustapha Harmon

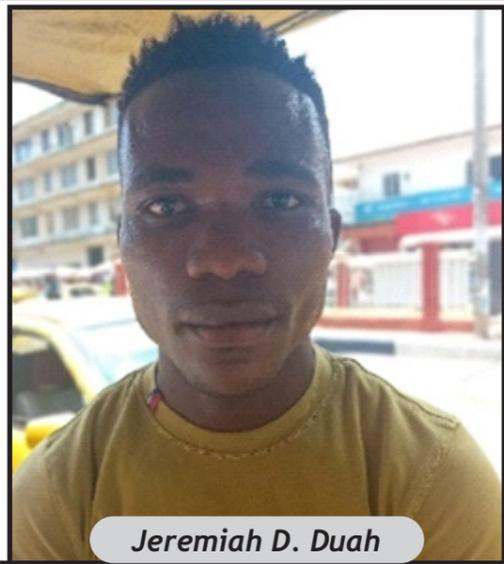
the day, it will pull in. So it will not be good for our communities. Government needs to see how best they can put stop to this sand mining."



Robert Political Zlatan Ibrahimovic

"This sand mining thing that is taking place in our country is very bad. It undermines our country's progress, mainly by Chinese people, who are in the habit of bad labor practice. This sand mining will cause serious hurt to our country during rainy season, so we need to put stop to it now, before is too late for us. The government needs to take serious action against those who are in this illegal sand mining act in our country."

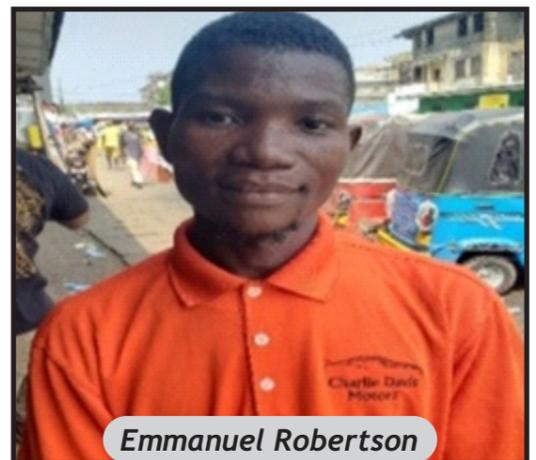
"The government needs to step into this sand mining business in the country, because the sand in Liberia, it is Liberians that supposed to benefit from it. Exporting sand from Liberia to another country, what is the direct benefit for Liberians? How is the sand leaving the country without the government's permission?"



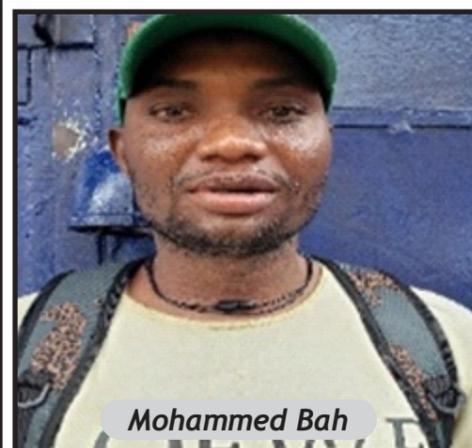
Jeremiah D. Duah

"I think it is a very bad thing that is going on in our country. The government needs to investigate how those Chinese came in the country to start this illegal sand mining. Sand mining can cause erosion, sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, or contamination of soil, groundwater, and surface water by chemicals emitted from mining processes. These processes also affect the atmosphere through carbon emission which contributes to climate change. Sand mining from rivers and marine ecosystems can lead to erosion, salination of aquifers, loss of protection against storm surges and impacts on biodiversity, so the government needs to step in and stop to it now. Our people that are living in slum communities don't have money to move and go anywhere.

Remember that mining is an inherently invasive process that can cause damage to a landscape in an area much larger than the mining site itself. The effects of this damage can continue for years after a mine has shut down, including the addition to greenhouse gasses, death of flora and fauna, and erosion of land and habitat, so the government needs to speak strong against it and stop it."



Emmanuel Robertson



Mohammed Bah

"The government needs to understand, it shows no good step in and do fast checking signal at all."

and know where such deal is coming from, and who are those involved, and how they came about the deal. Government should to take legal step without delay, because it is actually harmful to the citizens of Liberia, when rainy season is already around the corner and then we're hearing about Chinese company mining black sand. In my own

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Margibi caucus in deal with China Union?

