

**Advertise Here!**

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

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS  
0886484201 / 0777007529

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

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024	L\$192.1906/US\$1.00	L\$194.0294/US\$1.00

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

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Attention! Attention!**

**Read GOL Audit Report for June 30, 2015 inside.**

VOL. 14 NO. 59

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Koung & PYJ squared off

**-Over Nimba by-election**

Vice President Jeremiah Kpan      Senator Prince Johnson

# NEC denies paying over US\$160,000 to local vendor

(NEC) Davidetta Browne Lansanah

**RECHARGE & BUMPAY!**

100 mins      5GB Data

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

Lonestar Cell | MTN | Coca-Cola



# Continental News

## Sierra Leone destroys \$200,000 worth of narcotics used to manufacture kush

Sierra Leone authorities on Saturday burned \$200,000 worth of narcotic drugs and chemicals used to manufacture the synthetic drug kush, two weeks after drug abuse was declared

Academy in the capital, Freetown, as a small crowd gathered around the bellowing fire and rising smoke.

Kush— a mixture of chemical substances with similar effects to cannabis— has been prevalent in

used for the manufacturing of kush... to avoid the likelihood of (them) going back to the community," said Mohamed Alieu, head of a police transnational organized crime unit, during a short ceremony to mark the burning of the drugs.

They also burned cannabis and cocaine, according to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

"We are waging a war against kush to save the youths of Sierra Leone from dying of drug addiction," said the agency's Executive Director Andrew Jaia KaiKai.

"Our country is in a state of drug confusion and we must eradicate it to protect the future generation," said Joseph Lahai, director of the police's crime services.

The Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio said earlier this month that drug abuse in the country was a "national emergency." VOA



A man smoking joint of kush, a potent mix of chemicals that mimics cannabis, in a shack where people smoke the drug in Sierra Leone on July 21, 2023

a national emergency. Several law enforcement agencies were present at the Sierra Leone Police Training

the West African country for several years.

"We are destroying confiscated narcotics, tramadol and chemicals

## US plans to withdraw troops from Niger

U.S. officials said that they will begin to withdraw troops from Niger, but there is no timeline.

Experts say the move is a blow to Washington and its allies in the region in terms of staging security operations in the Sahel. The planned departure comes as U.S. officials said they were trying to find a new military agreement.

The prime minister of Niger, appointed by the ruling military junta, Ali Lamine Zeine, and U.S. deputy secretary of state Kurt Campbell, agreed on Friday that the two nations would begin to plan the withdrawal of American troops, the U.S. State Department told The Associated Press in an email Saturday.

A U.S. official said there was no timeline for withdrawal besides talks set to start in the coming days about next steps. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to detail the private diplomatic discussions.

has since told French forces to leave and turned instead to Russia for security. Earlier this month, Russian military trainers arrived to reinforce the country's air defenses and with Russian equipment to train Nigeriens to use.

There was an attempt on the behalf of the U.S. to revise the military agreement with Niger that would allow them to stay, U.S. officials told the AP. But the agreement between Zeine and Campbell shows that the effort has failed.

A separate senior U.S. State Department official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to speak about sensitive diplomatic talks, told the AP on Saturday that Niger's junta made a decision that they don't want any foreign forces in the country, including the U.S. and that the security partnership was ending for the time being. The junta told the U.S. that Russia's presence was to train Nigeriens on how to operate the equipment. The

## 58 die in boat accident in Central African Republic

BANGUI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—At least 58 people going to a funeral died after their overloaded river boat capsized in the Central African Republic's capital Bangui, the head of civil protection said on Saturday.

"We were able to extract 58 lifeless bodies," Thomas Djimasse told Radio Guira. "We don't know the total number of people who are underwater.

According to witnesses and videos on social media, the wooden boat was carrying more than 300 people— some standing and others perched on wooden structures— when it sank on the Mpoko river on Friday. The vessel was heading to the funeral of a village chief in Makolo, some 45 kilometers (28 miles) from Bangui, but got into difficulty shortly after setting off from the pier. Rescue services arrived 40 minutes after the disaster.

The government did not respond on Saturday but in a speech recorded on Friday and broadcast a day later, government spokesman Maxime Balalou had reported a "provisional toll of at least 30 dead." The government sent its condolences to the bereaved families, he said, announcing the opening of an investigation and the setting up of a support system for families of the victims.

Maurice Kapenya, who was following the boat in a canoe because there was no space on board, said his own sister was among the bodies of the victims he had recovered. He was helped by local fisherman and residents. Motorbike taxis meanwhile evacuated some of the injured.

Driver Francis Maka told AFP he had "taken more than 10 people to the community hospital... free of charge, in the face of the tragedy." With civil protection teams no longer on the scene Saturday, desperate families searching for missing loved ones near the river helped canoe operators they had hired, an AFP journalist observed. Several opposition parties expressed solidarity with the families and called for national mourning.

Unrest and poverty The Central African Republic is

ranked by the United Nations as the second least-developed country in the world. A civil war has plagued the former French colony since a Muslim-dominated armed coalition called the Seleka ousted former president Francois Bozize in 2013. The conflict lost intensity from 2018 but the country still suffers bouts of violence by rebel groups or over its resources, which include gold and diamonds. French intervention and deployment of UN peacekeepers paved the way for elections in 2016, which President Faustin Archange Touadera won. Two years later, Touadera brought in fighters from Russia's Wagner mercenary group to help train his armed forces.

VOA



Map of Central African Republic



A U.S. and Niger flag are raised side by side at the base camp for air forces and other personnel supporting the construction of Niger Air Base 201 in Agadez, Niger, April 16, 2018.

An American delegation to coordinate the details of the withdrawal process will be dispatched soon.

Niger plays a central role in the U.S. military's operations in Africa's Sahel region, an area on the edge of the Sahara Desert. Washington is concerned about the spread of jihadi violence, where local groups have pledged allegiance to al-Qaida and the Islamic State groups.

Niger is home to a major U.S. air base, in the city of Agadez, about 920 kilometers (550 miles) from the capital, Niamey, using it for manned and unmanned surveillance flights and other operations. The U.S. has also invested hundreds of millions of dollars in training Niger's military since it began operations there in 2013.

But relations have frayed between Niger and Western countries since mutinous soldiers ousted the country's democratically elected president in July. Niger's junta

official said that the U.S. had valid concerns about some of the choices the junta was making, specifically about the potential for Russian and American troops to be colocated.

The loss of access to air bases in Niger is a major setback for the U.S. and its allies in the region because of its strategic location for security operations in the Sahel, said Peter Pham, former U.S. special envoy for the Sahel region.

