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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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VOL. 14 NO. 52

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

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Sen. Prince Johnson

# PYJ Calls for UN investigation

# Chief Zoe spends night in prison

P11



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# Continental News

## US Binance official denies Nigeria money laundering

An executive from cryptocurrency firm Binance has pleaded not guilty to money laundering charges in a Nigerian court. US citizen Tigran Gambaryan was arrested in February, along with his

colleague Nadeem Anjarwalla, a British-Kenyan dual national. Their detention came as Nigeria accused Binance of being behind the country's economic turmoil. Two weeks ago Mr Anjarwalla escaped from custody and his whereabouts are unknown. On Monday, Mr Gambaryan rejected five counts of money laundering filed against him by Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). After the hearing, he was transferred to Kuje Correctional Centre, a prison

The EFCC had accused Binance - understood to be one of the most popular cryptocurrency platforms in Nigeria - along with Mr Gambaryan and Mr Anjarwalla, of laundering \$35.4m (£28m). In February, Mr Gambaryan, who is in charge of financial crime compliance at Binance, and Mr Anjarwalla, who is Binance's Africa Regional Manager, were detained after arriving in Nigeria for meetings to discuss the platform's operations in the country.

Binance was later that week ordered to pay a fine of \$10bn (£8bn). The government accused it of currency speculation and fixing exchange rates, leading to the free-fall of the local currency, the naira. The weakening of the naira, alongside food inflation and the soaring cost of living, has sparked an economic crisis in Nigeria.

Binance is not alone - Nigeria's authorities have been clamping down on cryptocurrency platforms in general over allegations they are being used for money laundering and financing terrorism. As well as money laundering charges, Binance and the two executives also face four counts of tax evasion, filed by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS). BBC

Monday's hearing, Mr Gambaryan's wife, Yuki, said: "I am beyond heartbroken that my innocent husband is being sent to a prison that houses known terrorists and murderers... it is beyond unacceptable that this is how they are treating a completely innocent man."

A Binance spokesperson said the charges against Mr Gambaryan were "meritless". They told the BBC: "We are deeply disappointed that Tigran Gambaryan, who has no decision-making power in the company, continues to be detained."



Tigran Gambaryan has been detained in Nigeria since February

## Zuma wins court battle to stand in S Africa election

South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma is free to run in May's general election after an electoral court overturned a ban on his candidacy.

Last month the electoral commission barred him over a contempt of court conviction. It argued the constitution prevented people from holding public office if convicted of a crime and sentenced to more than 12 months in prison.

Mr Zuma, 81, has been campaigning for the new uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party.

A former stalwart of the governing African National Congress (ANC), he is a controversial figure and served as president from 2009 until 2018, when he had to step down because of corruption allegations. He was sentenced to 15 months in jail in 2021 for failing to testify in a corruption investigation, though he only served three months on health grounds. The ruling could have a

significant impact on the outcome of next month's election.

Mr Zuma is the face of a newly formed MK opposition party, which is named after the ANC's former military wing. The ex-president sees himself as the true heir to the revolutionary roots of ANC, once led by Nelson Mandela. Mr Zuma's court victory means he can now run as the MK's leading candidate.

Rather than voting directly for a president, South Africans elect members of the National Assembly. The head of whichever

party can muster a majority is likely to become the country's leader, though it could put forward another candidate.

The ruling will also be a blow to the ANC, which after 30 years in power, faces a potentially bruising election.

For the first time since the start of the democratic era in 1994, the ANC's vote share could fall below 50%, several opinion polls predict. The MK party is seen as popular in Mr Zuma's home region of KwaZulu-Natal. BBC



Jacob Zuma was president of South Africa between 2009 and 2018

## Thousands continue to flee Sudan every day as conflict rages

The United Nations refugee agency says thousands of people are still fleeing Sudan every day as clashes between two warring army factions, raging for nearly a year, show no signs of abating.

The latest UNHCR figures show that more than 8.5 million people in Sudan have been forced to flee their homes since war erupted on April 15, 2023, making this one of the largest displacement and humanitarian crises in the world. The number includes 1.8 million Sudanese who have fled to neighboring countries seeking refuge. The UNHCR says fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has shattered peoples' lives. It says attacks on civilians are escalating, human rights violations are widespread and rampant, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence continues without stop, and the economy has collapsed. "While the war started one year ago, thousands

people would be equivalent to 4.5 million people arriving in less than one year in Germany or about 17.6 million people arriving in less than one year in the United States.

"This is the world's poorest country, so you can imagine the pressure that is being put on this country," she said. "There are very few roads, pretty much all humanitarian assistance has to be airlifted, at significant cost. We are approaching the rainy season again, so we are facing the risk of disease, particularly cholera.

"Unfortunately, we all know that the risk of sexual violence is high during transit," she said, "and we have heard of heartbreaking stories of what has happened to women who have had to flee when they were in Sudan."

Verney said the profile of many of the refugees presents challenge and opportunity as "many tend to be very urban." She said those who arrive from Sudan mostly lived in the capital, Khartoum, and the city of Wad Madani and "are very middle class, very educated, and have professional skills, mainly in



Sudanese refugees displaced by the conflict in Sudan gather to receive food staples from aid agencies at the Metche Camp

are crossing borders daily as if the emergency had started yesterday," UNHCR spokesperson Olga Sarrado told journalists in Geneva Tuesday. "Chad has experienced the largest refugee arrivals in its history. While teams from UNHCR and partners continue to work and relocate refugees to expanded and new settlements, over 150,000 remain in border areas in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, mainly and largely due to funding shortfalls," she said.

The UNHCR says more than 1,800 people are arriving daily in South Sudan alone, increasing pressure on the country's overstretched infrastructure and worsening vast humanitarian needs. "Some 635,000 people have arrived in South Sudan since the 15th of April last year, which represents more than 5% of the population of South Sudan," said Marie-Helene Verney, UNHCR representative in South Sudan, speaking from the capital, Juba. To put that number in perspective, she said 635,000

health and education."

The urban people are "reluctant to live in refugee camps," she said, so UNHCR is working with South Sudan to match their skills with the gaps that exist in the country.

The UNHCR's Sarrado notes other countries of asylum, including the Central African Republic, Egypt and Ethiopia, also are experiencing large daily inflows of Sudanese refugees and the many logistical challenges that come with them. "Those crossing borders, mostly women and children, are arriving in remote areas with little to nothing and in desperate need of food, water, shelter and medical care. Many families have been separated and arrive in distress. People and children have witnessed or experienced appalling violence, making psychosocial support a priority. Many children arrive malnourished," she said. As the conflict continues and the lack of assistance and opportunities deepens, Sarrado warned that "more people will be forced to flee Sudan to neighboring countries or to move further, risking their lives by embarking on long.

# 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.,  
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# COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

## The Hidden Costs of "Slowbalization"

**B**RUSSELS - The emergence of an open multilateral trading system that separated trade from geopolitics played a pivotal role in driving the post-World War II economy. But with trade policies increasingly shaped by geopolitical considerations, a new paradigm is becoming visible.

This trend started with the tariffs that former US President Donald Trump imposed on Chinese imports in 2018, which President Joe Biden's administration has maintained, and which caused China to impose its own tariffs on imports from the United States. Then, in 2022, following Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, G7 countries and the European Union imposed sweeping economic sanctions on Russia, effectively prohibiting exports to Russia and imports of Russian goods.

Instead of causing global trade to fall, as many expected, these trade barriers and restrictive measures merely slowed down globalization, turning it into "slowbalization." Remarkably, despite the war in Ukraine and the supply-chain disruptions of the past few years, trade as a percentage of GDP reached a record high in 2022, underscoring the resilience of the international trading system. In fact, the increases in container-shipment prices since 2022 can be attributed to an unexpected surge in the volume of goods being shipped globally.

But while it may be tempting to argue that geopolitically motivated measures have had a negligible economic impact, the perceived resilience of global trade can be misleading. Although the recent trade barriers led to higher trade volumes, many of them carry significant costs.