Margibi, Liberia, April 8, 2024 - Story behind the perpetual non-payment of social development funds by the mining firm, China-Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Co. Ltd appears to be deeper than imagined, as an independent investigation traces default by the company to waiver from the county's caucus.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr.
A NEW DAWN'S investigation has discovered that Margibi Legislative Caucus from the former 54th Legislature waived social development funds owed by China-Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Co. Ltd,

the counties, we have not been doing that, we have not been giving it." According to Mr. Tate, Margibi County District#4 and Bong County District#7 Lawmakers have pressurized China Union to the extent that the company will now pay its social development funds meant for eight years.

company had provided huge kickbacks to lawmakers from the county to favor the waiver. At that time, it was publicly noted that current Senator Nathaniel McGill (then Minister of State for Presidential Affairs) used his influence during the Weah administration to make the Ministry of Finance halt remittance to the county, claiming that the lawmakers wanted to use the money for campaign.

Bong and Montserrado Counties through their respective caucuses are believed to have similarly followed suit, waiving certain amounts to the company in exchange for kickbacks. Currently, China Union says about 80 percent of its operations is in Margibi. This was also recently disclosed by its PRO Morris Tate in Kakata.

Some Margibians say it is disheartening that the company will come to give an impression of getting ready to pay social development funds owed for several years when in fact, it had an agreement with the caucuses of the counties, regarding its obligation.

They note that the company's action is a mockery, not only to the people of Margibi, but to Liberians generally. China-Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Co. Ltd is a subsidiary of China-Union (Hong Kong) Mining Co., Ltd., a corporation with head offices in Hong Kong, having the legal entities China Africa Development Fund Co., Ltd as shareholders. Editing by Jonathan Browne

But far from his statement, this paper discovered that the Margibi County Legislative Caucus through its former chairman, Ben A. Fofana, in 2023 waived a very huge percent of the social funds for years on grounds that the company had not been operating.

In 2023, the company paid US\$1M in Margibi's name to central government, instead of US\$4.5M or more. China Union is supposed to pay US\$750,000 annually to the county for its operations there. But this amount was never paid for nearly six years, thus a calculation of the total social funds owed will sum to more than US\$1M.

It is alleged that the



for several years, contrary to recent statement by the company that it owes the Government of Liberia social corporate funds for eight (8) years. The caucus was seriously criticized by stakeholders in the county in 2023 when the decision was taken under the leadership of former Representative Ben A. Fofana of Margibi District#4. The company's Public Relations Officer Morris Tate, recently disclosed in Kakata, Margibi County at a dedicatory ceremony for yellow machine saying, "As I speak to you guys, China Union, for the past eight years, we have not been working. We have not been doing anything. Even our social corporate responsibility with

Starts from back page

First Lady Boakai rallies against maternal

dawn, a mother whispers prayers for the life of her unborn child, a battle against the darkness of uncertainty.

She urges that such a painful reality should never "Be an experience in our modern society. We need to unite as a global village to bring an end to maternal and neonatal mortality. An African proverb teaches us, 'Wisdom is like a cotton tree; no one individual can embrace it.' The wisdom we seek today is that of unity and action to stem the tide of these senseless losses. We must rally together, for no mother should lose her life while bringing another into this world." She reveals that over 1.5 million young people across the globe between age 10-25 - the very promises of our future, were lost in 2021 along,

which should have never happened.

She laments that their potential was boundless, and their dreams were extinguished too soon, thus urging the gathering to be the generation that defies the odds, and turns the tide that declares with one voice: 'Not one more mother, not one more child, will we lose on our watch.' Madam Boakai reflects on the words of the late American civil rights campaigner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, 'Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.'

She underscore that as the world celebrates World Health Day, they reaffirm their relentless commitment to this creed, and to Liberia, a nation resilient and glorious yet tested

by trials that weigh heavily on the hearts of Liberians.

She reassures her commitment to the cause of empowering women and girls in this significant area, and announces the upcoming launch of the Women's Coalition for Reproductive Health and Rights, known as the Liberia Women Coalition for ICPD@30.

According to the First Lady, this coalition will focus on various aspects, including maternal health and ensuring access to modern family planning methods.

Woman loses left arm

Nimba, Liberia, April 9, 2024 - Nimba County, launchpad of Liberia's bloody civil war in 1989 stills wallops in violence, as a male resident chopped off the left hand of a woman for trespassing and receives arson attack in revenge.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

A 31-year-old woman has lost her left arm in a gruesome attack by a male employee of the Nimba County University for trespassing in his premises. But the suspect has suffered a revenge arson attack from angry mob, leaving his property burnt down after he chopped off the left arm of the woman.

Suspect Daniel S. Tokpah, an Accountant at the Nimba University, had allegedly attacked his victim, Madam Jessica Davis, during an early morning quarrel at 6:45 a.m. in Gbloryee community, for trespassing or passing thru his yard.

According to community chairman Prince Garwuo, at 6:45 in the morning, Victim Jessica Davis was on her way to get food from Gbloryee market to prepare food for her father-in-law when Suspect Daniel S. Tokpah chopped her with cutlass, wounding her severely for passing thru his yard.