"In the short term, they will be hard to replace," said Pham, adding that remaining European Union military presence would likely pull out of Niger following the news of a U.S. departure.

The rupture of relations between the two nations would impact the development and humanitarian aid funds destined for Niger, a country at the bottom of many indicators of well-being, Pham said.

Insa Garba Saidou, a local activist who assists Niger's military rulers with their communications, told the AP that American troops could potentially

# EDITORIAL

## Boakai's budget downplays education

The first national budget submitted by the Executive to the 55th Legislature for FY2024 leaves much to be desired with education relegated under agriculture, roads, health, and energy.

This means the nation's badly challenged educational system will remain so for a long time. It is quite unfortunate for a President that campaigned with a promise to rescue Liberia in totality.

As we write, Liberia is still hugely indebted to the West African Examination Council (WAEC), the sub-regional body that administers annual exams for students in Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. The country has defaulted in paying its dues, which is in the tone of several hundred thousands, if not millions.

This liability is negatively impacting the country's representation at the subregional level with adverse effects on decisions being made for the body.

This is happening so when public universities, colleges and tertiary institutions across the country are beset with serious financial challenges that are negatively impacting not only their operations and programs, but students' learning processes.

For instance, junior lecturers at the State-run University of Liberia refused to return to class at the beginning of the current academic semester in demand of salary and benefits, which delayed resumption of classes.

As if being insensitive, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's first draft national budget to the legislature prioritizes agriculture, roads, health, and energy, instead. The government is mute on whether it will maintain payment of WASSCE fees for 12th graders across the country, initiated by its predecessor.

Besides, thousands of volunteer teachers in public schools are yet to be placed on by payroll by the Ministry of Education that runs schools in dilapidated structures all over Liberia with students sitting on bare floors to write lessons.

Such poor learning environment, especially public schools are no doubt, some of the contributing factors to dismal performance of students besides dissatisfied and unqualified teachers.

Many Liberians had anticipated thought that the "Rescue Government" would have given equal priority to the nation's education, as it is doing for other key sectors. Unfortunately, this seems not to be the case, as evidence from the draft national budget indicates.

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

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## The Key to Transforming African Health

**N**EW DELHI - Despite the relentless stream of bad news from around the world, there are still reasons for optimism. One notable example is the renewed push to localize pharmaceutical production in Africa, demonstrating how even catastrophic events like a pandemic can lead to positive, unforeseen outcomes.

The COVID-19 shock underscored the critical need to fund public-health systems and expand access to essential technologies and preventive and therapeutic drugs, and should have served as a wake-up call for policymakers and publics worldwide. But once the virus was brought under control, wealthy countries reverted to the policies and practices that had made the initial pandemic response so unequal.

No part of the world has suffered more from these extreme global inequalities than Africa. African countries were the last to receive COVID-19 vaccines, having been crowded out by vaccine-hoarding wealthier countries and denied access to the technologies necessary for domestic production. Although Africa accounts for 18% of the world's population, the continent received only 3.3% of all administered vaccines by the end of 2021. By the end of 2022, its share had barely increased to 5.5%.

Even before COVID-19, Africa was already grappling with the global neglect of major epidemics such as Ebola, Zika, and monkeypox, as well as endemic diseases like sleeping sickness. One of the biggest obstacles to tackling these health crises is the continent's dependence on imported drugs. Despite bearing one-quarter of the global disease burden, only 2% of medical research is conducted in Africa, and more than 90% of the continent's vaccines and 70% of its medicines are imported. Moreover, of the roughly 375 pharmaceutical manufacturers operating in Africa, just 15% are locally owned, and most of these companies focus on formulations rather than the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) crucial for drug production.

Fortunately, the bitter experience of COVID-19 appears to have catalyzed a much-needed policy shift. During the pandemic, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laid the groundwork for inter-governmental cooperation by bolstering collective regional responses under extremely difficult conditions. More recently, several African governments and international organizations have launched initiatives to boost local pharmaceutical production and promote innovation across the continent.

The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, backed by the African Development Bank, is a prime example. This initiative aims to bolster the continent's technological capabilities by expanding access to knowledge, building skills, and expanding product pipelines. The Foundation has pledged to invest up to \$3 billion over the next decade to develop pharmaceutical products in Africa, thereby reducing the continent's dependence on imports.

Another example is the Medicine Patent Pool's mRNA technology transfer program, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations. The goal of this initiative, which operates from its South African hub at the Cape Town-based biotechnology company

Afrigen, is to develop the necessary technological capacity and technical know-how to enable 15 low- and middle-income countries to manufacture mRNA vaccines. Initially focused on COVID-19 vaccines, the program has since expanded to other diseases prevalent across Africa, as well as more affordable cancer treatments.

These initiatives face significant challenges, especially their reliance on voluntary technology transfers, which have proven to be very limited in scope. To access essential knowledge and force multinational companies (MNCs) to share their technologies, African countries must expand their use of compulsory licensing, in line with their own patent laws and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

Notably, the mRNA hub in South Africa has already faced legal challenges from Moderna, itself a beneficiary of US government subsidies and patent sharing. This underscores the importance of ensuring that the ongoing negotiations for a global pandemic treaty include specific provisions addressing compulsory licensing.

That said, access to knowledge alone is not enough. Given that production processes require specialized expertise, comprehensive education programs and skills training are crucial to establishing a sustainable foundation for innovation and production in Africa. This requires a broader regional effort, which African governments appear to be considering.

Another major obstacle is competition from large pharmaceutical companies. Novartis, which has previously initiated patent disputes in countries like India, has already announced its intention to achieve a fivefold increase in patient outreach in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2025. For localization efforts to succeed, it is crucial to emphasize local ownership and ensure that the benefits are not monopolized by Big Pharma. In any case, MNCs can be unreliable partners, as is evident from Moderna's recent decision to put on hold its planned investment in vaccine production in Kenya because reduced demand makes commercial profitability less likely.

Given that Africa's rich genetic diversity makes it a veritable treasure trove of genomic data, the risk of knowledge and data theft is a pressing concern. While the African CDC's Pathogen Genomics Initiative was celebrated as a major achievement when it was launched in 2019, there are now valid concerns that the pandemic treaty could make these data globally accessible, potentially benefiting large pharmaceutical companies in rich countries without ensuring fair compensation for Africa. Tellingly, foreign powers are already squabbling over who should control access to this invaluable database.

The challenges confronting African countries' efforts to take control of their health-care destiny are immense. Their determination to localize drug and vaccine production is a promising start.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

# OP-ED

By Diane Coyle

## The West's New Infrastructure Imperative

**C**AMBRIDGE - An emerging debate about the definition of infrastructure suggests that Western democracies are starting to shift their priorities. The renewed focus on infrastructure and what it includes is to be welcomed - not least because it rebuts the claim the West has lost faith in the future.