At first glance, the notion that a tariff could boost trade may seem paradoxical. But almost all the tariffs and trade restrictions imposed by the US since 2018 have been specifically aimed at China, leaving imports from other countries untouched. Consequently, imports from China have fallen sharply, while imports from countries like Vietnam have surged. Many consumer products shipped to the US are now assembled in Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.

But these imports still rely on intermediate inputs from China. Consequently, trade volumes have grown because, while US imports of consumer goods from Asia have remained consistent, China's exports of intermediate inputs to its Asian neighbors have increased. Similarly, although Mexico has overtaken China as the leading exporter of goods to the US, its own imports from China have surged by nearly 40% since 2018.

The electric-vehicle (EV) market illustrates how discriminatory practices can boost trade. Tariffs on Chinese EVs are approaching 30%, and US regulations disqualify EVs containing components produced or assembled in designated "entities of concern" from receiving tax credits, effectively excluding Chinese manufacturers from the American market.

By contrast, European EVs are subject to a significantly lower tariff of 2.5% and qualify for a \$7,500 subsidy under the Inflation Reduction Act when leased. Consequently, Chinese EV exports have shifted to Europe, while European automakers have found success in the US.

Meanwhile, the EU is undergoing a similar shift. In the wake of Western sanctions on Russia, European exports to Turkey and Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have skyrocketed. At the same time, trade volumes between these countries and Russia have soared.

Such methods of circumventing sanctions or discriminatory tariffs result in higher production and logistics costs, as goods must now be shipped to intermediate countries before being transported to the US. Sanctions and discriminatory tariffs can thus boost trade and reduce welfare.

These harmful consequences underscore the importance of the "most-favored nation" principle that has long been the cornerstone of the global trading system. The concerted efforts to liberalize trade, first through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and subsequently through the World Trade Organization, have increased trade volumes and overall welfare thanks to their non-discriminatory approach. By contrast, today's geopolitically-driven discriminatory tariffs and trade barriers explicitly target specific countries viewed as hostile or as potential threats.

Who pays the price? Economic theory (and common sense) provides a clear answer: countries that impose discriminatory trade restrictions end up bearing the costs while the rest of the world benefits. Consequently, the US and China are negatively affected by their tariff war, while Vietnam and Mexico gain by serving as intermediaries. Similarly, Turkey and Central Asian countries benefit from sanctions against Russia, while the EU foots the bill.

This distribution of costs and benefits helps explain the limited international opposition to Trump's China tariffs. After all, the EU, Mexico, or Vietnam have little incentive to object to a US policy that benefits their own industries. Consequently, international pressure is unlikely to deter major powers like the US or China from prioritizing geopolitical strategies over trade liberalization. To counter this tendency, it is crucial to make political leaders aware of the adverse effects of trade barriers.

As the most open and least geopolitically ambitious of the world's major economic powers, the EU is likely to recognize this first. But the stakes are much higher for the US and China. The US, in particular, stands to lose the most if it continues its trade war with China. To prevent this outcome, it must change course and return to the non-discriminatory principles that have long underpinned global trade policies.

# OP-ED

By Laurence Tubiana

## Taxing Polluters Is the Key to Climate Justice

**P**ARIS - After years of avoiding any explicit mention of the primary cause of climate change, negotiators at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai last year finally reached an agreement calling for a “transition away from fossil fuels.” But another uncomfortable question still looms large: How will that transition be financed? As Simon Stiell, the UN’s climate chief, recently observed, “it’s blazingly obvious that finance is the make-or-break factor in the world’s climate fight.”

Climate finance will be the single most important issue both at COP29 in Azerbaijan this year and at COP30 in Brazil in 2025. Notwithstanding recent pledges of money for a new “loss and damage” fund to help developing countries deal with climate change, current financing falls far short of what is required. The European Union estimates that it must invest €1.5 trillion (\$1.63 trillion) per year from 2031 to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and developing countries (excluding China) are expected to need \$2.4 trillion per year by 2030. Brazil alone will have to find an additional \$200 billion to reach its 2030 emissions-reduction goals.

There are no simple solutions. The sluggish growth and tight monetary conditions following the pandemic mean that even rich countries are operating with limited fiscal headroom. While more private capital is needed everywhere, its role will be smaller in low- and middle-income countries, owing to the significant premiums they face when borrowing for green projects.

Bold new policies are needed to mobilize public funding, and there is a strong case to be made for progressive taxes on carbon-intensive activities and extreme wealth. Both would generate revenues while also extending the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility” to industries and individuals.

Taxation is the standard instrument for states to raise funds reliably and at scale, and thus to commit to long-term spending and investment plans. For developing countries, in particular, the predictability of taxes makes them more useful than concessional finance. Moreover, new taxes can unlock additional resources for countries to dedicate to climate-related investments, sparing them from having to reallocate scarce funding within existing budgets. Globally, a 0.1% financial-transactions tax could raise up to \$418 billion per year, while a relatively modest levy of \$5 per ton of carbon dioxide emissions could bring in \$210 billion per year.

The International Monetary Fund has long advocated taxes on CO2 emissions and fossil-fuel extraction, both as a source of climate finance and to shape incentives by ensuring that polluters pay. The extra revenue from such taxes would help high-income countries (the leading historical source of emissions) fulfill their moral obligations toward poorer, more vulnerable countries. As matters stand, rich countries’ financial assistance for developing countries needs to be an order of magnitude greater than the current pledge of \$100 billion per year.

Pollution taxes would also help to redress inequalities within countries. Even in those economies with lower historical and per capita emissions, there is a significant gap between most of the population’s emissions and the highest emitters. The economist Lucas Chancel finds that “carbon inequality” is greater within countries than between them, and that it tracks inequalities in income and wealth. This should come as no surprise. Globally, the wealthiest 1% emit the same as the poorest 66% combined.

This injustice is not lost on ordinary citizens. In fact, it increasingly threatens our ability to build and sustain a political consensus for effective climate policies. Taxes to ensure that those with the greatest means and the highest emissions pay their fair share would go a long way toward convincing the public that a “just transition” is not just an empty slogan.

But while the theoretical case for such taxes is strong, adoption and implementation has proven difficult. Capital, people (particularly the wealthy), and emissions all move easily across borders, undermining the efficacy of national or regional tax regimes. Though cross-border cooperation on taxation is never easy, an international agreement would give countries more leverage over their own resources, allowing them to protect those most in need. Multilateralism would be in every country’s interest.

There are encouraging signs that the political taboo against taxation is weakening. The text agreed by all parties at COP28 explicitly called “for accelerating the ongoing establishment of new and innovative sources of finance, including taxation.” And last November, UN member states passed a resolution to establish a Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, paving the way for a fairer approach to setting global rules.

Now, the G20, led by Brazil, is considering a global minimum tax on the world’s 3,000 billionaires, who currently pay a much lower effective tax rate than the rest of the population. The EU Tax Observatory estimates that a 2% annual levy on their wealth - if properly coordinated - could raise \$250 billion per year.

Capitalizing on this momentum, a diverse group of countries has launched a new international tax taskforce. Chaired jointly by the leaders of Kenya, Barbados, and France, its mandate is to explore tax policies that could raise the equivalent of at least 0.1% of global GDP to finance sustainable development and climate action. The point is not to prescribe a single solution for all countries, but rather to assess the political and technical obstacles to many plausible options, drawing on a diverse range of experts and perspectives.

Many options are on the table, including taxes on aviation and shipping, in addition to fossil-fuel extraction and financial transactions. The taskforce will seek to advance our understanding of how such taxes could be applied equitably, perhaps paving the way for an agreement on particular policies.

Fair taxation could be a powerful lever for accelerating a just transition. By contributing fresh empirical findings and fostering trust and cooperation between countries, the new taskforce can help everyone to address the injustices at the heart of the climate crisis and unlock the resources they need to address it. Reducing the burden on poorer people and countries is not just a moral obligation. It is also necessary to win their support for a transition that cannot happen without them.

# OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

## Are We Ready for AI Creative Destruction?

**B**OSTON - The ancient Chinese concept of yin and yang attests to humans’ tendency to see patterns of interlocked opposites in the world around us, a predilection that has lent itself to various theories of natural cycles in social and economic phenomena. Just as the great medieval Arab philosopher Ibn Khaldun saw the path of an empire’s eventual collapse imprinted in its ascent, the twentieth-century economist Nikolai Kondratiev postulated that the modern global economy moves in “long wave” super-cycles.

But no theory has been as popular as the one - going back to Karl Marx - that links the destruction of one set of productive relations to the creation of another. Writing in 1913, the German economist Werner Sombart observed that, “from destruction a new spirit of creation arises.”

It was the Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter who popularized and broadened the scope of the argument that new innovations perennially replace previously dominant technologies and topple older industrial behemoths. Many social scientists built on Schumpeter’s idea of “creative destruction” to explain the innovation process and its broader implications. These analyses also identified tensions inherent in the concept. For example, does destruction bring creation, or is it an inevitable by-product of creation? More to the point, is all destruction inevitable?

In economics, Schumpeter’s ideas formed the bedrock of the theory of economic growth, the product cycle, and international trade. But two related developments have catapulted the concept of creative destruction to an even higher pedestal over the past several decades. The first was the runaway success of Harvard Business School professor Clayton Christensen’s 1997 book, *The Innovator’s Dilemma*, which advanced the idea of “disruptive innovation.” Disruptive innovations come from new firms pursuing business models that incumbents have deemed unattractive, often because they appeal only to the lower-end of the market. Since incumbents tend to remain committed to their own business models, they miss “the next great wave” of technology.

The second development was the rise of Silicon Valley, where tech entrepreneurs made “disruption” an explicit strategy from the start. Google set out to disrupt the business of internet search, and Amazon set out to disrupt the business of book selling, followed by most other areas of retail. Then came Facebook with its mantra “move fast and break things.” Social media transformed our social relations and how we communicate in one fell swoop, epitomizing both creative destruction and disruption at the same time.

The intellectual allure of these theories lies in transforming destruction and disruption from apparent costs into obvious benefits. But while Schumpeter recognized that the destruction process is painful and potentially dangerous, today’s disruptive innovators see only win-wins. Hence, the venture capitalist and technologist Marc Andreessen writes: “Productivity growth, powered by technology, is the main driver of economic growth, wage growth, and the creation of new industries and new jobs, as people and capital are continuously freed to do more important, valuable things than in the past.”

Now that hopes for artificial intelligence exceed even those of Facebook in its early days, we would do well to re-evaluate these ideas. Clearly, innovation is sometimes disruptive by nature, and the process of creation can be as destructive as Schumpeter envisaged it. History shows that unrelenting resistance to creative destruction leads to economic stagnation. But it doesn’t follow that destruction ought to be celebrated. Instead, we should view it as a cost that can sometimes be reduced, not least by building better institutions to help those who lose out, and sometimes by managing the process of technological change.

Consider globalization. While it creates important economic benefits, it also destroys firms, jobs, and livelihoods. If our instinct is to celebrate those costs, it may not occur to us to try to mitigate them. And yet, there is much more that we could do to help adversely affected firms (which can invest to branch out into new areas), assist workers who lose their jobs (through retraining and a safety net), and support devastated communities.

Failure to recognize these nuances opened the door for the excessive creative destruction and disruption that Silicon Valley has pushed on us these past few decades. Looking ahead, three principles should guide our approach, especially when it comes to AI.

First, as with globalization, helping those who are adversely affected is of the utmost importance and must not be an afterthought. Second, we should not assume that disruption is inevitable. As I have argued previously, AI need not lead to mass job destruction. If those designing and deploying it do so only with automation in mind (as many Silicon Valley titans wish), the technology will create only more misery for working people. But it could take more attractive alternative paths. After all, AI has immense potential to make workers more productive, such as by providing them with better information and equipping them to perform more complex tasks.

The worship of creative destruction must not blind us to these more promising scenarios, or to the distorted path we are currently on. If the market does not channel innovative energy in a socially beneficial direction, public policy and democratic processes can do much to redirect it. Just as many countries have already introduced subsidies to encourage more innovation in renewable energy, more can be done to mitigate the harms from AI and other digital technologies.

Third, we must remember that existing social and economic relations are exceedingly complex. When they are disrupted, all kinds of unforeseen consequences can follow. Facebook and other social-media platforms did not set out to poison our public discourse with extremism, misinformation, and addiction. But in their rush to disrupt how we communicate, they followed their own principle of moving fast and then seeking forgiveness.

We urgently need to pay greater attention to how the next wave of disruptive innovation could affect our social, democratic, and civic institutions. Getting the most out of creative destruction requires a proper balance between pro-innovation public policies and democratic input. If we leave it to tech entrepreneurs to safeguard our institutions, we risk more destruction than we bargained for.

Daron Acemoglu, Institute Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

## DATE WITH

## THE NATION

# Too Many Wars Too Soon Mr. President

By D. WA HNE JR.

The experiences of World War 1 and 2 have taught leaders the great lessons to not start wars at many fronts with potential forces at the same time as winning or sustaining such wars could be either disastrous or most costly.

Wars are expensive, destructive, and cause development to standstill. They are distractive and disruptive to goals set. In the worst case scenarios, they never achieve their intended purposes and leave behind trails of human suffering. Germany's Adolph Hitler was a victim of such wars at many fronts as well as France's Napoleon Bonaparte.



Pres. Boakai

Before planning and executing a war, strategic research and calculations are done on the possibilities of winning or losing. Casualty risks must be contemplated as well. Importantly, one must search out domestic priorities first, pursue them, strengthen the domestic corridor before pursuing the demands of some international actors.

Wars are not only military. They can be reforms, decisions, restructuring of existing structures, changing the status quo, or fighting to discontinue popular existing cultures and traditions and altering social, economic and political courses.

The new administration in Liberia has kicked off its 100 days deliverables with complex, complicated, and very troubling decisions that are openly caught up in legal battles, criticisms and oppositions from various fronts that could possibly rock the nation off its feet if care is not taken.

Though those decisions are in the best interest of the nation, their timings, forms and methods are absolutely troubling. At the moment, President Boakai is choked with huge domestic responsibilities, obligations, timeline execution of promises, and struggles to complete the very formation of government which by themselves are battles to confront.



Former Pres. Weah

The general opinions of Liberians on different media platforms are that the Boakai's Administration should first engaged the bread and butter issues to win the trust and acceptance of the people as a populace government before getting itself involved or entangled with too many critical and complex battles at many fronts at the same time.

There are pressing domestic problems such as the sudden rise in the currency exchange rate which is reaching a 200 level pedestal, rising cost of transport fares, rising cost of our staple food (rice), scorching heat and epileptic supply of electricity, conflagration of homes due to power fluctuations and poor unsaved electric distribution networks, lack of emergency assistance to fire victims, the still harmonized salaries of civil servants, strike actions by mining employees, mass dismissals of Liberians from their jobs allegedly because of partisan politics, amongst others.



Former Pres. Sirleaf

As I endorsed President Boakai's decision to fight corruption and impunity, I also endorsed a process of legality and utilization of institutions already legally in place to fight corruption. I also think the President should disabuse the minds of skeptics who believe the fight against corruption and impunity is unholistic, considering the fact that the

President himself was vehemently critical of the corrupt practices of the administration he presided over as Vice President.

Critics of his sincerity are challenging him to prove his assertions that opportunities were squandered by bringing the Sirleaf's administration into the audit spotlight also.

In all circles of the Liberian society, there are troubling questions being asked as regarding the good faith of his moves and whether the Devil's details are not in them? For example, one of his early decisions was to order the GAC to audit the EPS and the NSA.