Chairman Garwuo disclosed that several residents of Gbloryee community had been victims of attacks from Mr. Tokpah, for passing in his yard.

He said since Suspect Tokpah moved in the community, he had been involved in violence and continues to create problems for the community.

One of his victims, Nohn Lofen, who narrowly escaped death from a separate incident, told the NEWDAWN that she was the first to pass thru Suspect Tokpah's yard while Madam Jessica Davis was the second when she was attacked and chopped multiple times on her body, which led to losing her left hand. She explained that Suspect Daniel S. Tokpah had

attempted killing his wife, but she (Nohn) rescued the woman and since then she and the suspect have never been on good terms or spoken to each other. "This man had threatened to kill me several times because I rescue his wife", Nohn Lofen added.

Two other victims, Samuel Dolo and Helena Yini, narrated to the NEW DAWN that during early morning hours, Suspect Tokpah would come outside with a cutlass in his hand, threatening to kill anyone who passes thru his yard, a routine they note, he continues to do. Victim Jessica Davis and Suspect Tokpah reportedly live in the same yard, but he doesn't allow anyone to pass in front of his place that is not fenced, according to some residents of the community, who alleged that they had also been victimized by the



Victim Jessica Davis and Suspect Daniel S. Tokpah

suspect. Eyewitnesses say Tokpah chased 31-year-old Jessica Davis and attacked her twice, which left her hospitalized at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta City.

Community residents then apprehended the suspect and walked with him for over 20 minutes to the Ganta Police station. At the Police station angry crowd gathered in huge numbers and demanded the Police to turn him over for instant justice, threatening to set the station ablaze, but reinforcement from Yekepa and Sanniquellie alongside with the Gbarnga Regional Security Hub moved in and calmed the situation. Meanwhile, Suspect Tokpah remains in Police custody, pending full investigation. Editing by Jonathan Browne

SURVEY NOTICE April 8, 2024

The Public is hereby notified that, the undersigned Registered and Licensed Surveyor has been duly authorized by Administrator Vaani O. Baker of the Intestate Estate of the Late Christian Baker to conduct a re-survey of a parcel of Land containing one lot.

The Land in question is situated opposite the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, 22nd St., Sinkor, Montserrado County, Liberia.

Said survey will commence on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the hour 10:30 AM.

Therefore, all adjacent property owners and persons interested in the said survey should be present with his/her Deed(s), Diagram(s) and any relevant legal document(s) they may have, accompanied by their Technical Surveyor(s) to substitute their claims to avoid future land dispute.

This Notice should claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Her Honor Jamesetta Howard-Wolokolie, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia
2. Madam Mercy Mulbah
3. The Roland Family
4. The Scott Family
5. Mr. Alfred G. Troyah
6. Mr. Ben Gartay
7. The Russia Family
8. The Late William Howard
9. The Community Chairperson
10. The Nearest Police Station.

Signed: 
Kempson S. Murray, Sr.
Reg. & Lic. Land Surveyor

Contact: 0777-750-002

First Lady Boakai rallies against maternal & neonatal mortality

Monrovia, Liberia, April 9, 2024 - The First Lady of Liberia, Madam Kartumu Y. Boakai leads a campaign here against maternal & neonatal mortality with a shocking revelation that mothers in Liberia are dying at a staggering rate of 742 per 100,000 live births

By Lincoln G. Peters she said it is a global crusade that requires every ounce of our collective strength, wisdom, and empathy.



First Lady, Madam Kartumu Y. Boakai

The First Lady points out that everyone is aware that the shadow of maternal and neonatal mortality looms large in Liberia, with mothers perishing at a staggering rate of 742 per 100,000 live births and newborns at 37 per 1,000.

She explains that these are not mere numbers, as they are echoes of the anguish that alarmed through various communities with the loss of every mother, sister, and child and every number having a name, every data a heartbeat.

"In the time it takes me to speak these words, a child's future in Liberia is extinguished before it can even begin. Our nation that has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of conflict and the Ebola epidemic, and COVID-19 now faces a silent war in delivery rooms and cradles of our mothers and infants", she laments.

Madam Boakia imagines the heartbreak of a father at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Center (JFK) in Monrovia who held his newborn for mere moments before the child was swept away by the cruel tide of mortality, or she says perhaps hearing the voice in the glow of

▶ CONT'D page 11

appeal here, rallying the International Community to unite and end maternal and neonatal mortality in Liberia and all over the world. Delivering a special remark Monday, April 8, 2024 at celebration of World Health Day, Madam Boakai urged the world to remember that the struggle for healthcare equality is not a solitary battle waged in distant lands; rather,

"As the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, I accept with solemn duty and fervent passion my role as the Chief Maternal Newborn Health Champion. I implore each one of you within the sound of my voice and beyond, to join us as we embark on a crusade against the preventable tragedies that befall our mothers and infants", she urges.

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