Many argue that investment in traditional physical infrastructure - such as electricity grids, water distribution, and transport networks - is no longer enough. There is now a push to fund social and cultural infrastructure - community assets such as libraries, schools, hospitals, and care systems that were not previously categorized in this way. Meanwhile, the growing power of Big Tech has prompted discussions about the need for digital public infrastructure.

The word infrastructure, coined by French railroad engineers in the late nineteenth century, refers to a complex set of systems that enable a society's functioning. This complexity is exemplified by the tangle of pipes and cables buried beneath city streets that construction crews occasionally unearth. The new gets layered onto the old: British drivers are still using roads first built by the Romans and tunnels and bridges constructed by the Victorians. Such durability points to the forward-looking nature of investment in infrastructure, which may exist for a very long time indeed.

It is surprisingly difficult to find data on the extent and condition of existing infrastructure. This is because infrastructure projects vary enormously. While it is possible to count, say, the number of bridges, these are hardly standard units. To be sure, the scale and scope of some networks are easier to measure in physical terms - such as megawatts per hour for generating capacity or the distance of fiber-optic cables - but the costs of installation and the value created by each unit will differ significantly depending on the context. It is harder still to measure the quality and resilience of infrastructure.

What is clear, though, is that Western democracies have under-invested in the maintenance of this "traditional" infrastructure: look no further than the decrepit state of German railways, American bridges, and British water and sewage services. Unsurprisingly, citizens are increasingly concerned about the implications of deteriorating infrastructure for their daily lives and the economy as a whole.

Now add to this the Western world's growing understanding of infrastructure as encompassing social and cultural spaces and structures as well. The rationale for this expanded definition is straightforward: public goods and services that produce healthy and well-educated citizens are essential components of the foundation for the business and individual activities that allow the economy and society to function.

In his 2012 book, *Infrastructure: The Social Value of Shared Resources*, Brett Frischmann identifies three characteristics that unite infrastructure assets. First, they are non-rival in use (that is, many people can use them simultaneously). Second, demand for them is derivative - for example, people do not consume electricity for its own sake but because of what it enables them to do. Third, they can be used as inputs for a wide range of other activities.

To that I would add three other essential qualities. As Frischmann notes, infrastructure functions as a sort of public commons, implying that access to these assets should be universal, or at least not dependent on an individual's personal connections or status. It is thus a progressive form of investment, delivering inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

Moreover, infrastructure often has positive spillovers or network effects, with benefits multiplying once use reaches a sufficient scale. For example, broadband's economic impact increased more than in proportion to the number of people connected when density of use made new business models feasible. But the opposite is also true: as the rail network deteriorates, there will come a point when using it to transport goods becomes uneconomic.

Lastly, infrastructure generally involves upfront investment, resulting in low marginal supply costs. While this might seem obvious, it is worth emphasizing because it raises two classic public-goods problems: how to finance as much infrastructure as society needs, and how to regulate privately-provided assets when the increasing returns to scale make them natural monopolies.

But even more important, at least in today's context, is the long time horizon of these assets. When engineer Joseph Bazalgette built the London sewage system starting in 1859, he ensured that its capacity vastly exceeded the expected need. This foresight has allowed the network to function for more than 150 years, over which time the city's population has tripled, to more than nine million. Only now is the financially embattled Thames Water expanding the system, after many years of under-investment led to a scandalous increase in sewage spills.

A dim future awaits any society that allows its existing infrastructure to degrade and under-invests in new needs. Bridges and cables may seem unglamorous, but these common assets will form the basis of economic growth for years to come, and the countries investing in them are creating the conditions they need to thrive. As the conversation about broadening the scope of infrastructure grows louder in the West, there are glimmers of hope that these societies are finally waking up to the need to invest in the common good.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

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

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
Advertise with us!

# OPINION

By Rakesh Mohan, Mohamed Nasheed

## What a Climate-Aligned IMF Would Look Like

**MALÉ** - Last week, the board of the International Monetary Fund approved current Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva for another five-year term. It is a welcome development that comes at a critical moment. Her second term will finish just before the end of this "make-or-break" decade for reining in climate change and delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Georgieva has made significant progress in aligning the IMF with these goals. She was instrumental in the IMF's decision to acknowledge climate change as a critical macro issue under its institutional mandate. Under her leadership, the IMF launched its first-ever climate-change strategy; created the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), its primary climate-finance instrument; and fostered global dialogue on the issue through its flagship publications and research.

But now even bolder leadership is needed. As the only multilateral institution charged with maintaining global financial and fiscal stability, the IMF's role is critical for addressing climate change. Georgieva can build on the progress made in her first term by doing four things: committing the IMF to align with the Paris agreement; ensuring that it has ample financial firepower; elevating the voices of climate-vulnerable emerging-market and developing economies (EMDEs); and mobilizing international support for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The first task is the most important. All the IMF's programs - not just those that are explicitly climate focused, like the RST - need to start promoting low-carbon development. Critically, that means avoiding scenarios that lock in fossil-fuel-intensive growth paths that will leave countries stranded in a net-zero future. All the IMF's work must be consistent with models of inclusive growth and development, including those where value is generated from natural capital and biodiversity. Equally, the IMF's surveillance efforts (which involve all countries, not just borrowers) should help governments identify how best to achieve their development and climate goals.

But aligning IMF financing and operations with the Paris goals will not be enough. With governments negotiating a new climate-finance goal this year, the IMF should help policymakers identify potential sources of financing and better understand the macroeconomic dimensions of the issue.

This will require fresh thinking, because the evidence shows that carbon pricing will not be enough to generate the resources needed to support the net-zero transition. Robust analytics from the IMF can help to foster a global consensus on how best to generate international and domestic public finance - whether through taxation, revenue from carbon border adjustment mechanisms, or other channels.

Second, Georgieva must ensure that the IMF itself has ample financing firepower. As she has previously warned, the world is increasingly prone to a wide range of shocks, many of which would have profound macroeconomic consequences. In this fraught new setting, the IMF's operations and balance sheet must be calibrated against what member states need to remain resilient. While the IMF Board approved a 50% increase in member states quotas (contributions) last December, that is far below the 267% increase required to meet the gross external financing needs of the most vulnerable members.

Similarly, the transition to net-zero will radically alter the economic terrain for many countries, especially those that have long relied on exporting or taxing fossil fuels. The IMF should track these trends and prepare to support countries that need help pursuing an orderly, low-carbon transition.