I raised the red flag immediately and questioned that decision in my February 15, 2024 Article in the New Dawn News Paper and that of the Oracle Newspaper entitled "Digging into National Security Systems A Threat to National Security."



Sen. Prince Johnson

In my opinion, that could expose Liberia's national security covert operations and negatively impact and weaken the security of the President and national security intelligence gathering as such audit would blow off the cover on how our President is protected and how we gather

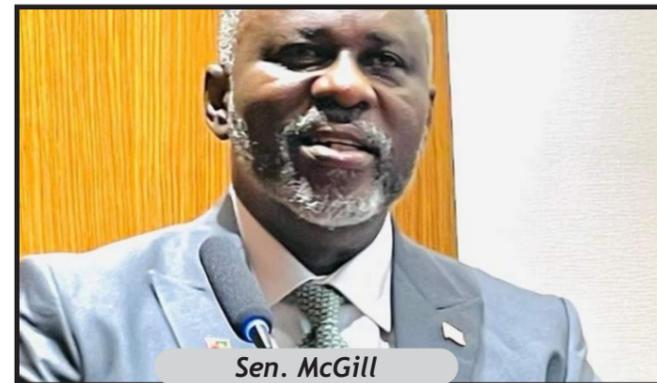
our intelligence information.

The open audit of them instead of utilizing their own audit system would not only be a war to expose the former President and subject him to disgrace as critics believe is President Boakai's ultimate goal, but it would also be a non-beneficial war against his own security.

I also considered as a counterproductive war against his own signature Rule of Law platform the disregard of the tenure laws by nominating individuals to tenure positions, while tenure holders term of office are yet to expire. The legal battles that immediately ensued which led to the Supreme Court placing hold on all presidential appointments to tenure positions should not have, at all, taken place under a Boakai's Administration.

In my effort to contribute to this administration success, I shared my thoughts in an article carried in the Oracle Newspaper on January 13, 2024 and subsequently in the New Dawn Newspaper under the caption, "Partisan Politics Versus Tenure Positions".

Those articles were written in good faith, hoping that the President would take note to prevent any action or decision that would subject his administration to criticism and legal actions. My goal was to protect the President of Liberia national and international image since he made an open campaign pledge to Liberians to be the Protector of the Rule of Law.



Sen. McGill

Unfortunately, the reverse is now the case. There are petitions before the nation's highest court to place stay order on him. There are public outcries and expressions of disappointments in him. The President did not need to reach this level. The Tenure battle is still ongoing with advisors convincing him that he is on the right trajectory. In view thereof, the President has become undeterred and unflinching in his commitment to pursue the abrogation of the tenure laws. He has accordingly dismissed the Deputy Director General of NASSCORP for disallowing, as instructed by her superior, the take over of the institution by a team led by the UP Party Chairman.

The Director General of NASSCORP who is yet to be dismissed had instructed his Deputy not to allow the takeover process as he was out of the Country and on the legal strength that NASSCORP operates under tenure laws. This recent action is now an undelightful discussion in the public domain.

## WAR CRIMES AND ASSET RECOVERY

Nearly all Liberians have been craving for a war and economic crimes court. The Boakai's administration has launched not only the process leading to the establishment of such court, but has equally launched another war against former President Weah and his officials. His ability to sustain and win these two battles will depend on the processes he put in place and they must sustain the legal tests.

The war to bring to trial influential warlords before a war crimes court and to pursue the former President and his officials and have their assets seized, are not just simple ordinary wars. These are major wars to fight by a new government which came to power not on a popular mandate- but on a far less than 5% win and is yet to take solid roots.

Those individuals and people this administration are engaging into battles with are all politically strong people who have hundreds of thousands of followers combined. They are influencers of this nation who could possibly build alliances against the government.

In a battle of such, enemies could become friends against a common enemy. In my opinion, this is a chaotic exercise with every signal to ruin reconciliation, national unity, and stability. There are presumptions that these forces may not shy away from the wars against them, nor deliver themselves willingly to the altar of shame and humiliation. I

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Deploy scarce development financing to impact poor and vulnerable

**-World Bank Liberia Country Manager**

MONROVIA, April 9, 2024 - World Bank Liberia Country Manager Georgia Wallen has called on participants at the Government of Liberia (GoL) Joint Sectoral Portfolio Review



urgency, she said the next six years are critically important for scaling up efforts to deliver high-quality, high-impact development in Liberia. There are six years left to the target date for achieving Liberia

sectors ranging from agriculture and energy to health, education, social protection, water and roads. Our program is closely aligned with ARREST (Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism) agenda of the Liberian Government and well-placed to support the forthcoming National Development Plan."Ms. Wallen pointed out that the International Development Association - known as IDA - provides most World Bank financing to Liberia. "We are currently in the early stages of the challenging process of replenishing IDA to allow for continued development finance over the next three years. Scarce taxpayer dollars need to be deployed where they make the biggest, most lasting difference for the poor and vulnerable," the World Bank Liberia Country Manager said. She stressed the need to think critically about areas of under-performance and opportunities to re-deploy or repurpose scarce financing to higher priority areas.Addressing the GoL Joint Portfolio Review at the Belle Casa Hotel in Sinkor, Madam Wallen called on participants to keep the people of Liberia front and center - first

to reflect on opportunities to depart from business as usual to get more out of our development assistance. Quoting the President of the World Bank Ajay Banga, Ms. Wallen said, "Development delayed is development denied." Time is of the essence, she stressed, adding: "Let's find motivation in a strong sense of urgency."

Speaking on a sense of

▶ CONT'D page 7

## LISCR earns QUALSHIP 21 for 2024-2025

The Liberian Registry, the world's largest shipping registry, has once again qualified for the QUALSHIP 21 (QS21) program for 2024-2025 as awarded by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). This prestigious designation underscores the Registry's unwavering commitment to excellence within the maritime industry.

"Achieving QS21 is a humble testament to the collective efforts of our team and our dedication to ensuring the highest standards of safety and quality. We are grateful to our owners and operators of the Liberian Registry's fleet, this honor reflects our shared goals. Furthermore, I look to the future and hope to see more collaboration from both USCG and other Port State Control administrations. Our cooperation with the USCG aims to foster mutual understanding, which in turn will enable flag states to act proactively and transparently to achieve our common objectives," stated Alfonso Castellero, Chief Executive Officer of the Liberian International Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR).

The QS21 program acknowledges vessels and flag administrations that consistently uphold stringent safety and quality standards while transiting through and conducting port operations within the United States. To qualify for this esteemed program, flag administrations must maintain a U.S. Port State Control (PSC) detention ratio of less than 1.00% over a three-year period with a minimum of 10 annual PSC examinations.

About The Liberian Registry  
The Liberian Registry has a long-established track

record of combining the highest standards of safety and security while providing top-tier responsive and innovative service to our owners and operators. As the world's largest, the Registry is comprised of over 5,500 vessels aggregating 256 million gross tons, representing 16 percent of the world's ocean-going fleet. Moreover, the Liberian Registry has a well-deserved reputation for supporting international legislation designed to ensure safety, security and the effectiveness of the shipping industry while also focusing on the protection of the marine environment. www.lisrcr.com



## Implement anti-corruption policies

**The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) urges the Boakai administration to fight corruption by prosecuting culprits.**

**By Lewis S Teh**

MONROVIA, Liberia, April 10, 2024 - The Boakai Administration is under immense pressure to fight corruption and misappropriation in the public sector to restore trust.

The Charge d' affaires at the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia, Catharine Rodriguez, recently urged President Joseph Boakai to take concrete actions on audit findings in order to bring massive growth and development to the country.

"There must also be concrete actions taken on audit findings and recommendations to address identified deficiencies and make corrections. Most importantly, when individuals are found to have committed fraud, waste, or abuse of public resources, they must be held accountable", Ambassador Rodriguez said here.

