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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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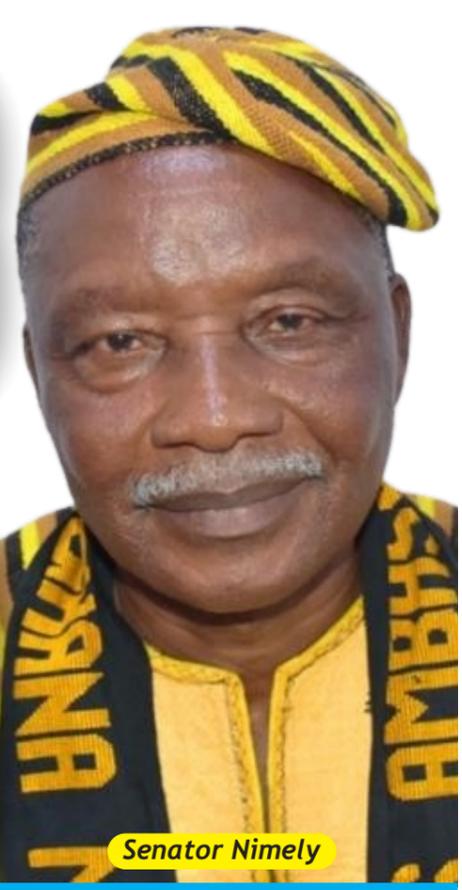
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Senator Prince Johnson

Sen. Nimely opens fresh ethnic wounds



Senator Nimely



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Continental News

Bate Urgessa: Ethiopian opposition OLF figure shot dead and dumped by road

A top Ethiopian opposition figure has been shot dead and his body found on the side of a road in his hometown in Meki, in the troubled Oromia region. Bate Urgessa, 41, was an outspoken critic of the

of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) - one of the biggest political parties in Ethiopia.

The OLF condemned the "brutal murder" of Mr Bate and said he was a "eloquent, brave and selfless Oromo soul".

"The unwarranted and

authorities need "to hold perpetrators to account".

Phone lines are cut off in the town but it is unclear if the killing of Mr Bate will trigger protests.

Mr Bate has been jailed several times in recent years, but has remained an advocate of non-violent dissent.

In February security forces accused him of "working to incite unrest." He was arrested while being interviewed by French journalist Antoine Galindo and later released on bail.

Galindo was released after a week in jail and returned to Paris.

The OLF boycotted the last general election, in 2021, saying the political space was too narrow to operate.

At the time it accused the government of arresting several of its members, supporters and leaders.

The Oromo ethnic group is the largest in Ethiopia but some of its leaders say they have suffered discrimination from the country's traditional elites.

The OLF used to be an armed group but laid down its weapons in 2018 after Abiy Ahmed, an ethnic Oromo, became prime minister.

However, the OLF has since become disillusioned with Mr Abiy. BBC

Muslims Worldwide Mark Eid al-Fitr Amid Gaza War

Muslims around the world are celebrating the Eid al-Fitr holiday and marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. But events are overshadowed by the worsening crisis in Gaza and Israel's expected military offensive in Rafah city after six months of war.

"We should not forget our brothers and sisters in Palestine," imam Abdulrahman Musa said in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. "They have been subjected to unjustified aggression and a lot of violence (as) the world is watching in silence."

In a holiday message, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent support to Gaza, which he called a "bleeding wound on the conscience of humanity."

In Istanbul, thousands of worshipers gathered at the Aya Sofya Mosque for prayers, some carrying Palestinian flags and chanting slogans in support of

For Arini Dewi, Eid al-Fitr is a day of victory from economic difficulties during Ramadan. "I'm happy in celebrating Eid holiday despite the surge of food prices," said the mother of two.

Jakarta's Istiqlal Grand Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia, was flooded with devotees offering morning prayers.

Preachers in their sermons called on people to pray for Muslims in Gaza who were suffering after six months of war.

"This is the time for Muslims and non-Muslims to show humanitarian solidarity, because the conflict in Gaza is not a religious war, but a humanitarian problem," said Jimly Asshiddiqie, who chairs the advisory board of the Indonesian Mosque Council.

In Berlin, worshipers reflected the world, coming from Benin, Ghana, Syria, Afghanistan and Turkey.

"It's a day where we feel grateful for everything we have here, and think and give to those who are poor, facing war and have



Bate Urgessa was a senior official of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)

government and had been jailed on several occasions.

Family members told local news site, Addis Standard, people who "looked like government security forces" took him from his hotel room on Tuesday night.

The Oromia regional government denied that security forces were involved.

In recent years Ethiopia has seen an increase in the killing of political and cultural figures.

Mr Bate was a senior official

extrajudicial killing of conscious and active Oromo political and cultural figures has been a systematic and irresponsible act of silencing the Oromo throughout years and decades," the statement said.

His death has sparked outraged across social media, while human rights groups are demanding justice.

Chief commissioner of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Daniel Bekele posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the federal

Zambia uncovers 'sophisticated' Chinese cybercrime syndicate

A "sophisticated internet fraud syndicate" has been uncovered in Zambia, leading to the arrest of 77 people, including 22 Chinese nationals.

It was a "significant breakthrough in the fight against cybercrime", the authorities said after a multi-agency raid on a Chinese-run company. The firm employed Zambians who believed they were to be call-centre agents.

Among equipment seized were devices allowing callers to disguise their location and thousands of Sim cards.

Golden Top Support Services, the company at the centre of the raid, has not commented on the allegations.

The swoop on its premises, located in Roma, an upmarket suburb of the capital, Lusaka, was led by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) and also involved the police, the immigration department and anti-terrorism unit.

It came after months of intelligence gathering by the

agencies following an alarming rise in internet fraud cases in Zambia, DEC director general Nason Banda said after Tuesday's raid. He said Golden Top Support Services had recruited "

unsuspecting" Zambians aged between 20 and 25. They had been tasked "with engaging in deceptive conversations with unsuspecting mobile users across various platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, chatrooms and others, using scripted dialogues". During the operation 11 Sim boxes were found - these are devices that can route calls in a way that bypasses legitimate phone networks. This enables

them to be used "for fraudulent activities, including internet fraud and online scams", Mr Banda said.

More than 13,000 Sim cards - both domestic and international - were also seized, which underscored "the extent of the operation's reach", the DEC head said.

An increasing number of Zambians were losing money from their bank accounts through money-laundering schemes, though this scam's alleged "illicit operations extended beyond Zambia's borders", he said.

BBC



Golden Top Support Services had recruited "unsuspecting Zambians" aged between 20 and 25, the DEC said



Palestinians gather for Eid al-Fitr prayers by the Dome of the Rock shrine in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, April 10, 2024.

people in Gaza, where the United Nations and partners warn that more than a million people are at threat of imminent famine and little aid is allowed in.

Elsewhere, people were grateful for the plenty they had after a month of fasting and reflection. Before the Eid al-Fitr holiday, markets around the world teemed with shoppers. Residents poured out of cities to return to villages to celebrate with loved ones.

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, nearly three-quarters of the population were traveling for the annual homecoming known locally as "mudik."