Third, Georgieva has a special responsibility to ensure that climate-vulnerable economies are involved in the IMF's decision-making. These economies are more likely to seek IMF help, so it is all the more important that they have a say in how the IMF works. Yet, as of October 2022, the Vulnerable Group of 20 (V20) commands only around 5% of the voting power at the IMF, despite being home to 17% of the world's population.

One major V20 demand is to "make debt work for the climate." That means revising the IMF's debt-sustainability model to incorporate urgent investment and spending needs, and to determine what it will take for each country to meet them. Implicit in this approach is a move away from conventional austerity-based measures, and toward strategies focused more on resource mobilization.

To be sure, the recent addition of a third African chair on the IMF Executive Board was a welcome development. But at the end of the day, last year's 16th General Review of Quotas was a missed opportunity to rebalance voting power.

Given that the IMF has never had a non-European managing director, it will take fundamental governance reforms to convince climate-vulnerable economies that it truly represents their interests. To that end, Georgieva should offer her support for ongoing efforts to recognize the V20 as an official inter-governmental group at the IMF.

Finally, since Georgieva cannot undertake these efforts alone, the IMF Board must support her in hiring and funding additional staff from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. Additional resources would allow the IMF to scale up its direct country engagement and ensure that national policies are tailored to local contexts.

Coordination with other international institutions is also essential. The World Bank, for example, can help leverage the RST's limited resources to mobilize more money, especially toward resiliency programs like Climate Prosperity Plans.

In her first term, Georgieva won the argument that climate change is central to the IMF's mandate. Now, she will have to show that the institution can rise to the challenge posed by the climate crisis at this "now or never" juncture.

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

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## How racism has kept Liberia poor and underdeveloped

In his 2020 article “What Racism Cost Us All,” written for the International Monetary Fund, Joseph Losavio bemoaned the significant economic cost associated with racism.

“Systemic racism is a global problem. It is real, and a robust moral argument for addressing it exists. However, one factor that is often ignored in this critical conversation is the broader economic dimension.

Because it prevents people from making the most of their economic potential, systemic racism carries significant economic costs. A less racist society can be an economically stronger one.” Mr. Losavio wrote.

This is exactly the situation Liberia is facing. The country’s racist clause enshrined in its 1986 Constitution has made many non-negros or persons of non-negro decent rethink their investment in the country.

It is non-debatable that Liberia has been and remains a racist country since its independence in 1847, at least according to Article 27 (b) of its Constitution, which excludes non-black or anyone who does not have a black ancestry from becoming a citizen.

Article 27 (b) states that: “To preserve, foster and maintain the positive Liberian culture, values, and character, only persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia.”

The law discriminates based on race. To say that only persons who are “Negro” (black), regardless of whether they were born on Liberian soil, jus soli, or abroad to Liberian parents, jus sanguinis, “shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia,” is racist- plain and simple.

According to Wikipedia, “Racism is discrimination and prejudice against people based on their race or ethnicity.” It further explained that racism can be present in social actions, practices, or political systems that support the expression of prejudice or aversion in discriminatory practices.”

Unlike Western countries, Liberia’s racism is institutional because it is written boldly in its constitution. It perpetuates discrimination against non-negros and people of non-negro descent on the basis that they are not black or have no black ancestry. Legal institutions and systems do this.

This not only discourages non-negros or persons of non-negro descent who have lived all their lives in the country from making significant investment decisions but also prevents non-negros who were born here and have no other place as a home from becoming citizens.

These individuals, despite their strong family and economic ties with Liberia, would rather choose to invest in countries that are more welcoming and embracing than Liberia for fear that their descendants will always be denied the right to succeed them because they are not citizens.

Today, neighboring Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, and others have opened their countries, granting citizenship to non-negros in their pursuit of economic growth and development, while Liberia lies at the bottom due to its racist laws.

From its early foundation, the clause was inserted into the Liberian constitution by the colony’s founding fathers as a refuge for free people of color and, later, former slaves to prevent economically powerful communities from obtaining political power.

However, today, this law has no significance, but it remains in place to protect a privileged few while impoverishing the entire country.

In 2022, the law was amended to remove discrimination in granting citizenship to children born outside Liberia. However, the amended law retained the statutory attribution of citizenship to every child born in Liberia (if of “negro descent”); the 1986 Constitution, meanwhile, provides explicitly for attribution of citizenship at birth only if either the father or mother is a Liberian citizen.

This law intends to prohibit dual citizenship for adults at all costs. A referendum to amend the Constitution to permit dual citizenship in all cases (among other propositions) failed in 2020. However, many blame the past regime for not doing much to publicize the proposition.

The 2022 amendments to the law allow a Liberian citizen who acquires another citizenship to retain Liberian citizenship. This amendment follows a 2019 Supreme Court decision that ruled that the statutory provision for automatic loss of citizenship was unconstitutional.

However, in the case of a person with one Liberian and one foreign parent, the Constitution requires the person to renounce the other citizenship when he or she turns 18 to retain his or her Liberian citizenship.

## COMMENTARY

# How To Save The Earth

By Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh

It is most important to raise awareness about saving the Earth because when there is no Earth there are no human and non-human beings. April 22nd every year is celebrated globally as Earth Day.

Today is April 19th, meaning that Earth Day 2024 falls in three days on April 22, 2024. Earth Day provides opportunities for raising awareness about saving lives through saving the Earth.

Seventy per cent of the Earth is made up of water, called lakes, rivers, seas and oceans. But we human beings place ourselves in dangerous situations by polluting the Earth. We pollute the Earth by creating garbage.

We make garbage on the land and we make garbage, especially plastics, on the seas. The sea pollution has now got to a point where it threatens lives.

Swimming ends up into drowning and ships end up capsizing because of the plastics, killing many people on a daily basis.

Now, there are heat waves in many parts of the world killing many millions of people. The heat melts the icebergs, creating higher levels of water, presenting more live taking situations.

Then, there is the problem of climate change.

This problem of climate change sees the powers that be locally and globally promoting deforestation rather than reforestation. With the prevailing dominance of deforestation, forests are being cut down but not replaced.

Therefore, elephants have lost their forest covers and are going on the rampage in places like Gola Konneh in Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia.

Awareness is being raised to motivate people to take actions to move from deforestation to reforestation, but the money-driven national decision makers continue to promote deforestation.

This promotion has taken place to the point where lives are being taken rather than being saved.

Take a look at the situation in the Smell No Taste (SNT) Community where seven lives have already been lost, through drowning from floods, instead of been saved on account of deforestation instead of reforestation.

However, the dominance of deforestation is declining and the promotion of reforestation is rising. This promotion is taking place because of the awareness raising that is going on to transform the prevailing unfair electoral system into the enduring fair electoral system.