Now, USAID Country Director

**-USAID urges Boakai**

corruption policies and prosecute those responsible for corruption", he reiterated, and explained that USAID designs and implements its programs within the framework of a five-year strategy.

The Country Rep. continued that USAID developed this strategy (and all the programs they implement) to align with and support Liberia's strategic development initiatives disclosing, "We will be designing new strategy which will take effect in 2025."

He said to achieve this, the Agency will undertake extensive consultations with its counterparts in government at national, county, and district levels, including civil society, private sector organizations and other development partners.

"To be successful, we are dependent on local leadership to set the priorities, to fully participate in co-creation to shape projects, and to meaningfully



Jim Wright

here, Jim Wright, is calling on the new administration to hastily implement anti-corruption policies and immediately prosecute those that will be held liable.Mr. Wright in a strongly-worded statement in Monrovia on Monday, April 8, at the start of a four-day joint-sectoral portfolio performance review hosted by the Government of Liberia, noted "Today, I would be most interested in hearing how the Government of Liberia is thinking about its development plans and priorities. I also am interested in hearing how the Government of Liberia plans to increase accountability and transparency in the management of public resources."

He said corruption prevents the government and people of Liberia from realizing their goals of social and economic development and job creation, while diverting precious donor resources from benefiting their intended recipients - the people of Liberia.

"I strongly urge the Liberian government to implement anti-

engage in implementation in order to ensure sustainability."

Mr. Wright called on the Liberian government to take full responsibility of its development issues, stressing that the Liberian government is responsible for its own development challenges and should be commended for devising Liberian-led solutions to these challenges. "Our activities are supplemental, and not a substitution for Liberian government's funding; in that vein, it is critical that Liberia's annual budget set aside line items for service delivery and that funds reach their intended destinations", he said.

He asked the government to increase budget accountability and transparency, and recommends that budget hearing is underway, to establish priorities and align the budget to them.

Deputizing for the minister of finance and development planning Boimah Kamara, deputy finance minister for fiscal affairs Delphuo Zuo, lauded Liberia's development partners for their continuous support."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# House orders Yekeh investigated

Mr. Kolubah has survived through Liberian politics as a two-time elected lawmaker consistently making indecent and embarrassing statements against sitting presidents and their families, including President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his predecessor, Mr. George Manneh

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, April 10, 2024: The House of Representatives has instructed its committees on Rules Order and Administration to investigate controversial Montserrado County Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah. The investigation

House of Representatives. The communication came after Mr. Kolubah addressed some reporters over the weekend and made some indecent and embarrassing statements against President Boakai and his family. Yekeh's verbal attacks against presidents, which often

unsubstantiated allegations against the President of the Republic of Liberia and members of his family.

He complained that while the allegations were troubling, indecent and embarrassing, the form and manner in which Kolubah chose to make his assertions were in total violation of the Rules and Procedures governing the House of Representatives.

"RULE 40.1 is quoted in part as saying without prejudice to the provisions of this rule, every member shall be honest and transparent at any time.

RULE 40.2 adds that no member may introduce false information or unsubstantiated matter, pretending that it is true. RULE 42.1 requires that every member of the House shall, at any place, keep the prestige and dignity of the House and refrain from undesirable acts.

Dahn noted that because of the gravity of the forgoing violation, and the injury it has placed on the reputation of the House, it is obliged to uphold honourability at all times.

He recommended that the leadership of the House takes charge of the matter, conduct an investigation to determine the rationality behind Kolubah's public degradation.

He also asked the House to institute the appropriate disciplinary actions where applicable in accordance with Rule 48.1.



Rep. Yekeh Y. Kolubah

surrounds Mr. Kolubah's alleged breach of Rules 40 and 41 of the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives took against the Montserrado County Electoral District # 10 Representative after it received a communication from his colleague, Mr. Emmanuel Dahn on Tuesday, 9 April 2024. Mr. Dahn, a representative for Montserrado Electoral District #7, had written to complain to the House Plenary about a grave matter involving the integrity and decorum of the

involve wild allegations and invectives, did not start with President Boakai.

He has notoriously survived through Liberian politics as a two-time elected lawmaker by consistently making indecent and embarrassing statements against sitting presidents and their families.

Some of his victims are President Boakai and his predecessor, Mr. George Manneh Weah.

Mr. Dahn informed the House Plenary that on Sunday, 7 April 2024, Rep. Kolubah, in a live Facebook broadcast, made series of

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## Deploy scarce development financing

and foremost - in these discussions. "We will talk about various quantitative measures of impact, such as disbursement rates and other measures of progress. But the most important measure is, how many people are we reaching? Are we reaching the poor and vulnerable effectively?" "In the energy sector, for example, how many people get to turn on the lights

because of these engagements? In education, how many girls and boys can access education that is safe and high-quality? In health, how many mothers can access prenatal care and how many children are able to access life-saving vaccines? All that we are doing has the Liberian people as our primary motivation and focus," the World Bank Liberia Country Manager said. In closing, Ms.

Wallen called for a sense of urgency; commitment to value for money in the use of scarce taxpayer dollars; and keeping the Liberian people front and center - these factors, she emphasized, can help to guide the portfolio review. The portfolio review brought together participants from the Government of Liberia, Development Partners and non-state actors.

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## Chief Zoe spends night in prison

committed to the Monrovia Central Prison pending adherence to the Court's writ.

While one of the Zoes is incarcerated at the Monrovia Central Prison, they will bring the children on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

On February 6, 2023, the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL),

through its Chairperson, Chief Zanzan Karwor, made a historic proclamation to ban the practice of FGM in Liberia. Chief Zanzar Karwor declared, "By the power vested in me by all the Paramount Chiefs of the 15 political divisions in Liberia and signed by myself... FGM is banned in Liberia."

Previously, in 2018,

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf signed an executive order on the Domestic Violence bill to ban FGM on girls under 18 years old. However, the ban expired in February 2019. The government of Liberia and its partners continue to work closely on the issue of ending FGM in Liberia, including proffering legal reforms.

Starts from back page

## Senate signs war crimes

before it finally gets the legislative passage to be submitted to the Executive.

The document said the Extraordinary Criminal Court to be established shall be known as the UN-backed "Special War Crimes Court for Liberia (SWACCOL)."

It shall have the mandate to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibilities for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed between the period 1979 and 2003 under Article 34(f). Consistent with Article 34(e)(b)(j)(l) of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, it said the Executive shall develop a legal framework and submit it to the Legislature for enactment into law for the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Court (ACC) focusing from 1979 to 2003. The agreement also said the President shall write the United Nations, the European Union, and the United States Government expressing the Liberian Government's intention to establish the Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal on Liberian soil or to a country to be designated. It continues that the Liberian Leader shall further request financial and other assistance; develop a financial resource mobilization plan and submit it to the United Nations, the EU, the US Government, and other international partners to seek financial and economic support for the establishment and operations of the court.

The instrument mandates that the President shall report to the Legislature as to the progress made on the establishment of the two courts as well as challenges or outcomes of his engagements with the United Nations, the EU, the US Government, and other international partners.

It demands an update regarding the resource mobilization plan and results, including domestic resource mobilization through the budgetary process, according to the Resolution. "That consistent with Chapter 2, Article 5(c) of the 1986 Constitution, the President shall issue an Executive Order to establish the Office of War Crimes (OWC) within the Ministry of Justice," the instrument said.

He further mandates the president to appoint a Special Envoy or Officer-In-Charge (OIC), duly certified by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, or the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACtHPR) or any other International Courts and Tribunals. The legislative instrument demands that the appointee shall have the relevant experience, qualification, and

competence in international criminal law and practice, to organize and coordinate all actions and activities regarding the Court.

The appointee is mandated to assist the president in mobilizing resources and do all that is legally feasible, including the establishment of a secretariat, where applicable, to facilitate its operations and the successful implementation of its mandate, among others.

It said these actions mandate shall be undertaken in consultation with the UN, the EU, the US, and other independent parties.