"This is a right moment to reconnect, like recharging energy that has been drained almost a year away from home," said civil servant Ridho Alfian, who lives in the Jakarta area and was traveling to Lampung province at the southern tip of Sumatra island.

to go hungry," said Azhra Ahmad, a 45-year-old mother of five.

In Pakistan, authorities deployed more than 100,000 police and paramilitary forces to maintain security at mosques and marketplaces.

In Malaysia, ethnic Malay Muslims performed morning prayers at mosques nationwide just weeks after socks printed with the word "Allah" at a convenience store chain sparked a furor. Many found it offensive to associate the word with feet or for it to be used inappropriately.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim called for unity and reconciliation in his message on the eve of Eid, saying no groups should be sidelined based on religion or any other reason.

"We must be firm, resolute and unwavering in our commitment to foster values and build a dignified nation," he said. "However, let us not take this as a license or opportunity to insult, undermine, or damage the cultural practices and way of life of others." VOA

GUEST EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Daniel Gros

The Importance of Respecting Authorities: A Adda Study of Liberia

The Hidden Costs of “Slowbalization”

In every society, across all strata and societies worldwide, there lies a fundamental tenet that is the very bedrock of societal coherency and order, respect for authorities.

This notion, however, is multifaceted.

Not only does it entail public reverence and deference to those in power, but it also necessitates a reciprocal conduct from the authorities themselves.

The public's display of respect is contingent upon the quality of conduct exhibited by the authorities.

Integrity, dignity, and professionalism must underscore their actions, both in public and private spheres.

It is within this virtuous cycle of respect that societies can thrive towards enlightened discourse and progressive development.

This principle is not only crucial to the direct participants but also instrumental in instilling the values of respect in the succeeding generations.

A probing look into the current Liberian society will illuminate this assertion.

Liberia, a small country on the West African coast, offers a compelling adda study to elucidate this point.

In recent times, it has become apparent that exhibitions of disrespect among some members of the Liberian National Legislature have resulted in a pervading public alarm.

This unfortunate development vividly illustrates the implications of an authority that appears to disregard respect, leading to a detrimental ripple effect on the public's regard for them.

Those in positions of power in Liberia, particularly those holding constitutional authority, have a cardinal role to play in shaping public attitudes.

They have a moral obligation to demonstrate high professionalism, dignity, and integrity at all times - the vanguard of public respect and trust.

Any failure to uphold these values, as is witnessed in certain quarters, can lead to a significant erosion of public confidence, which in turn could undermine the very fabric of societal order.

The evidence and implications of such defiance to professionalism and respect are rife in Liberia, and they are captivating.

Take, for instance, the growing public alarm around the conduct of some members of the National Legislature.

Whatever the causes might be, such behavior is contributing to a disquieting public perception.

It sows the seed of mistrust and disrespect in the hearts of the public, subsequently affecting vital aspects such as cooperation between the populace and the government, social harmony, and national solidarity.

If we are to consider that respect breeds respect, then it stands to reason that any deviation in the conduct by those in authoritative positions presents an alarming precursor to societal discord.

For this reason, it is paramount for these individuals to encapsulate the ethos of respect in their engagements and leadership style.

By doing so, they model a pattern of respectful interaction that is integral to societal functionality, imprinting a lasting impression on future generations.

Public figures' adherence to this principle is not just a matter of expectation but a sacrosanct commitment that bolsters the entire societal edifice.

Instances of its non-adherence, as seen in Liberia, provide a cautionary tale that underscores how this neglect could chip away at societal respect for authority.

It also affirms that this respect is a reciprocal responsibility: authorities must first exhibit respect to earn it.

The dynamics of respect between the authorities and the society they serve is a delicate equilibrium that would do well to hinge on the principle of respect begets respect.

Through the lens of the unfolding scenario in Liberia, it is clear that any neglect of this symbiotic relationship poses a profound threat to societal harmony and, consequently, the proviso for development.

The country's situation emphasizes the paramount importance of upholding respect for authorities and, in turn, the authorities' obligation to act respectably for societal well-being.

It serves as a strong reminder that we must be mindful of the values and lessons that we impart to future generations, who will one day hold the reins of authority themselves.

BRUSSELS - 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.

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OP-ED

By: Austin S Fallah-A TRUE SON OF MAMA-LIBERIA:

The Recurring Songs of Discord: A Call for Unity and Progress in Liberia:

Liberia, a nation hailed for its rich array of diverse tribes and unique cultural heritage, is unfortunately limping under the heavy burden of tribalism, hatred, lack of love, political greed, rampant corruption, and a crushing disunity that continually threatens its progress.

This sad reality mirrors a disheartening image of a nation with so much potential, held back by the disruptive forces of disunity amongst its tribes, including counties.

The consequences of this stifling state of affairs are issues that require immediate and keen attention, as well as effective solutions that cater to the equality and fairness of all Liberian citizens to ensure prosperity for the nation as a whole.

The year 1989 is etched in the minds and hearts of Liberians, indelibly marked with the atrocities and upheavals that triggered a long, drawn-out to greed to return to political hegemony, injustices, but many termed civil war.

As such, the chilling melodies of disunity, those same songs that triggered the 1989 imbroglia are being sung again are not just a cause for alarm but a wake-up call that urgently demands every Liberian's open eyes and attentive ears.

Indeed, tribalism is a dark cloud that threatens the unity of the nation and has now become an intimidating barrier to Liberia's progress.

To curb the risk of the entire nation-state being hijacked by any tribe or group of tribes, equal representation in national security branches becomes fundamental.

Each district must equally share the responsibility of maintaining national security by contributing an equal number of persons to the military, police, immigration, and other security apparatus.

By ensuring this, the nation-state can avert any partiality or dominance that might seed disunity, thus preserving the integrity of the nation's fabric.

Sadly, the cries for national unity have almost been drowned by the discordant tunes of some leaders who promote division rather than unity.

However, it is of utmost importance that Liberians remember that any attempt to encourage disunity amidst this fragile state of national coexistence will undoubtedly lead Liberia back into its darkest days.

Consequently, these leaders must rather tune their agenda towards providing progressive, inclusive, and unifying leadership that fosters a strong bond of harmony and understanding amongst the populace.

Moreover, the disease of corruption, aggravated by political greed, largely impedes Liberia's progress.

From the fraudulent manipulation of public resources for private gains to the misuse of power, the ripple effects of corruption challenge the nation's growth.

Thus, there is an overwhelming need to foster a culture of honesty, respect for the public good, and dedication to national interests over personal gains to halt the downward spiral caused by corruption.

Lastly, the situation of widespread hatred and lack of love amidst Liberians is as grave as the other challenges.

A society steeped in love, consideration, and mutual respect breeds unity and growth.

As such, Liberians ought to nurture a spirit of love, respect, and consideration for fellow citizens, which will, in turn, spur growth and unity.

The recurring songs of discord, ringing out their malignant melodies of tribalism, hatred, political greed, corruption, and disunity, must be silenced and swiftly, for genuine peace to return to Liberia.

The process may be arduous and demanding, but it is a worthy cause that requires the collective effort of every Liberian, leaders and led alike.

Only by achieving this can the nation transcend the impediments constituting a roadblock to progress and move towards a brighter, more prosperous Liberia.