It is only through this transformation within the Rule of Law that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

▶ CONT'D FROM FRIDAY EDITION

# Auditor General's Report

## GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

### Debt Service Payments

Total debt service payment during Fiscal Year 2014/2015 was US\$30.86 million, of which 30.06% or US\$9.28 million represented external debt, while 69.94% or US\$21.58 million was domestic debt. Of the total debt service, principal repayment accounted for 73.74% or US\$22.75 million, while interest payments accounted for 26.26% or US\$8.10 million, as shown in the below table:

Table 8: Total Debt Services

Account Title	Principal US \$'000	Interest US \$'000	Total US \$'000
Domestic	17,208	4,373	21,581
External	5,546	3,730	9,275
<b>Total Debt Service (TDS)</b>	<b>22,754</b>	<b>8,103</b>	<b>30,856</b>

Comparatively, total debt service recorded during this reporting period decreased from US\$37.92 million in the previous fiscal year (FY 13/14) to US\$30.86 million, showing a decrease of 18.63% or US\$7.06 million.

### Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

Contingent liabilities at the end of the financial year, totaling US\$90.42, comprised external and domestic debts. These instruments were removed from the Statement of Outstanding Debt in Appendix 5 and will be treated on a case by case basis.

Table 9: Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

Account Title	US\$ '000'
<b>External Debt</b>	
Taiwan	85,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,418</b>
<b>Domestic Debt</b>	
Pre-NTGL Salary Arrears	1,324
Salary Allowances	3,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,004</b>
<b>Contingent Liabilities and Commitments</b>	<b>90,421</b>

### 7. Conclusion

The Financial Statements for the period July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015 should be read in conjunction with the underlying notes and supplementary disclosures, for better understanding and interpretation.



Sekou A. Sanoe

Comptroller and Accountant General, R. L.  
Government of Liberia  
October 30, 2015

## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED

30TH JUNE 2015

### GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

#### STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

Account Title/Description	NOTES	For The Financial Year Ended June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2015		For The Financial Year Ended June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2014	
		RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY	PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES	RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY	PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES
		US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>TAX RECEIPTS</b>	9	381,765	-	395,927	-
Taxes on Income and Profits		146,787	-	161,458	-
Property Taxes		4,357	-	4,124	-
Taxes on Goods and Services		50,116	-	63,904	-
Taxes on International Trade		167,753	-	155,200	-
Other Taxes		12,752	-	11,240	-
<b>OTHER RECEIPTS: NON - TAX RECEIPTS</b>	4	49,861	-	74,563	-
Other Receipts		49,861	-	74,563	-
<b>EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE</b>	10	60,140	46,601	36,358	43,343
Grants from Multilateral Agencies		60,140	38,311	36,358	42,808
Grants from Bilateral Agencies		-	8,290	-	535
<b>BORROWING</b>	3	146,148	-	10,350	-
Borrowings from Multilateral Agencies		95,487	-	10,350	-
Borrowings from Bilateral Agencies		-	-	-	-
Other Borrowings (Un-Budgeted)		45,662	-	-	-
Other Borrowings (Domestic)		5,000	-	-	-
<b>CONTINGENT REVENUE</b>	11	5,300	-	-	-
Contingent Tax Revenue		-	-	-	-
Contingent Other Revenue		2,000	-	-	-
Contingent Other Revenue (Un-Budgeted)		3,300	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>643,215</b>	<b>46,601</b>	<b>517,197</b>	<b>43,343</b>

## GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

#### STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

Account Title/Description	RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY		PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES	
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Operations</b>	439,319	30,237	363,503	17,587
Wages, Salaries and other Employee Benefits	239,600	15,157	206,835	2,019
Supplies and Consumables	199,718	15,080	156,668	15,568
<b>Transfers</b>	94,653	-	110,345	1,090
Grants	94,653	-	110,145	1,090
Other Transfer Payments	-	-	200	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	54,929	12,793	24,891	19,971
Purchase/Construction of plant and equipment	54,929	12,793	24,891	19,971
<b>Interest and Loan Repayments</b>	30,856	-	30,866	-
Repayment of borrowings	22,754	-	26,114	-
Interest payments	8,103	-	4,752	-
<b>Other payments</b>	1,240	-	1,077	-
Social Benefits	1,240	-	1,077	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>607,512</b>	<b>43,030</b>	<b>530,682</b>	<b>38,648</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>35,702</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>(13,485)</b>	<b>4,695</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1st July	(13,485)	-	-	-
Foreign Currency translation Difference	(670)	-	-	-
<b>Ending Cash as at June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>21,547</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>(13,485)</b>	<b>4,695</b>

\*\*\*Beginning Balance of (US \$ 13,485) Million from Fiscal Year 2013/14 was paid off in Fiscal Year 2014/15. This amount is included in the Total Expenditure payments of US \$621.67 Million.\*\*\*

## GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

#### STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

-Budget Approved on the Cash Basis

ACCOUNT TITLE/DESCRIPTION	For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2015					FY2013/14
	Actual Amounts	Final Budget	Original Budget	Difference: Final Budget and Actual	Percentage Variance	Actual Amounts
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	%	US \$'000
<b>CASH INFLOWS</b>						
<b>TAX RECEIPTS</b>	381,765	364,463	339,171	17,302	5%	395,927
Taxes on Income and Profits	146,787	157,751	149,457	(10,963)	-7%	161,458
Property Taxes	4,357	2,948	5,002	1,409	48%	4,124
Taxes on Goods and Services	50,116	43,756	45,424	6,361	15%	63,904
Taxes on International Trade	167,753	147,378	126,577	20,375	14%	155,200
Other Taxes	12,752	12,631	12,711	121	1%	11,240
<b>OTHER RECEIPTS: NON - TAX RECEIPTS</b>	49,861	63,952	62,567	(14,090)	-22%	74,563
Other Receipts	49,861	63,952	62,567	(14,090)	-22%	74,563
<b>EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE</b>	60,140	61,516	109,361	(1,376)	-2%	36,358
Grants from Multilateral Agencies	60,140	56,516	104,361	3,624	6%	36,358
Grants from Bilateral Agencies	-	5,000	5,000	(5,000)	-100%	-
<b>BORROWING</b>	146,148	147,159	108,637	(1,011)	-1%	10,350
Borrowings from Multilateral Agencies	95,487	96,497	98,637	(1,011)	-1%	10,350
Borrowings from Bilateral Agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Borrowings (Additional Resource)	45,662	45,662	-	(0)	0%	-
Other Borrowings (Domestic)	5,000	5,000	10,000	-	-	-
<b>CONTINGENT REVENUE</b>	5,300	5,300	15,500	-	0%	-
Contingent Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contingent Other Revenue	2,000	2,000	15,500	-	0%	-
Contingent Other Revenue (Additional Resource)	3,300	3,300	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>643,215</b>	<b>642,391</b>	<b>635,236</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>517,197</b>

## GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

#### STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

-Budget Approved on the Cash Basis

ACCOUNT TITLE/DESCRIPTION	For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2015					FY2013/14
	Actual Amounts	Final Budget	Original Budget	Difference: Final Budget and Actual	Percentage Variance	Actual Amounts
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	%	US \$'000
<b>CASH OUTFLOWS</b>						
Public Administrative Services Sector	237,278	242,680	224,173	5,402	2%	187,295
Municipal Government	28,166	30,808	71,491	2,643	9%	27,120
Transparency And Accountability	29,206	30,386	37,022	1,181	4%	27,321
Security And The Rule Of Law	87,113	89,378	77,425	2,265	3%	78,923
Health	69,844	72,829	67,758	2,985	4%	55,105
Social Development Services	9,107	9,790	11,479	683	7%	11,669
Education	68,251	70,529	68,134	2,278	3%	70,993
Energy And Environment	14,394	15,804	13,688	1,410	9%	14,032
Agriculture	5,531	5,690	5,695	159	3%	5,711
Infrastructure And Basic Services Sector	55,540	56,637	28,142	1,097	2%	32,551
Industry And Commerce Sector	17,240	17,860	30,230	620	3%	19,964
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>621,667</b>	<b>642,391</b>	<b>635,236</b>	<b>20,723</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>530,682</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>21,547</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(21,547)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(13,485)</b>

## GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

EXPLANATORY NOTES AND ELABORATION RELATING

TO

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND ACCOUNT

▶ CONT'D NEXT EDITION

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Do not participate in corruption

### --Senate Pro-Temp urges graduates

Police authorities have cautioned their officers to maintain neutrality in discharging their duties during the by-elections in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, April 22, 2024: Liberian Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has cautioned graduates of the Business and

Sports Complex in Paynesville, Senator Karnga-Lawrence admonished the graduates not to cheat others. "Hold yourself accountable to do what's right in your profession. Do not cheat others. Do not take shortcuts at

do what's right and continue to do so until they are very good at being model citizens.

She emphasized the need to prioritize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) because vocational training emphasizes learning by doing, and develops a skill in a person, a skillset that builds up one's confidence and lifts self-esteem.

"A few months ago, we used TVET as a campaign message, the president has also mentioned TVET as one of his deliverables, and we are doing our best as the Pro-Temp of the Liberian Senate to give more to TVET in the national budget," Senator Karnga-Lawrence stated. She stressed that TVET makes one employable, reducing unemployment when it comes to finding a job or earning a living. She maintained that TVET enables a person to be an entrepreneur, expressing confidence that the graduates would use their new skills to be innovative and productive citizens of the country.

"The right skills not only benefit you with a source of income, but they also benefit employers and the public at large," she noted. "You are now employable and with time you will be earning a paycheck to improve your life and those of the people you care for."



Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence

Domestic Occupational Training Center (BDOTC) not to participate in corruption that has taken opportunities away from them. BDOTC graduated 18 students over the weekend. Serving as keynote speaker during the ceremony at the SKD

the expense of others. Do not mishandle the finances of others to your benefit," Senator Karnga-Lawrence challenged the graduates.

The Grand Bassa County Senator further challenged the graduates to practice daily to

## Nimba, Grand Gedeh by-elections campaigns end

The by-elections result from the election of then-sitting Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koug last November as Liberia's vice president, and the death of Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1 Representative-elect E. Madison Gwion.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, April 22, 2024: Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) has ended the 2024 Senatorial and Representative By-Elections in Nimba County and Grand County Electoral District #1, respectively.

Campaigns started on 4 April and climaxed on Saturday, 20 April 2024, ahead of the conduct of polls in both counties on 23 April 2024 by the NEC.

The by-elections are being held after then-sitting Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koug was elected as Liberia's vice president last November, and incumbent Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1 Representative E. Madison Gwion died after his re-election.

NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah has thanked voters in the two counties for their peaceful participation in the political campaign process. Over the weekend, she

addressed journalists in Monrovia at the end of Senatorial and Representative By-Elections in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

Madam Browne-Lansanah said explained that the campaigns have ended, and no one will be allowed to continue campaigning activities.

The NEC boss added that everyone will be cooling off and will be getting ready to vote on 23 April 2024.

She admonished

potential voters to go along with their voter ID cards on voting day only at the polling places where they first registered.

She disclosed that voting will commence at 8 AM and will end at 6 PM on 23 April. All those who will be in line at 6 PM will be allowed to vote, she said.

Meanwhile, Madam Browne-Lansanah has cautioned voters to return home after casting their ballots and wait for the NEC to announce the official results and the winners of the two by-elections.

"Remember, the election is everybody's business. Let us keep the peace for you, for your family, and Mama Liberia," she pleaded.



(NEC) Davidetta Browne Lansanah

## Boakai vows to reduce hunger in Liberia

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai in photo with the British Ambassador and an array of stakeholders.

Liberia is to address its age-old rice problem, as President Joseph Boakai promises here to reduce hunger by engaging in vigorous agriculture program.

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Monrovia, Liberia, April 22, 2024 - As the 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report revealed the hunger situation in Liberia as being serious, the President of Liberia, Joseph Nyumah Boakai has vowed to take concrete measures in reducing the level of hunger facing the country.

The President said it was unacceptable that Liberia is still not yet able to feed itself.

According to Boakai his government will make agriculture and food security a priority issue to address hunger and malnutrition.

hunger facing the nation.

This year's GHI report strongly recommends priority for the empowerment of the young people in agriculture and agribusinesses to shape the global's food systems.

The Country Director for WHH Liberia, Herbert Charles said the past years, WHH and Concern Worldwide have launched the GHI report in Liberia.

He said that considering the level of hunger facing most countries around the world there is a need for additional actions to improve access to food.

"We therefore also present this report to guide partners to places where they work in supporting food



"I want to believe that under my watch if agriculture doesn't work in this country I don't think it will ever work. So we are going to make sure we make it works. I see no reason that a country so well endowed with water and land and everything that is needed to produce food can't produce. We are going to produce food. The statistic that I see out there is not just alarming, but it doesn't represent Liberia," he said.

The President made these assertions on Wednesday in Monrovia, when he launched the GHI report in collaboration with the Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Concern Worldwide.