The Joint Resolution furthered that to jump-start this renewed campaign of national reconciliation and healing as the final phase of Liberia's recovery process, the President shall implement certain recommendations of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). It said the president shall offer an apology on behalf of the State to the many victims and the people of Liberia in general for its role in the conflict and the injuries and losses sustained by individuals and communities.

It called on the Liberian Government to work with the United Nations, the EU, the US Government, and other international partners to set up a Reparation Trust Fund for victims and communities worst affected by the conflict.

The intent is to have these victims benefit through direct financial assistance or development programs and projects.

The document also wants the state to continue the National Palava Hut Program and other programs for national healing, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.

It additionally ordered the construction of a national monument to commemorate the victims of the atrocities, to serve as a reminder of the war, and to create a national consciousness against armed conflicts.

"Wherefore, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives hereunto affix their signatures this 8th day of April A. D. 2024," the Joint Resolution stressed.

Meanwhile, the Joint Resolution is an initial step taken by the 55th National Legislature as the full establishment of such a court shall be done through a bill or an act to be passed by the Legislature. The Act or Bill will also have to be signed by the President and finally printed into a handbill for its implementation.

The US Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Dr. Alan White who was seated in the chambers of the Liberian senate could not speak to the press on grounds that he will be meeting with the President of Liberia, Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

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# Français

## Résolution de l'association du barreau libérien pour la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques

La campagne pour la création d'un tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques divise les Libériens. Ceux qui cherchent l'impunité pour crimes de guerre et économiques (WCC) au Liberia. Les avocats ont adopté la résolution lors de l'Assemblée nationale de la LNBA, alors que les membres du Sénat libérien continuent d'examiner une

l'ensemble des participants à la convention s'est déclaré prêt à mener la charge pour la création du tribunal.

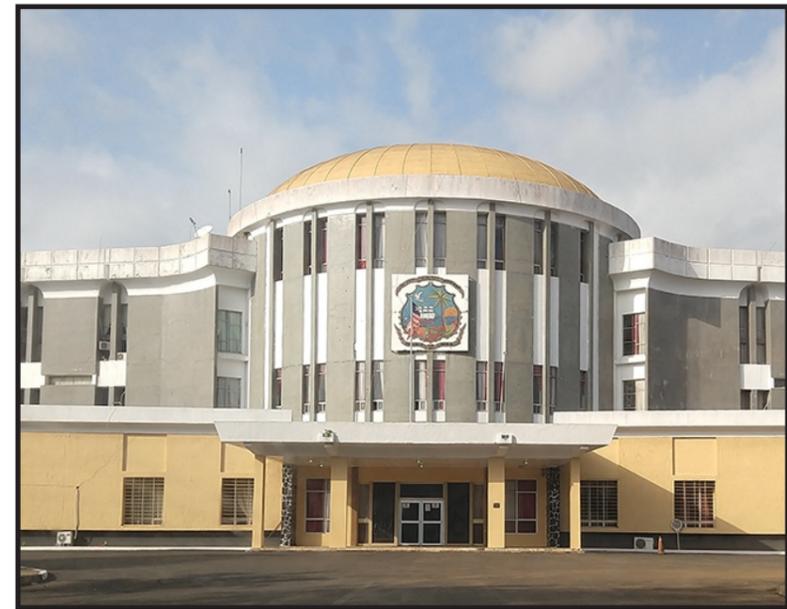
Lors de l'assemblée de la LNBA en 2019 à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, la plupart des avocats présents ont décidé de soutenir la mise en œuvre des recommandations de l'ancienne Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR), en particulier la création du tribunal.

Par la suite, la LNBA a rédigé un projet de loi pour la création du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques et a dirigé un groupe de représentants des organisations de la société civile du Liberia pour présenter 103 copies du projet de loi aux membres de la législature par l'intermédiaire de la commission des réclamations et des pétitions de la Chambre, le représentant Gonpu Kargon.

La LNBA s'est même présentée devant le Sénat libérien pour le persuader de soutenir la création du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques.

Dans son discours d'ouverture à l'assemblée de la LNBA, le

▶ **CONT'D page 9**



pour leurs liens avec des atrocités historiques et des crimes économiques tentent d'entraver le processus.

Au cours du week-end, l'Association du barreau national du Liberia (LNBA) a adopté à l'unanimité une résolution visant à mener une campagne vigoureuse pour la création du tribunal

résolution signée et envoyée par la Chambre des représentants il y a environ un mois pour approbation par les sénateurs.

À la fin de son assemblée, la LNBA a lu une résolution en sept points, mais l'élément clé de la résolution était la création du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques. Lors de la lecture de la résolution,

## Proposition d'électrification du comté de Gbarpolu par ENERGICITY Liberia - Audience publique de la LERC

ENERGICITY Liberia a présenté une proposition aux habitants du comté de Gbarpolu et au Conseil d'administration (BoC) de la Commission de régulation de l'électricité du Liberia (LERC) sur la manière dont elle fournira l'accès à l'électricité dans dix communautés du comté.

Lors d'une audience publique organisée par la Commission le 5 avril 2024, M. Femi A. Coker, Directeur du développement du marché, a informé le BoC qu'après de longs engagements avec l'Agence pour le renouvellement de l'énergie rurale (RREA) et la Commission de l'électricité du Liberia (LEC), ENERGICITY Liberia a décidé de concentrer ses efforts sur le développement de mini-réseaux dans le comté de Gbarpolu.

En 2021, la société a présenté une demande au Fonds africain hors réseau (BGFA) et a été sélectionnée pour développer et exploiter un portefeuille de mini-réseaux dans 10 communautés comptant environ 4 000

clients dans le comté de Gbarpolu.

Les premières communautés à bénéficier de l'électrification solaire sont Bopolu City, Totoquolle, Henry Town, Farwanta, Gbana, Zuo, Yagaryah, Takpoima, Smith Camp et Wesua.

« ENERGICITY Liberia s'est fermement engagée à collaborer avec le gouvernement libérien pour améliorer l'accès à l'énergie dans le pays et contribuer au développement du secteur électrique du Liberia », a affirmé M. Coker.

Si la Commission délivre le permis, M. Coker a précisé qu'ENERGICITY Liberia mettra en

service son premier site d'ici le deuxième ou le troisième trimestre de 2024, avec une capacité totale installée initiale proposée de 970 kWc (solaire) et un système de stockage d'énergie par batterie (BESS) de 4 MWh.

Il a expliqué qu'ENERGICITY Liberia avait déjà commencé la construction et l'achèvement de plusieurs centrales électriques et l'installation de lampadaires dans plusieurs communautés.

L'exposé de M. Coker lors de l'audience publique a été suivi de commentaires, de

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## 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.

# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Résolution de l'association**

célèbre avocat libérien des droits humains, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a déclaré qu'en tant qu'organisme, la LNBA avait déjà choisi la voie pour traiter la question générale de l'impunité au Liberia.

Selon lui, choisir cette voie signifie que la justice prévaudra et que le Liberia connaîtra une paix durable, un progrès et une prospérité pour tous.

Malheureusement, a-t-il déclaré, après avoir rédigé et distribué le projet de loi, le Sénat a décidé de faire obstruction à la création du tribunal.

Au lieu de cela, Cllr. Gongloe a déclaré que le Sénat avait adopté une résolution visant à créer une commission de justice transitionnelle, ignorant le fait que la CVR avait été créée par la législature.

"Le Sénat ne doit pas être une obstruction pour la deuxième fois. J'appelle tous les membres du barreau à soutenir cette position du barreau en dirigeant le processus de sensibilisation dans tout le pays", a déclaré Cllr. Gongloe.

"On ne peut pas sensibiliser les gens en restant silencieux. Le peuple libérien et le monde entier attendent du Sénat qu'il approuve la résolution de la

Chambre des représentants", a-t-il déclaré.

Selon l'ancien dirigeant politique du Parti du peuple libérien (LPP), les Libériens ne devraient pas laisser mourir l'élan actuel qui existe dans le pays pour la création du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques.