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OPINION

By Laurence Tubiana

Taxing Polluters Is the Key to Climate Justice

PARIS - 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.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How Gov't kills local businesses in Liberia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

By: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Public Not Private

There is still plenty talk about the Declaration of Assets but such Declaration is kept private rather than made public. Most of the past State managers did not declare assets.

Where assets were declared, they were not made public.

Assets were kept private in the minds of the State managers or in the office of the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

The same situation is happening today. This is why there is much public outcry against the privacy of the assets of public officials.

Keeping private what should be made public is promoting corruption rather than eradicating corruption.

It is impossible to eradicate corruption without the public having information about where State managers get their monies from. Let us remember that 26 political parties signed the Farmington Declaration that included a declaration to eradicate corruption.

But that Declaration has been violated by all of the signatories because the public does not have information about where they got their monies from.

Now there is plenty talk about assets recovery. It is not possible to recover assets when it is not publicly known where State officials get their monies from.

State officials are talking plenty but they do not Walk The Talk. You walk the talk against corruption when you declare your assets and make such declaration public. When you are a public official, there is nothing private about you in the public space.

Assets are not being declared publicly because State officials do not want the public to know where they, the State officials, got their monies from.

This is the same reason that the signatories to the Farmington Declaration have for not making public any Declaration of their Assets.

What is most important to realize here in trying to solve a societal problem is that any money-driven person is driven by the source of the person's money.

The source of the money-driven person's money in Liberia is the production of raw materials for export system.

This is why Liberia has over 200 of the best log species in the world while our children sit on the bare ground in schools.

Liberians who work to change this bad system are called trouble makers by the powers that be, the money-driven State managers.

Although the powers that be continue to work hard to keep the dominant system, people who love Liberia are also working hard to change this bad system.

This work to change the bad system is working well, as seen in the non-re-election of nearly all members of the National Legislature of Liberia who wanted to be re-elected during the October 10, 2023 Election.

Some persons with bad records got re-elected but they were few and they will be put out during the next election, as the raising of awareness continues. The non-re-election trend will continue in the ensuing elections.

The best and only way for the prevailing bad system to be transformed into the enduring good system is through the transformation of the bad electoral process into the good electoral process.

This transformation will take place as the awareness raising continues, within the Rule of Law, to get persons with good records elected to the National Legislature so that they can bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

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Int'l community stands shoulder to shoulder with Boakai

-German Ambassador

President Joseph Boakai continues to receive admiration from foreign partners in his government's quest to conduct a comprehensive audit of line ministries and agencies to stamp

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 10, 2024 - The deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Germany here, Mr. Peter Speyrer, has praised the Boakai administration ongoing



Mr. Peter Speyrer

Delivering a special statement on Monday, April 8, 2024, at the start of four days' joint-sectoral portfolio performance review under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ambassador Speyrer thanked the ministry of finance for organizing the forum.

He noted that the mandate President Boakai received from Liberians is a profound responsibility, saying he has no doubt that the President and his team will lead with integrity, transparency and commitment to progress.

"I would like to acknowledge the ambitious ARREST agenda outlined by President Boakai particularly, his steadfast fight for rule of law, accountability

and transparency deserves respect and support", he noted.

According to the deputy head of mission, corruption poses a significant threat to stability and prosperity of any nation, and that tackling it requires bold and decisive actions.

Mr. Speyrer said President Boakai's determination to root out corruption and promote accountability sends a powerful message of hope and optimism to Liberia and its people.

However, he said international partners recognize the challenges that lie ahead and are committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with Liberia as the country strives to build a more just, equitable and prosperous society. "Together, we can work towards a future where every Liberian has the opportunity to fulfill their potential, where the rule of law prevail and where democracy is flourished."

He expressed delight about the government's determination to build a new Liberia, and how it will harness its advantages and tackle weakness and challenges.

"In your endeavors to reform your country and create a new Liberia, know that you do not stand alone; the international community stands ready to offer unwavering support and assistance", the German envoy assured. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Foreign Ministry to review placement of passports

Liberian authorities say their goal is to restore pride in the country's passport system and to prevent unauthorized individuals, particularly criminals, from obtaining Liberian passports.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, April 10, 2024: Liberian Foreign Minister Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti has announced the establishment of a four-member committee to review and engage those who have held Diplomatic, Official, and Service passports for six years or more.

Heading the team is Garrison Jallah, with co-chair Paul Nyafuah and members Hassan Conteh, Geneva Togbah, and Stephanie Wesseh.

Minister Nyanti disclosed the establishment of the committee at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism (MICAT) on Tuesday, 9 March 2024. She disclosed that a significant progress of 61 percent results has been made since the establishment of the team.

Minister Nyanti said the team

criminals, from obtaining Liberian passports.

The Minister, at the same time, announced plans to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and other agencies to enhance the passport issuance process, stressing that only citizens are entitled to Liberian passports.

On the other hand, she called for national cooperation and urged all Liberians to safeguard their identification tools and support efforts to improve service delivery.

Additionally, she responded to the plight of Liberians displaced by the closure of the Buduburam camp in Ghana.

Minister Nyanti revealed ongoing discussions with Ghanaian authorities to assist the 1,539 affected individuals currently housed in schools and women's development centers in Ghana.

Minister Nyanti affirmed that the Liberian government, in collaboration with relevant

agencies, is actively pursuing sustainable solutions for those facing displacement in Ghana.

She disclosed that the Liberian Embassy in Accra has been engaging with Ghanaian officials and refugee organizations to secure support for the affected Liberians.

Moreover, Minister Nyanti highlighted the government's

commitment to convening stakeholder meetings to explore permanent solutions for those enduring hardship in Ghana.

She emphasized that these efforts are specifically targeted at addressing the needs of the 1,539 individuals currently residing in schools and service centers.

While acknowledging that some Liberians may wish to return home, Minister Nyanti clarified that the focus remains on assisting those currently housed in Ghana.

However, for Liberians desiring to return home, she assured that solutions are underway, with plans for repatriation scheduled between May 21 and May 31. Minister Nyanti stated the importance of conducting the repatriation process sequentially and in a manageable manner to ensure the feasibility of the endeavor.

The Minister's remarks underscored the government's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by displaced Liberians in Ghana and providing assistance to facilitate their return home or integration into their host country.



Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Over 35 old folks benefit free medical services

Word of Life International, a faith-based institution caters to old folks.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Paynesville, Liberia, April 10, 2024 - Dozens of old folks in Pipeline Community, Paynesville have benefited free medical checkup from the Word of Life International (WOLI), a Christian-based organization.

The free medical checkup was provided early Monday, April 8, 2024 at WOLI school facility inside a church building with over 35 beneficiaries participating in the initiative. The exercise is in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #4, which concentrates on ending poverty and leaving no one behind.

The project targets old folks from age 60 and above, who are financially unable to carter to their needs and wants.

During the exercise, WOLI conducted medical examination for high blood pressure (BP), malaria, pause check, weight and temperature and later recommended patients to clinic for treatment.

The organization was

established in 1998 with a branch in the United States. It obtained a Consultative Status with the United Nations in 2018, targeting old folks.

Its key vision is connecting all people with resources in order to restore community pride and encourage self-resilience.

Since then, WOLI has been accredited as an international NGO by the Liberian government and been engaged in various programs in the country with funding from its USA Office.