According to the 2023 GHI report, Liberia ranked 117 out of 125 countries with a score of 32.2 indicating the country's hunger situation as serious. Previous reports also indicate that Liberia's food and nutrition situation is poor and need attention by the government.

Stunting and malnutrition still remains a serious challenge that confront the country, according to the reports.

The GHI report is launched every year in Liberia by WHH and Concern Worldwide to raise awareness about the level of

and nutrition efforts," he said.

He said that the report looks at several indicators such as stunting, malnutrition and child mortality and among others.

"We only use official published data to show the rate of hunger. We are very happy that the Ministry of Agriculture was able to work with us and other partners to conduct a local survey on the level of nutrition and hunger. But it is clear that the findings are not different from what we are also presenting," he said.

He said that is institution is in Liberia to help the government address some nutrition and health issues.

"We are working with the government to take measure on food and nutrition challenges. But what we are doing currently is to accelerate on the gains made in improving food and nutrition," he stated.

He said the main focus of interventions is to reduce malnutrition facing children.

According to him, it is however, indicated that Liberia has been able to make some progress in addressing poor nutrition but effort to scale up had been low over the years.

He said that Liberia still have a high level of undernourishment

# Français

## Deux candidats à l'élection sénatoriale partielle boycottent le débat

Le débat, organisé par LMDI du journaliste John Kollie avec le financement de l'USAID, avait pour but de permettre aux candidats de se présenter aux électeurs,

Aucune raison officielle n'a été donnée pour ce boycott répété.

Les candidats concernés sont l'ancien sénateur Thomas S. Grupee du Congrès National des Réformateurs (RNC) et le candidat du parti au pouvoir,

Selekpoh de l'Union Nationale Libérienne (UNU), qui ont tous deux assisté au premier débat à Tappita et au deuxième à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, respectivement.

Les candidats Nya D. Twayen, Jr. et Thomas S. Grupee ont déclaré au NEW DAWN qu'ils n'avaient pas pu assister en raison de contraintes de temps.

Selon eux, ils essaient de couvrir plus de 720 villes dans les 19 districts administratifs du comté, donc il ne leur reste plus de temps pour participer au débat.

Pourquoi la plupart des politiciens libériens évitent-ils les débats?

Le sénateur autoproclamé parrain du comté de Nimba, Prince Yormie Johnson, l'actuel vice-président Jeremiah

Koung et l'ancien président George Weah, entre autres, sont connus pour ne pas assister aux débats, mais leurs actions ont

▶ CONT'D page 9

mais deux des quatre candidats ne se sont pas présentés.

Le débat du 18 avril 2024, qui s'est tenu à Ganta, était le deuxième boycotté par les mêmes deux candidats.

l'Unity Party (UP), Nya D. Twayen, Jr.

Les premier et deuxième débats ont été suivis par le représentant du People Unification Party (PUP), Samuel G. Kogar, et Armstrong Gobac

## Le Sénat souhaite des compteurs prépayés pour le gouvernement

Le comité sénatorial des corporations publiques et des terres, mines, énergie, ressources naturelles et environnement a recommandé en séance plénière que la Liberia Electricity Corporation fournisse des compteurs prépayés à toutes les entités gouvernementales.

La majorité des sénateurs affirment que les compteurs prépayés pour les entités gouvernementales sont nécessaires car la plupart des fonctionnaires laissent généralement les appareils allumés dans leurs bureaux respectifs.

Les sénateurs ont déclaré que la plupart des entités et agences gouvernementales ne gèrent pas

bien l'énergie, ce qui est l'un des facteurs qui amènent le gouvernement à devoir de l'argent à la LEC.

S'exprimant le jeudi 18 avril au nom du comité, le sénateur Albert T. Chie a déclaré que les compteurs prépayés aideraient la corporation puisque le gouvernement lui est endetté.

Il note que les compteurs prépayés permettront aux entités gouvernementales d'acheter du

courant comme cela se fait pour le secteur privé, ajoutant que cela permettra au gouvernement de ne pas être endetté.

Le sénateur Chie poursuit en disant que la question de la privatisation du secteur de l'énergie doit être prise comme une priorité par les parties prenantes impliquées

▶ CONT'D page 9



## Éditorial

### Le budget présidentiel relègue l'éducation au second plan

Le premier budget national soumis par l'Exécutif à la 55ème législature pour l'exercice 2024 laisse beaucoup à désirer.

L'éducation se retrouve reléguée derrière l'agriculture, les routes, la santé et l'énergie.

Cela signifie que le système éducatif national, déjà en difficulté, le restera pendant longtemps. C'est regrettable pour un président qui a fait campagne en promettant de sauver le Liberia dans son intégralité.

À l'heure actuelle, le Liberia est toujours lourdement endetté envers le West African Examination Council (WAEC), l'organisme sous-régional qui administre les examens annuels des élèves du Liberia, de la Sierra Leone, de la Gambie, du Ghana et du Nigeria. Le pays n'a pas payé ses cotisations, qui s'élèvent à plusieurs centaines de milliers, voire à des millions de dollars.

Ce passif a un impact négatif sur la représentation du pays au niveau sous-régional, avec des effets néfastes sur les décisions prises par l'organisme.

Cela se produit alors que les universités publiques, les collèges et les établissements d'enseignement supérieur du pays sont confrontés à de graves difficultés financières qui affectent non seulement leur fonctionnement et leurs programmes, mais aussi l'apprentissage des étudiants.

Par exemple, les jeunes professeurs de l'Université du Liberia, gérée par l'État, ont refusé de reprendre les cours au début du semestre en cours, exigeant un salaire et des avantages sociaux, ce qui a retardé la reprise des cours.

Comme s'il était insensible, le premier projet de budget national du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à la législature donne la priorité à l'agriculture, aux routes, à la santé et à l'énergie.

Le gouvernement ne se prononce pas sur la question de savoir s'il continuera à payer les frais du WASSCE pour les élèves de terminale dans tout le pays, initiative lancée par son prédécesseur.

En outre, des milliers d'enseignants volontaires dans les écoles publiques n'ont pas encore été intégrés à la liste de paie par le ministère de l'Éducation, qui gère des écoles en ruines dans tout le Liberia, où les élèves s'asseyent sur le sol nu pour suivre les cours.

Ce piètre environnement d'apprentissage, en particulier dans les écoles publiques, est sans aucun doute l'un des facteurs qui contribuent aux mauvais résultats des élèves, outre le mécontentement et le manque de qualification des enseignants.

De nombreux Libériens s'attendaient à ce que le "gouvernement de salut national" accorde une priorité égale à l'éducation du pays, comme il le fait pour d'autres secteurs clés. Malheureusement, cela ne semble pas être le cas, comme le montrent les preuves contenues dans le projet de budget national.