"Nous félicitons notre collègue, Cllr. Fonati Koffa, président de la Chambre des représentants, pour le leadership dont il a fait preuve à la Chambre des représentants dans la création du tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques", a poursuivi Cllr. Gongloe.

Grâce au travail acharné de Cllr. Koffa, Cllr. Gongloe a indiqué que la Chambre avait adopté une résolution pour créer le tribunal pour crimes de guerre et économiques.

L'Assemblée 2024 de la LNBA s'est tenue sous le thème : "Aborder la question générale de l'impunité au Liberia : Implications pour le système d'État de droit au Liberia".

Le programme, qui a duré deux jours, a réuni plusieurs acteurs judiciaires et avocats de premier plan, y compris des juges actuels et anciens de la Cour suprême, ainsi que des partenaires internationaux et la communauté diplomatique.

## **L'UNICEF fait don de matériel de chaîne du froid au ministère de la Santé**



L'UNICEF, le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance, a fait don d'équipements et d'accessoires essentiels de chaîne du froid au ministère de la Santé du Liberia.

Ce don permettra de garantir le stockage et la livraison en toute sécurité des vaccins destinés à la vaccination systématique des enfants et des mères.

Le matériel et les accessoires ont été officiellement remis au ministère de la Santé le mercredi 3 avril 2024, à Paynesville. D'une valeur de plus de 400 000 dollars américains, ce don répond à un engagement pris par l'UNICEF auprès du gouvernement libérien par le biais du ministère de la Santé.

Le ministère de la Santé avait initialement sollicité le Centre de contrôle et de prévention des maladies (CDC) Afrique pour l'achat de l'équipement. Le CDC Afrique a ensuite fait appel à l'UNICEF pour intervenir dans le processus d'approvisionnement. Lors de la cérémonie, Amadou Cissé, représentant adjoint de l'UNICEF au Libéria, a déclaré que ce matériel était remis en vue de remplir un engagement pris envers le gouvernement par le biais du ministère de la Santé.

"L'UNICEF est toujours disposée à soutenir la santé des enfants dans le monde entier, et le Liberia ne fait pas exception. La remise de cet équipement aujourd'hui répond

à votre demande", a-t-il souligné.

Pour sa part, le Dr Olayinka Stephen Ilesanmi, responsable du programme régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest au CDC Afrique, a déclaré que ce geste souligne les efforts intensifs du gouvernement et de ses partenaires pour le bien-être des Libériens.

"Il est important de noter que le CDC Afrique s'engage à servir la population", a-t-il souligné.

Prenant également la parole, Sampson Weah, représentant de la circonscription électorale n°2 du comté de Sinoe, a salué les partenaires, soulignant que le matériel et les accessoires de chaîne du froid constituaient un défi majeur pour le Liberia, en particulier dans les zones rurales.

Dans le même temps, le Dr Cuallau Howe a assuré aux partenaires que le matériel serait utilisé aux fins prévues. Elle a exhorté les membres du ministère de la Santé à utiliser l'équipement de manière appropriée et à éviter de charger des téléphones portables dessus, car il fonctionne à l'énergie solaire.

"Ne chargez pas votre téléphone dessus, ne stockez pas de nourriture à l'intérieur. Ce n'est pas prévu à cet effet", a-t-elle averti.

Les équipements de chaîne du froid, qu'ils soient électriques ou non, permettent de stocker et/ou de transporter les vaccins à des températures appropriées.

## Starts from page 8 **Proposition d'électrification**

questions et de réponses. Les résidents, dans des commentaires distincts, ont salué la Commission pour l'organisation de l'audience publique et ont souligné que l'électrification du comté de Gbarpolu était attendue depuis longtemps.

Dans son discours d'ouverture, le Dr Lawrence D. Sekajipo, président du BoC, a déclaré que le but des audiences était de « garantir à toutes les parties concernées une possibilité équitable et significative de participer au processus décisionnel de la Commission ». Il a informé les participants à l'audience que cela était conforme à la loi de 2015 sur l'électricité du Liberia et aux règlements connexes qui obligent la Commission à organiser des audiences publiques.

Le Dr Sekajipo a informé

ENERGICITY Liberia et les résidents lors de l'audience que la Commission examinera et analysera tous les commentaires reçus et qu'ils seront pris en compte dans sa décision finale sur cette question.

Cette décision devrait être prise par la Commission dans un délai de 20 jours ouvrables et, lorsqu'une décision sera prise, ENERGICITY Liberia en sera informée dans un délai de 10 jours ouvrables, a déclaré le Dr Sekajipo.

L'audience publique a réuni les autorités locales, Atty. Ela-Edward Toomey, II, de la Commission LERC, Augustus V. Goanue, directeur général de la LERC, des représentants de la RREA et de la LEC, des parties prenantes, des résidents, ENERGICITY Liberia, des entreprises, des organisations de la société civile, des groupes

## **L'Autorité Maritime Libérienne (LiMA) élabore une feuille de route stratégique pluriannuelle pour un secteur maritime dynamique**

L'Autorité Maritime Libérienne (LiMA) a entamé le processus d'élaboration d'un plan stratégique pluriannuel qui guidera les opérations de l'institution sur cinq ans, de 2024 à 2029. Le processus a débuté le 4 avril 2024 par une retraite-travail stratégique de deux jours à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, sous le thème : « Repenser et définir l'agenda pour un secteur maritime dynamique ».

Le Commissaire/PDG de la LiMA, Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lighe Sr., a déclaré lors de son allocution spéciale qu'il envisageait une nouvelle stratégie visant à attribuer des tâches à des personnes et à des services spécifiques, avec des délais fixes, et non pas à une entreprise vague. « Nous serons plus précis sur la façon dont nous attribuons les tâches. Par exemple, nous saurons qui interroger concernant un objectif particulier et nous surveillerons toutes les activités. Cela ne sera pas ouvert. En finalisant cette stratégie, nous attribuerons des tâches de temps à autre et effectuerons des suivis réguliers. Donc, pendant les deux prochains jours, soyons attentifs et considérons cette retraite comme un temps de travail normal qui doit être pris au sérieux », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a également indiqué que les services et l'expertise de consultants possédant de vastes connaissances en matière maritime et de planification stratégique ont été engagés pour travailler aux côtés de l'équipe technique interne de la LiMA, afin d'obtenir des critiques



indépendantes sur ce qui doit être fait.

« Nous ne pensons pas qu'il serait sage de le faire nous-mêmes, car cela signifierait que nous nous auto-évaluons. Nous voulons tirer le meilleur parti de cette retraite-travail et, à terme, nous aurons un document de travail sur lequel nous pourrions nous appuyer et mettre la main à la pâte, ce qui constituera une étape majeure pendant notre mandat à l'Autorité Maritime Libérienne », a souligné Cllr. Lighe.

Le commissaire Lighe a mentionné que la session de planification stratégique vise à capitaliser sur les acquis de l'institution et à améliorer les domaines où des défis existent encore, sans pour autant critiquer la direction précédente. « L'Autorité Maritime Libérienne est une institution enviable et nous devons continuer à lui apporter de la valeur », a souligné le patron de la LiMA.

Pour le stratège principal du document pluriannuel et directeur de la stratégie d'entreprise, John Cuffey, ce processus était nécessaire pour garantir à la nouvelle direction une feuille de route sur mesure qui guidera les opérations de l'institution avec la contribution de chaque membre de la direction. Il a également souligné

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**Feature****Feature**

# Now that ECOWAS has spoken

By: Joe Noutoua Wandah Liberian Journalist

Under the legal authority of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States whose on November 10th 2020 brought down a guilty verdict against the Government of Liberia under the stewardship of former President George Mannah Weah when former Associate Justice Kabineh Mohammed Ja'neh left the shore of Liberia in his quest for justice at the regional level thus not trusting the Liberian judicial system!