Speaking in an interview

at the initiative site, Rebecca K.G Nyamndo, WOLI Agent Focus Person for Liberia, said the essence of the program is to care for old folks and elderly persons in terms of medication and food.

According to her, their concentration is to ensure that older folks from sixty years and above are well taken care of in the society to avoid discrimination and neglect.

We are providing this opportunity to our elderly folks in the age of sixty and above. We are doing this to help those that need medical attention but are financially incapacitated. Beneficiaries here are from the community and the church.



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Boakai donates LRD7.5, 5,500 bags of rice to Muslims

President Joseph Boakai has generously identified with Liberian Muslims both in cash and kind, as they celebrate Ramadan, after a month-long fast and prayer.

Monrovia, Liberia, April 10, 2024 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. has made a nationwide donation of 7.5 Million Liberian Dollars and 5,500 (25kg) bags of rice to Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, and Nimba, among other counties. The donation was officially launched on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the Benson Street Mosque in Monrovia by Minister Bility.



Muslims in Liberia, as they mark Ramadan here. The nationwide donation, which is being executed on behalf of the President by the Minister of State without Portfolio, Mamaka Bility, has been going on across Liberia's 15 counties for the past weeks. Minister Bility, on behalf of the President, has successfully donated to various Mosques in several counties, including

Some Mosques that have already experienced the President's goodwill include Benson Street, Newport Street, Gurley Street, Salafiya, New Georgia, Chicken Farm, Black Ginnah, Fish Market, and 17th Street, Sinkor (United Dawah Ummah High School) Mosques in Montserrado County.

Others are Lango Town Mosque, Salala United Islamic Mosque, Mohammed Bin Abdullah Mosque, Gbatala Central Mosque, Suakoko Mosque, Gbarnga Central Mosque, Palala Central Mosque in Bong County, and Ganta Central Mosque in Nimba County. Meanwhile, recipients of President Boakai's kind gesture have applauded him for his generosity. They promised to use the President's donation for its intended purpose, emphasizing the Liberian Muslim community's spiritual perseverance to the government and Liberia as a whole. They further expressed appreciation to the President's office while affirming their various mosques' commitment to the nation through prayers.

The religious leaders commended President Joseph Nyuma Boakai for the gesture, while some disclosed that it was the first time that their mosques received such a significant supply from the government. During the launch, President Boakai called on Muslims in Liberia to keep praying for the betterment of the country. The Minister conveyed the President's regards and highlighted the initiative as a testament to his dedication to all faiths, mainly those in need; stressing the importance of the donation during Ramadan, and urged Muslims to accept the offering and reflect on its significance within the context of the holy month. Minister Bility had been accompanied by the Assistant Minister for Human Resources at the Ministry of State, Mohammed Kromah, during the nationwide donation.

ABIC seeks women's participation in national leadership

Liberian women crave for participation in national leadership, as they recount experiences from the 2023 election.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 10, 2024 - The Angie Brooks International Center for Women Empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security (ABIC) through its flagship program the Women's Situation Room (WSR) has cataloged dozens of challenges affecting women's political participation across the Liberia with the objective of advancing women's representation in governance and leadership. The WSR's objective is to promote peace before, during and after elections. It was established by current coordinator, Cllr. Dr. Cyvette Chelson-Wureh, and inaugurated by former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2017.

WSR is a women's peace building mechanism, which seeks to mitigate conflict before, during and after elections in African countries. It mobilizes women in collaboration with youth to ensure their active participation in peaceful electoral processes

and to advance political participation of women's in national leadership and governance, as a non-partisan, neutral endeavor. Experiences were cataloged following three days of deliberation at which time a cross-section of women, who participated in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections narrated their experiences. They named limited access to finance, denigrating speech and characterization by their male contenders, as well as traditional norms, and cultural valuea, illiteracy and limited support from fellow women, as factors

responsible for their limited participation in national leadership. Following the various experiences shared, ABIC through its WSR cataloged the various experiences and promised to work on them to improve women's participation in leadership and governance. The dialogue ended with a sporting event at the Invisible Sports Park, bringing brought together several young people from over sixteen communities in Montserrado County. The tournament brought together participants from King-Gray, Clara Town, West-Point, Todee, and Bentol City, among others. Speaking during the kickoff, Jessie Talker, Finance Officer of ABIC said that the tournament is intended to involve young people in spreading the message of peace

sustained efforts and investments are needed to ensure long-term food security for the country's population. However, the civil conflicts outbreak in Liberia disrupted agricultural activities and infrastructure. Farms were abandoned, agricultural equipment destroyed, and many farmers were displaced,



GOL earmarks 132,000 hectares for food production

In an effort to ensure President Boikai's ARREST Agenda becomes a reality, the Ministry of Agriculture, under new Minister J. Alexander Nuetah, has revealed plans to develop 132,000 hectares of lowland dedicated to producing essential agriculture commodities for consumption in Liberia.

According to the Minister Neutah, of this total, 50,000 hectares will be allocated to rice production, 40,000 hectares to cassava, 10,000 hectares to high-value cocoa, and 15,000 hectares to coffee, which is costly on the world market. An additional 12,000 hectares will be reserved for crop production by farmers, with the remaining 5,000 hectares earmarked for material purchases, essential for crop production.

Overall, Liberia's agriculture sector has a complex history marked by shifts in priorities, external influences, and internal challenges. While progress has been made in promoting food production and self-sufficiency,

exacerbating food shortages and insecurity.

Following the end of the civil conflicts, initiatives such as agricultural extension services, provision of seeds and tools to farmers, and rehabilitation of infrastructure were undertaken with support from international organizations and donor agencies, but these initiatives did not materialize, leading to local farmers in the country to continuously face challenges such as limited access to agricultural inputs, inadequate infrastructure, land tenure issues, and climate change impacts.

Accompanied by his team of officials at a press conference in Monrovia, Minister Nuetah disclosed that the Ministry is in the full swing of implementing President Boakai's ARREST Agenda to feed the country, adding that there are more hectares of suitable lowland in the country for said purpose.

"We already have a good sum of land to our name, and these lands will be used to feed the mouths of many Liberians under the proposed National Agricultural Development Agenda (NADP)."

He reveals plans to organize the production of these basic commodities into smaller units and, at the same time, provide processing plants and mechanization services to farmers who will be selected to support the production.

Minister Nuetah's decision aligns with the Liberian Agriculture Regulatory Authority Acts

of 2024, an autonomous agency supervising and promoting agriculture export trade, enhancing productivity, competitiveness, value chain development, and environmental sustainability, especially for smallholders, women, and youth, while supporting sustainable economic growth.



normal plantation activities to a standstill and destroyed the only government ambulance at the Jackson Fiah Doe Memorial Hospital in Tappital.

The ambulance was rushing to get oxygen from another health facility in Bong County when it came under attack from angry protesters. Wednesday, April 10th 2024 protest brings to five number of such actions aggrieved employees.

Cocopa Workers erect roadblock

Starts from page 11

Liberia National Police, Lamie Mendin, have engaged the protesters and urged them to abandon the protest and have a roundtable with them to derive an amicable solution.

Protests by aggrieved employees are common in concessionaires across the country largely due to unaddressed grievances, sometimes resulting in violence and deaths, as was witnessed recently at Bea Mountains in Grand Cape Mount County, western Liberia, when Police fired live weapons to disperse protesters. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Meanwhile, the Commander of the Ganta Police detachment in Ganta City, Archie Dennis, and the Nimba County Commander of the

Français

L'USAID exhorte l'administration Boakai à lutter contre la corruption en poursuivant les coupables

L'administration est sous une immense pression pour combattre la corruption et la malversation dans le secteur public afin de restaurer la confiance.

“Il doit également y avoir des actions concrètes prises sur les conclusions des audits et les recommandations pour remédier aux déficiences identifiées et apporter des corrections. Plus important encore, lorsque des

œuvres rapidement des politiques anti-corruption et à poursuivre immédiatement ceux qui seront jugés responsables.

M. Wright, dans une déclaration fortement formulée à Monrovia le lundi 8 avril, au début d'une revue de performance de portefeuille sectoriel conjoint de quatre jours organisée par le gouvernement du Libéria, a noté “Aujourd'hui, je serais très intéressé d'entendre comment le gouvernement du Libéria envisage ses plans et priorités de développement. Je suis également intéressé à entendre comment le gouvernement du Libéria prévoit d'augmenter la responsabilité et la transparence dans la gestion des ressources publiques.”

Il a dit que la corruption empêche le gouvernement et le peuple du Libéria de réaliser leurs objectifs de développement social et économique et de création d'emplois, tout en détournant de précieuses ressources des donateurs au profit de leurs destinataires prévus - le peuple du Libéria.

“Je presse vivement le gouvernement libérien de



Jim Wright

La Chargée d'affaires de l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia, Catharine Rodriguez, a récemment exhorté le président Joseph Boakai à prendre des mesures concrètes sur les conclusions des audits afin d'apporter une croissance et un développement massifs au pays.

individus sont reconnus coupables de fraude, de gaspillage ou d'abus des ressources publiques, ils doivent être tenus responsables”, a déclaré l'ambassadeur Rodriguez ici.

Maintenant, le directeur de pays de l'USAID ici, Jim Wright, appelle la nouvelle administration à mettre en

▶ CONT'D page 9

Le Sénat Libérien signe à l'unanimité la résolution pour un tribunal des crimes de guerre

La plénière du Sénat libérien a signé à l'unanimité une résolution conjointe appelant à la création d'un Tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques pour mettre fin à la culture d'impunité au Liberia.

La résolution, précédemment adoptée par la majorité des membres de la Chambre des représentants, avait été transmise au Sénat libérien pour approbation après un examen approfondi.

Le 9 avril 2024, 28 des 29 sénateurs ont apposé leur signature au document, y compris le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Y. Johnson, et le sénateur du comté de Grand Gedeh, Thomas Yaya Nimely.

Ces deux hommes se sont farouchement opposés à la création du tribunal ces dernières semaines, affirmant souvent qu'il ne résoudrait pas les problèmes du Liberia.

Depuis des décennies, les Libériens demandent la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques afin de garantir la responsabilisation des personnes responsables des

atrocités et des crimes économiques commis pendant et après la guerre civile du pays.

Environ 250 000 personnes ont perdu la vie pendant le conflit civil au Liberia, et des biens d'une valeur de millions de dollars ont été détruits. Les crimes économiques et autres abus continuent dans le pays même après la guerre, car aucun précédent n'a permis de dissuader ces crimes.

Le président de la commission sénatoriale sur la justice, les réclamations et les pétitions, le sénateur du comté de Sinoe, Cllr. Augustine Chea, a déclaré à la session plénière que le document signé par le Sénat libérien était une toute nouvelle version.

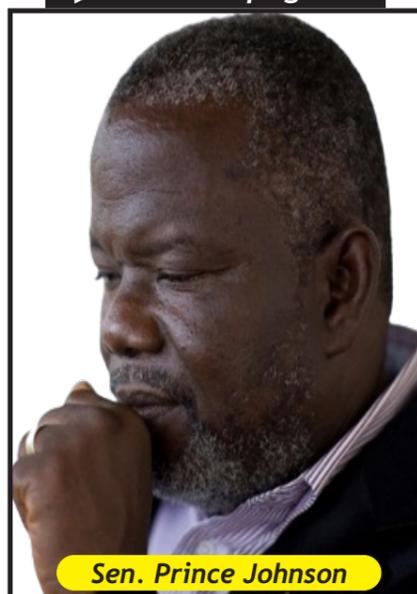
Il a indiqué que le Sénat renvoyait maintenant l'instrument à la Chambre des représentants pour approbation avant sa soumission au bureau du Président de la République.

Les efforts précédents pour créer le tribunal avaient été bloqués par diverses manœuvres politiques, en grande partie imputées au Sénat agissant comme un organe obstructionniste de la législature, probablement en raison des liens de certains sénateurs avec des atrocités passées.

On ne sait pas encore comment cette nouvelle version provenant du Sénat sera traitée à la Chambre des représentants, ni combien de temps il faudra avant qu'elle ne soit finalement adoptée par le pouvoir législatif pour être soumise au pouvoir exécutif.

Le document stipule que la Cour pénale extraordinaire à créer sera connue sous le nom de "Cour spéciale des crimes de guerre pour le Liberia (SWACCOL)" soutenue par l'ONU. Elle aura pour mandat de poursuivre les personnes portant la plus grande responsabilité des crimes de

▶ CONT'D page 9



Sen. Prince Johnson

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 **L'USAID exhorte l'administration**

mettre en œuvre des politiques anti-corruption et de poursuivre les responsables de la corruption", a-t-il réitéré, et expliqué que l'USAID conçoit et met en œuvre ses programmes dans le cadre d'une stratégie quinquennale. Le représentant du pays a continué que l'USAID a développé cette stratégie (et tous les programmes qu'ils mettent en œuvre) pour s'aligner sur et soutenir les initiatives de développement stratégique du Libéria en révélant, "Nous concevons une nouvelle stratégie qui prendra effet en 2025."

Il a dit que pour y parvenir, l'Agence entreprendra des consultations approfondies avec ses homologues du gouvernement aux niveaux national, comté et district, y compris la société civile, les organisations du secteur privé et d'autres partenaires de développement. "Pour réussir, nous dépendons du leadership local pour fixer les priorités, pour participer pleinement à la co-création pour façonner les projets, et pour s'engager de manière significative dans la mise en œuvre afin d'assurer la durabilité." M. Wright a appelé le gouvernement libérien à assumer pleinement la responsabilité de ses problèmes de développement, soulignant que le gouvernement libérien est responsable de ses propres défis de développement et devrait être félicité pour avoir conçu des solutions dirigées par les Libériens à ces défis "Nos activités sont complémentaires, et non une substitution au financement du gouvernement libérien ; dans cette veine, il est crucial que le budget annuel du Libéria réserve des postes budgétaires pour la prestation de services et que les fonds atteignent

leurs destinations prévues", a-t-il dit.

Il a demandé au gouvernement d'augmenter la responsabilité et la transparence budgétaires, et recommande que l'audition budgétaire soit en cours, pour établir les priorités et aligner le budget sur celles-ci.