A legal tussle, ensues between Justice Ja'neh and the Republic of Liberia when the government of Liberia through the Liberian Senate impeached Justice Ja'neh for what they referred to as theft of records and improper handling of cases!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken," been the official voice of the sub-regional body the Boakia led integrity rescue government must heed to this mandate that his predecessor former president Weah uprightly refused to adhere to in serving justice to Justice Ja'neh who since November 10th 2020 has been denial

She's yet to receive her just benefits despite the ECOWAS courts ruling !

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", this current administration under the stewardships of President Boakai must make sure that this proud and well respected member of the comity of nations is obligated to upholding all agreements, protocols, decision and mandates of all organs, institutions and bodies of ECOWAS community court of justice to uphold all these treaties for Liberia to again take her rightful place as Africa's oldest independence Nation!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", this Nation (Liberia) must allow wisdom's which once guided our forefathers in her governance system in which she played those pivotal roles in the independence of many Nations within the Continent of Africa in regaining her lost image's!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", this regime which came to power through the matral of good governance, curbing abuses of public funds, properties,



his rights in his own Country!

Now that ECOWAS has spoken, Liberia being one of the founding fathers of this regional body has lost relevant among her peers due to what political analysts called bad governance, including abuses of human rights, wanton killings, lack of justice in her court systems, abuse of public offices, mismanagement of public funds and massive corruptions which has comminated to massive lootings of tax payers monies with impunity dating from regime to regime since the ceasition of her senseless wars since some thirty plus years now!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", President Joseph Nyuma Boakai as a icon of peace, integrity and propal representation of democracy in his forty plus years of governance esperiances must bring back those lost values that Liberia once enjoyed within the comity of Nations by adhering to the regional body (the ECOWAS court's judgement ) verdict as a Nation whose believed in the rules of laws!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", as I retrospect in the case of Madam Nancy B. Doe widow of the late President Samuel K. Doe during the rein of Madam Ellen J. Sirleaf in which the very Liberian government was again brought down guilty after another legal battle told to pay all benefits due her as former first Lady!

eradication of corruption in all forms and giving back security that vanishes in the last six years with citizen's been told to buy CCTV for their own safety and the randon usages of drugs by the youths as if these dangerous substances by laws has been allowed to be use in the public space without regards to the rules of laws!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", that the Liberian judicial system will not allow major drugs cases such the hundreds million dollars case in which accused persons was allowed to walked away in yhe midst of mounting edvidances, to the extend the a cused refused to collect bond fees and attributing their so-called freedom to the verdict from jurors thus denting the legal image of Liberia!

"Now that ECOWAS has spoken", as the legitimate regional body chief advocate whose speaks for the sixteen Countries making up ECOWAS has send cavait to the people of Liberia through the judicial proceses to do the more honorable things to uphold these principles of democracy if she is to regain her lost values!

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# PYJ Calls for UN investigation

Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson's calls for UN investigators into perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Liberian Civil War has added a twist to the ongoing debate over the establishment of a war and economic crimes court here.

By Jonathan Browne

Former rebel general, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, one of the key actors of the Liberian civil war listed by the Truth and

Senators on Capitol Hill had begun signing the resolution on Monday, which they consummated yesterday, concurring with their colleagues from the House of

maintains. He noted that a recommendation is nothing but advice, a suggestion, a console, or an opinion that is subject to scrutiny.

The signing of separate resolutions by the House and the Liberian Senate in support of the war and economic crimes court marks a significant departure from the protracted delay by two previous Liberian administrations in implementing the TRC recommendation, which has been lying on the shelf, dusted.

This followed President Joseph Boakai's bold determination to bring to closure an ugly page in Liberian history from December 25, 1989, to September 2003, with the signing of the Compressive Peace Accord Accra, Ghana, warring factions, and civil society. The international community, including the United States, supports the President's resolve.

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

President Joseph Boakai publicly announced his support for the court during his inaugural address in January and has held a conference with Dr. Alan White, former chief investigator of the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, who was reportedly present at the Senate to watch Tuesday's endorsement by the Senate.

Representatives in the formation of the court that seeks to prosecute people who committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity during Liberia's 14-year-old civil conflict that left

about 250,000 people dead, including women and children. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has recommended over 90 individuals, including ex-generals and former officials, for both war crimes and economic crimes.

But PYJ further argues that the TRC report is mere recommendations that are not binding. He notes that the Supreme Court of Liberia ruled against the recommendations because they are unconstitutional. "If you want to bring a war crimes court, the best thing to do is to write the United Nations directly, so that the UN can send their investigation team to go all over again to the counties to find out information about those people who may have committed heinous crimes,

but it should not be based on the TRC that is bogus," he

# Chief Zoe spends night in prison

The detention of Chief Zoe Nora Samuels at the Monrovia Central Prison for failing to produce three young women allegedly forced into a Sande Bush to undergo FGM sends the strongest message ever for the fight against FGM.

Tuesday, April 9 - Criminal Court 'A' has remanded Chief Zoe Nora Samuel at the Monrovia Central Prison for failing twice to bring the living bodies of three young women who were allegedly forcibly taken away, detained, and initiated in the Sande Society along the Marshall Highway.

According to our court correspondent, Judge Roosevelt Willie's decision was triggered by a petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed on April 4th, 2024, before Criminal Court "A" by the Organization for Women and Children and Community Health Care Initiative.

Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Swaliho Sesay,

the Petitioners their consent to file a writ or lawsuit on their behalf.

The petitioners' lawyers, including Cllr. Sennay Carlor II, Atty. Mmonbeydo Nadine Joah & Atty. Facia Harris, on Tuesday, April 9, argued that one of the young women (name withheld) is 22 years old, an adult, who was forcefully taken to the Sande bush by the defendants against her will, and as such, believes that Habeas Corpus will lie as provided by law and according to Article 21 of the Constitution of Liberia which state that "The right to the writ of habeas corpus, being essential to the protection of human rights, shall be guaranteed at all times, and any person arrested or detained and not presented to court within the period specified may in consequence exercise this right..

The court held two Zoes in



representing the defendants, contempt for refusing to respect the rejected the petitioner's Court's order. The Judge, in his ruling, lawyers' claim, stating that the released one of the Zoes to bring the Petitioners were without young women before the Court while standing to file the writ, as the the other, Nora Samuel, was parents of the girls did not give

### 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

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## Senate signs war crimes court resolution

The resolution, earlier forwarded to the Liberian Senate by the House of Representatives, has left lawmakers divided because some of them have been demanding impunity.

Monrovia, April 10, 2024: The plenary of the Liberian Senate has unanimously signed a Joint Resolution calling for the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court to end

County Senator Prince Y. Johnson and Grand Gedeh County Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely.

Both men have in recent weeks been fierce opponents of the establishment of the

Approximately 250,000 lives were lost during Liberia's civil conflict, and properties worth millions of dollars were destroyed. Economic crimes and other abuses continue in the country even after the war because there has been no precedent to deter these crimes.

The Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Claims and Petitions, Sinoe County Senator Cllr. Augustine Chea told the plenary that the document signed by the Liberian Senate is entirely a new version.

He said the Senate is now sending the instrument back to the House of Representatives for concurrence before its onward submission to the Office of the President of the Republic. Previous efforts to establish the court were stalled by different political maneuverings largely blamed on the Senate for acting as an obstructionist organ of the Legislature, probably due to some Senators' links to past atrocities.

It is not clear how this new version coming from the Senate might be treated in the House of Representatives, and how long



Liberia's culture of impunity. The resolution earlier signed by majority members of the House of Representatives was forwarded to the Liberian Senate craving its concurrence upon a thorough review.

court, often claiming that it will not solve Liberia's problems.

For decades Liberians have been requesting the establishment of the war and economic crimes court to ensure accountability for those responsible for atrocities and economic crimes committed during and after the country's civil war.

28 of the 29 members of the Senate affixed their signatures to the document on Tuesday, 9 April 2024, including Nimba

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