Représentant le ministre des finances et de la planification du développement Boimah Kamara, le ministre adjoint des finances pour les affaires fiscales Delphuo Zuo, a salué les partenaires de développement du Libéria pour leur soutien continu. Cette session a pour but de réengager et de réexaminer le financement du développement dans tous les secteurs. Cet exercice vise à établir le ton pour un dialogue, une coordination, une gestion et un leadership efficaces de l'aide, qui doivent développer la vision du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, a déclaré M. Zuo.

Selon lui, la vision du président pour une nouvelle Libéria, telle qu'exposée dans la plateforme ARREST, ne peut être réalisée sans le soutien et l'engagement des secteurs clés et des principaux partenaires de développement, ainsi que de la société civile et du secteur privé.

Il a dit qu'il faudrait des efforts collaboratifs de divers ministères et agences, partenaires de développement, société civile, médias, citoyens et chaque citoyen bien intentionné.

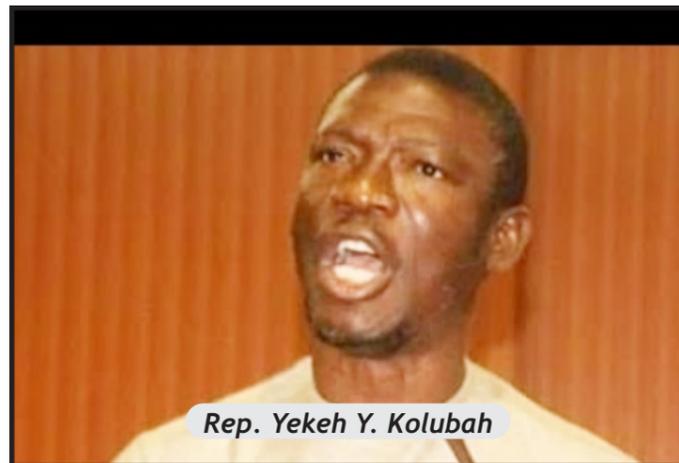
"Nous sommes conscients que des efforts similaires ont été faits en juin 2023, mais depuis lors, beaucoup de choses se sont passées. Le Libéria a eu ses récentes élections, et le Libéria se dirige vers la fin de sa propre vision nationale 2030 ainsi que de sa propre vision 2030", a-t-il dit.

désigner.

Le document précise que le dirigeant libérien demandera également une assistance financière et autre, élaborera un plan de mobilisation des ressources financières et le soumettra aux Nations Unies, à l'UE, au gouvernement américain et à d'autres partenaires internationaux pour solliciter un soutien financier et économique pour la création et le fonctionnement du tribunal.

Le document mandate le Président de faire rapport au pouvoir législatif sur les progrès réalisés dans la création des deux tribunaux, ainsi que sur les défis ou les résultats de ses engagements avec les Nations Unies, l'UE, le gouvernement américain et d'autres partenaires internationaux.

La Chambre ordonne une enquête sur le député Kolubah



Rep. Yekeh Y. Kolubah

La Chambre des représentants a ordonné à ses commissions du Règlement et de l'Administration d'enquêter sur le député controversé du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Y. Kolubah.

L'enquête porte sur la violation présumée par M. Kolubah des articles 40 et 41 du règlement intérieur de la Chambre des représentants.

La Chambre des représentants a pris des mesures contre le député de la 10e circonscription électorale du comté de Montserrado suite à une communication de son collègue, M. Emmanuel Dahn, le mardi 9 avril 2024.

M. Dahn, député de la 7e circonscription électorale de Montserrado, a écrit à la plénière de la Chambre pour se plaindre d'une question grave portant atteinte à l'intégrité et au decorum de la Chambre des représentants.

Cette communication fait suite à des déclarations indécentes et embarrassantes faites par M. Kolubah à l'encontre du président Boakai et de sa famille lors d'une conférence de presse donnée ce week-end.

Les attaques verbales de Yekeh contre les présidents, souvent accompagnées d'allégations et d'invectives farfelues, ne datent pas de l'arrivée du président Boakai au

pouvoir.

Il a survécu à deux élections en tant que député libérien en faisant constamment des déclarations indécentes et embarrassantes à l'encontre des présidents en exercice et de leur famille.

Certains de ses "victimes" sont le président Boakai et son prédécesseur, M. George Manneh Weah.

M. Dahn a informé la plénière de la Chambre que le dimanche 7 avril 2024, le député Kolubah, lors d'une diffusion en direct sur Facebook, a lancé une série d'accusations non fondées contre le président de la République du Liberia et des membres de sa famille.

Il a regretté que, si les allégations étaient troublantes, indécentes et embarrassantes, la forme et la manière choisies par M. Kolubah pour les formuler constituaient une violation totale des règles et procédures de la Chambre des représentants.

"L'article 40.1 stipule, sans préjudice des dispositions du présent article, que tout membre doit être honnête et transparent à tout moment," a-t-il déclaré.

L'article 40.2 ajoute qu'aucun membre ne peut introduire de fausses informations ou de questions non fondées, en prétendant qu'elles sont vraies.

L'article 42.1 exige que chaque membre de la Chambre préserve, en tout lieu, le prestige et la dignité de la

Le chef Zoe passe la nuit en prison

La détention de la cheffe Zoe Nora Samuels à la prison centrale de Monrovia pour ne pas avoir produit trois jeunes femmes qui auraient été forcées d'entrer dans un bush Sande pour subir des MGF envoie le message le plus fort jamais envoyé pour la lutte contre les MGF. Le tribunal pénal « A » a renvoyé la cheffe Zoe Nora Samuel à la prison centrale de Monrovia pour ne pas avoir présenté à deux reprises les corps vivants de trois jeunes femmes qui auraient été emmenées de force, détenues et initiées à la société Sande le long de la Marshall Highway. Selon notre correspondant au tribunal, la décision du juge Roosevelt Willie a été déclenchée par une requête en habeas corpus déposée le 4 avril 2024 devant le tribunal pénal « A » par l'Organisation des femmes et des enfants et l'Initiative de soins de santé communautaires. L'avocat du comté de Montserrado, Cllr. Swaliho Sesay, représentant les défenseurs, a rejeté la demande des avocats du pétitionnaire, affirmant que les pétitionnaires n'étaient pas habilités à déposer le bref, car les parents des filles n'avaient pas donné aux pétitionnaires leur consentement pour déposer un bref ou une poursuite en leur nom. Les avocats des pétitionnaires, dont Cllr. Sennay Carlor II, Atty. Mmonbeydo Nadine Joah et Atty. Facia Harris, ont soutenu mardi 9 avril qu'une des jeunes femmes (nom non divulgué) est une adulte de 22 ans, qui a été emmenée de force au bush Sande par les défenseurs contre son gré, et en tant que telle, croit



que l'habeas corpus sera applicable comme le prévoit la loi et conformément à l'article 21 de la Constitution du Liberia qui stipule que « Le droit à l'habeas corpus, étant essentiel à la protection des droits humains, est garanti en tout temps, et toute personne arrêtée ou détenue et non présentée au tribunal dans le délai imparti peut en conséquence exercer ce droit ». Le tribunal a déclaré deux Zoes coupables d'outrage pour avoir refusé de respecter l'ordonnance du tribunal. Le juge, dans sa décision, a libéré l'une des Zoes pour amener les jeunes femmes devant le tribunal tandis que l'autre, Nora Samuel, a été incarcérée à la prison centrale de Monrovia en attendant le respect de l'ordonnance du tribunal. Alors qu'une des Zoes est incarcérée à la prison centrale de Monrovia, elles ramèneront les enfants le mercredi 10 avril 2024. Le 6 février 2023, le Conseil national des chefs et des anciens du Liberia (NACCEL), par l'intermédiaire de son président, le chef Zanzan Karwor, a fait une proclamation historique pour interdire la pratique des MGF au Liberia. Le chef Zanzan Karwor a déclaré : « En vertu du pouvoir qui m'est conféré par tous les chefs paramontaux des 15 divisions politiques du Liberia et signé par moi-même... les MGF sont interdites au Liberia. »

Starts from page 8 **Le Sénat Libérien signe à**

guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité commis entre 1979 et 2003, en vertu de l'article 34(f). Conformément à l'article 34(e)(b)(j)(l) de la Constitution libérienne de 1986, le document stipule que le pouvoir exécutif élaborera un cadre juridique et le soumettra au pouvoir législatif pour adoption en vue de la création d'un Tribunal anticorruption (ACC) portant sur la période de 1979 à 2003.

L'accord stipule également que le Président écrira aux Nations Unies, à l'Union européenne et au gouvernement des États-Unis pour exprimer l'intention du gouvernement libérien de créer le Tribunal pénal extraordinaire sur le sol libérien ou dans un pays à

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Resolution good intent, but Civil Service extends PAN period

-Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi

A day after senators signed a resolution supporting the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia, a renowned Liberian Lawyer, Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi, says that while the document has good intent, it is not binding.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 11, 2024—An astute Liberian lawyer, Cllr. Jonathan T. Massaquoi, terms the resolution signed by the 55th Legislature to establish a war

with journalists in Monrovia at the Liberian National Bar Association Assembly, he noted that Liberians should be aware that the actions of the House and the Senate are welcoming because they indicate an expression of intent, though



Cllr. Jonathan T. Massaquoi

and economic crimes court for Liberia as a document of good intent but not a binding instrument for the establishment of said court.

Cllr. Massaquoi says the procedures for establishing such a court should come from President Joseph Boakai himself.

Speaking in an interview

they are not binding.

"The resolution being passed by the lower house and that expected from the Senate is in good faith. It's just an expression of intent that we want the court, but it's not binding thus. So, even if the upper house concurred, it's still not binding until the President follows the laid-

down procedure," he notes.

Explaining the procedures for establishing the War and Economic Crimes Court, the Partner of the International Law Group (ILG) discloses that President Boakai will have to write a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General pointing out the country's intention for the court and sign an Executive Order establishing the court's office.

"Here are the procedures for establishing the war and economic crimes court. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai needs to sign a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres and also signed an Executive Order establishing the office to establish the court. This letter to the UN is an intent that they need the court", Cllr. Massaquoi continues.

He says the Secretary General of the Security Council will then forward the instrument to the UN Security Council, which will pass a resolution, empowering him (António Guterres) to agree with the Government of Liberia.

He adds that once that agreement is signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of Liberia, it will be forwarded to both houses (House of Representatives and Senate) for concurrence and ratification.

He implies that once the President signs that instrument and it is put into a handbill, the court is ready for operation.

Government extends deadline for undocumented employees to regularize their status.

By: Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, Liberia, April 11, 2024 - The Civil Service Agency (CSA) of Liberia has announced extension of the deadline for the Personal Action Notice (PAN) completion process for undocumented employees from 90 to 120 days.

The extension, spanning from April 2 to August 2, 2024, aims to facilitate the deployment of necessary logistics and analysts to collaborate with the Human Resource Departments of Spending Entities in verifying bona fide employees and completing the PAN process.

Making the disclosure Wednesday, March 10, 2023, in Monrovia, the CSA Director General, Josiah Joekai, said that in the coming days, the Agency will distribute a comprehensive timeline to all Spending Entities, outlining key activities, execution dates, and assign teams for the PAN completion exercise, to assist spending entities' Human Resource Departments in preparing

employees, was an integral part of the PSMP.

He thanked development partners, especially the United States government through USAID, the Swedish Government, the EU, and the World Bank Group, for funding the exercise.

Mr. Joekai also lauded former President George Weah for allowing the General Auditing Commission to conduct a comprehensive payroll compliance audit across all 103 government spending entities.

"In keeping with accountability and transparency, the General Auditing Commission (GAC) conducted a forensic payroll compliance audit from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2021. The payroll audit uncovered alarming proportions of financial mismanagement, fraud, and waste laid out in the Auditor General's findings and recommendations", he explained. He noted that the audit's recommendations are divided into segments, with some requiring a multi-sectoral implementation approach and the majority needing simple and straightforward actions.

Meanwhile, the CSA Boss has



Boima calls for expansion of economy

Government seeks to expand economy by growing revenue to US\$1 billion.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, April 11, 2024 - Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Boima Kamara, underscores a need to focus on expanding the economy.

Speaking before the Liberian Senate on Monday, April 8, 2024, Minister Kamara noted that as the government embarks on a revenue hearing, it is important to emphasize that the economy needs expansion.

He informed the Joint Legislative Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance that fiscal policies that will ensure strong economic investments are also needed.

Kamara, who is in government for the second time, having previously served in the post during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, highlighted the importance for the Ministry of Finance and Development

Planning and the Liberia Revenue Authority to work with the Legislature to ensure appropriate interventions are made especially in the passage of the Value Added Tax (VAT) Bill.

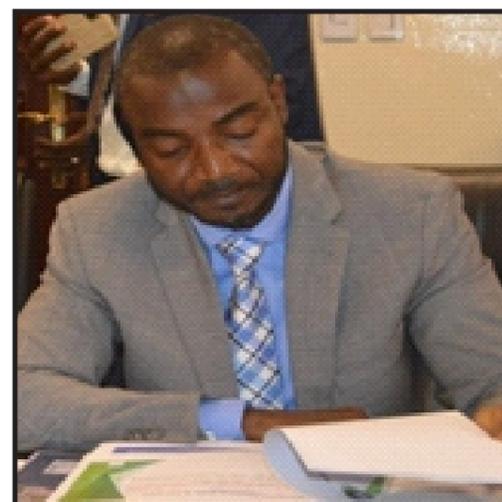
According to him, the passage of the VAT Bill will help boost domestic tax revenue, enhance transparency and accountability, and spur development.

He maintains that, depending on how growth is structured over the next six (6) years, the government can achieve the one billion United States dollars revenue mark by working with the Liberia Revenue Authority.

He said it's time to foster stronger partnership in

developing the needed fiscal policies to accelerate the pace of national growth and development.

He disclosed that government is seeking a growth path of five percent to eight percent (5% to 8%) and possibly up to ten percent (10%) growth over the next six years, which, according to him, is possible, giving his rich experience in managing both the fiscal and monetary sectors of the country's economy. Editing by Jonathan Browne



adequately for the process.

The Personnel Action Notice (PAN) is a document used in human resources management to record changes or updates related to an employee's status, such as hiring, promotion, transfer, termination, or other personnel actions. It is an official record of these changes and is typically maintained in the employee's personnel file. The PAN helps ensure accurate documentation of personnel actions and facilitates proper administration of employee benefits, payroll, and other HR processes. However, Director General Joekai outlined that a Public Sector Modernization Project (PSMP) has been implemented by the CSA, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), and a host of other spending entities over the last six years to institute major reforms to ensure prudent public finance management.

He explained that the national payroll management and control system, which ensures accountability and transparency in the use of public funds to pay government

disclosed that, with immediate effect, the Agency is taking a series of actions to implement the Auditor General's recommendations, including projecting the summary of physical verification head counts, having observed that 122 (one hundred twenty-two) employees from across 20 ministries and agencies had shared bank accounts. "There are two scenarios associated with this discrepancy. For the first scenario, one employee with the same name, same NIR number, and same date of birth is listed twice under two different entities with two positions but one bank account at a single bank. This is double dipping, meaning the employee is receiving two salaries."

Pointing to the second scenario, he revealed that two different individuals have the same bank account number, different positions, and are working in the same entity. "These ghost names represent ghost employees receiving payment for work not done. The government is losing US\$30,795.09 monthly."

According to Joekai, the Auditor General recommends permanently removing individuals illegally or fraudulently sharing bank account numbers from the payroll.

Sen. Nimely opens fresh ethnic wounds

Despite some commitments to co-exist, Liberia's brutal civil war had left years of bitter relationships between citizens from Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties because there were events when the war took tribal lines, and Liberians killed each other senselessly.

Monrovia, April 11, 2024: Grand Gedeh County Senator and former Liberian top warlord Thomas Yaya Nimely has

sitting President Samuel Kanyon Doe was brutally murdered. "Nimba County is not reciprocating. You are not accepting Krahn people into

her man to leave. Additionally, Sen. Nimely said another Krahn man also died from liquor poisoning in Nimba.

In response, Nimba Senator Prince Yormie Johnson said what his colleague did was not good but to disgrace the people of Nimba.

Johnson said he had just heard from Nimely that someone from Grand Gedeh had been poisoned, noting that they both visit each other's offices, and it was not fair to bring the matter in public.

"What you said today was a disgrace to the people of Nimba. I have been here long, that did not come to your attention, to our attention," said Johnson.

He questioned Grand Gedeh Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue and why he did not reveal this information if he knew of Grand Gedehans being poisoned by Nimbaians.

Sen. Johnson argued that during the past election, Sen. Nimely urged the people of Grand Gedeh not to vote for his Nimba kinsmen.

Johnson lamented that Nimely has again indicted the people of Nimba for not allowing the people of Grand Gedeh to migrate to Nimba.

"Everyone is allowed to migrate [to] whatever county they want to go to. If you keep yourself conservative and don't travel and settle there, well, it's up to you," said Johnson.

He called on his colleague, Sen. Nimely, to maintain the peace in spoken words and in all that he does.

Cocopa Workers erect roadblock

Protesters along the Ganta - Saclepea Highway in Nimba County. Aggrieved employees erect roadblock at Cocopa Plantations, for unpaid salaries and incentives, destroying a government ambulance.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Nimba, Liberia, April 11, 2024—Over two hundred protesting workers of Cocopa Rubber Plantations, now Nimba Rubber Incorporated (NRI), erect a blockage along the Ganta-Saclepea Highway in electoral district#8, Nimba County, demanding salaries.

According to the employees, management is indebted to them for one year and seven months.

The protest is being supported by students on the plantations alongside with their parents.

The protesting employees lament that for the past five to six months, management has failed to supply them with rice,

treatments they continue to suffer at the hands of management.

Another aggrieved employee, Marcus Nuah Barleah, reveals that teachers of the plantation school have laid down chalks in demand of salaries as well.

Students joined the protest mainly in solidarity with their instructors, who have refused to attend classes.

A protesting student discloses that teachers have been out of class for the past four months.

"We, the students, along with our parents, have joined the protest on the grounds that our children have not been in school and the supply of rice and medication alongside with rent has stopped, thereby creating problems for the rest of the family members," he adds.

The NEW DAWN was unable to get the Management of Nimba Rubber



rental, and healthcare, among other incentives. A. Morris Howard, head of the aggressive workers, vows they will not remove the blockage until management addresses their demands. He narrates that various plantation departments are also supporting the ongoing protest because of the ill-

▶ CONT'D page 7

We will create our own holidays

Starts from back page guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the standard to distinguish between right and wrong. So whoever is present this month, let them fast. But whoever is ill or on a journey, then let them fast an equal number of days after Ramadan. Allah intends ease for you, not hardship, so that you may complete the prescribed period and proclaim the greatness of Allah for guiding you, and perhaps you will be grateful." During the Eid celebration, Muslims greet one another by saying 'Eid Mubarak,' which is Arabic for "Blessed Eid." As it comes after a month of fasting, sweet dishes and foods are often prepared and

consumed during the celebration. Muslims typically decorate their homes and are encouraged to forgive each other and seek forgiveness. In countries with large Muslim populations, it is normally a public holiday, with most schools and businesses closed for the day. Practices differ by country and region.

The Chairman of the Board of Imam's Council of Liberia says the pronouncement is to inform the government that Muslims are equal citizens and deserve those notes that politicians continued to use Muslims across the country by telling them stories to gain their votes during elections, but after the polls, they turned their back on the Muslim community and ignored their plight. According to him, Muslims are being treated as second-class citizens, lamenting they pay the highest taxes but do not benefit from their taxes.

He continues that they, however, remain peaceful and law-abiding citizens and are proud of that while urging Muslims to continue to engage with the national government and co-exist.

Meanwhile, Chief Imam Sheriff stresses the importance of maintaining peace and security across the country, adding that Liberia is our home of destiny and achievement. **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

We will create our own holidays

-Chief Imam tells government

Muslims threatened to declare Islamic holidays here, accusing government of failure to grant them public holidays.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 11, 2024—The Chairman of the Board of Imam's Council of Liberia and Chief Imam of the Benson Street Central Mosque,

Benson Street Central Mosque in Monrovia on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, to mark the end of Ramadan, a month-long fast and prayer by Muslims across the country, Imam Sheriff lamented that past and present governments have



Mohammed A. Sheriff

Mohammed A. Sheriff, says Muslims in Liberia will create their own holidays by shutting down businesses since they cannot get holidays from the State. Delivering his sermon at the

failed to grant Liberian Muslims two national holidays, as they have been yearning for. He says since the government and policymakers have allegedly refused to do the needful by legislating

Ramanda and Abraham Day, Muslims will create holidays by themselves by shutting down businesses here.

“Even though all of our past governments failed to give us two national holidays only to celebrate our Abraham and Ramadan Day, we remain citizens and peaceful citizens of this country. Without them giving us Ramadan and Abraham Day, we can create our own Ramadan Day by stopping all of our businesses and cars running across the country.”

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Muslims in Liberia joined their counterparts worldwide to observe Eid al-Fitr, the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fast and prayer.

Since Monday, March 11, 2024, they have been abstaining from food from dawn to sunset, in observation of the third pillar of Islam, which obligates adult Muslims who are not acutely or chronically ill, traveling, elderly, breastfeeding, diabetic, pregnant or menstruating, to fast for 29 or 30 days.

According to Chapter 2, verse 185 of the Quran, “Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a

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