Nous appelons la nouvelle administration à reconsidérer ses priorités, alors qu'elle entame sa première année de mandat visant à apporter des résultats concrets au peuple libérien, l'éducation n'étant pas une exception.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

# Français

Starts from page 8

## Deux candidats à l'élection

été soutenues par les électeurs, qui sont cités disant "ce débat, on va le manger?"

Le NEW DAWN a recueilli que la plupart des politiciens qui refusent de participer aux débats nationaux sont souvent élus par la suite.

Le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson a assisté une fois en 2005, ce qui l'a rendu célèbre, mais depuis lors, il n'est jamais revenu dans la salle de débat, et il passe son troisième

mandat de neuf (27) ans en tant que sénateur du comté de Nimba, riche en voix.

L'ancien président Weah ne s'est jamais présenté à aucun débat lors de sa candidature à la présidence.

Cependant, la première femme présidente du Libéria, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a participé à plusieurs débats qui ont eu lieu pendant sa candidature avant de devenir présidente et après. Édition par Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 8

## Le Sénat souhaite des

et que la LEC envisage de fournir des compteurs aux clients désireux d'en acquérir.

« Un certain pourcentage sur la vente de l'électricité est mis de côté dans un compte séquestre pour le service de la dette de la LEC et il est encouragé que d'autres fournisseurs d'énergie investissent dans le secteur afin de mettre fin au monopole actuel dans le secteur », suggère-t-il.

Il exhorte la corporation à renforcer son mécanisme de relations publiques pour fournir une sensibilisation régulière à ses clients.

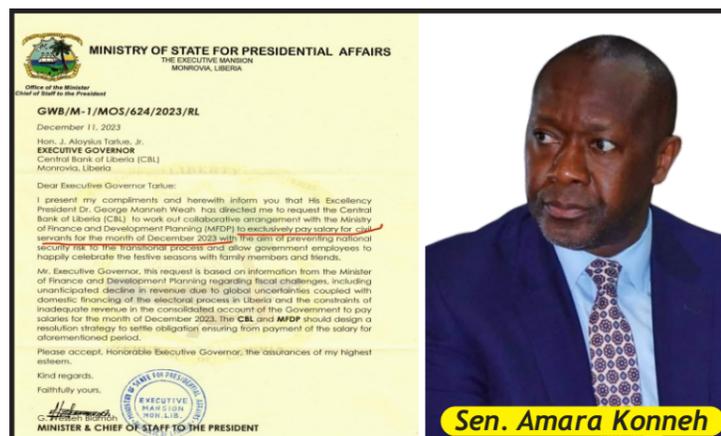
Le sénateur Chie se souvient que lors de leur rencontre avec le directeur général Monie R. Captan, celui-ci a dit aux sénateurs que la coupure de charge d'électricité par la LEC ne peut pas être attribuée à la dette énorme due par la LEC ; plutôt, M. Captan a attribué

cela à CI Energies qui a eu une panne majeure dans leur production d'énergie, les empêchant de fournir de l'électricité aux clients.

« Le PDG de la LEC, Captan, nous informe que la panne n'a pas affecté le Libéria seul, mais aussi le Mali et d'autres pays que CI Energies fournissait en électricité. Cette situation (coupure de charge), selon le PDG Captan, est encore aggravée par la panne des générateurs électriques à la centrale de Bushrod Island et de trois des turbines à l'hydroélectrique de Mount Coffee », explique-t-il.

Chie note que Captan a dit au comité que la question des incendies constants et fréquents peut être attribuée à l'utilisation de fils de sous-standard, à des techniciens inexpérimentés et à la non-utilisation de disjoncteurs normalisés pour réguler toute surtension potentielle en électricité.

## 83 millions de dollars US ou 32,8 millions de dollars US ?



Sen. Amara Konneh

Une nouvelle polémique politique secoue le Libéria suite à une lettre de l'ancien président George Weah demandant un prêt à la Banque Centrale du Libéria (CBL) en décembre 2023. Bien que la lettre ne mentionne pas de montant spécifique, le sénateur Amara Konneh et ses partisans affirment qu'il s'agissait de 83 millions de dollars US.

Or, des documents obtenus par le journal The New Dawn révèlent que le montant réel prêté au gouvernement libérien par la CBL pour les salaires des fonctionnaires, suite à la demande de l'ancien président George Weah du 11 décembre 2023, était de 32,8 millions de dollars US et non de 83 millions de dollars US, comme le prétendent le sénateur Amara Konneh et ses partisans.

Le journal a également découvert que les 83 millions de dollars US correspondent à l'accumulation de prêts comptabilisés et transférés sur le compte de paie du gouvernement libérien par la CBL entre juin et décembre 2023 pour couvrir les salaires des fonctionnaires.

Dans une publication sur les réseaux sociaux du 17 avril 2024, suite à des échanges avec le sénateur Albert Chie, le sénateur Konneh a affirmé que la CBL avait accordé un prêt de 83 millions de dollars US à l'administration Weah en décembre 2023 uniquement, tout en montrant une copie de la lettre écrite par J. Wesseh Blamo, chef de cabinet de l'ancien président Weah.

Le sénateur Konneh a également soutenu dans son message que le prêt de 83 millions de dollars US consenti par la CBL au gouvernement libérien en décembre 2023 "constituait une violation de la Constitution, de la loi de 2009 (amendée) sur la gestion des finances publiques (PFM) et de la loi sur la CBL". Il a également déclaré qu'il fallait suivre chaque chèque jusqu'au fournisseur.

Cependant, le sénateur Konneh semble confondre la loi PFM, qui s'applique spécifiquement au ministère des Finances et du Développement, et qui exclut la CBL. Cette dernière fonctionne selon sa propre loi et ne traite pas directement avec les fournisseurs.

Découverte des 50,2 millions de dollars US

The New Dawn a découvert qu'en novembre 2023, des documents et des chèques retournés révélaient que le montant de (cinquante millions deux cent mille dollars US) 50 200 000 dollars US avait été retiré sous forme de chèques de salaire pour les fonctionnaires couvrant la période de juin 2023 à novembre 2023.

Le 30 novembre 2023, la CBL a écrit au ministre des Finances et du Développement de l'époque, Samuel Tweah, pour attirer l'attention du ministre sur l'accumulation de la dette du gouvernement libérien envers la banque.

L'ancien ministre Tweah, dans sa réponse datée du 5 décembre 2023, six jours seulement avant la demande du président Weah du 11 décembre 2023, qui portait le montant total à 83 millions de dollars US, a indiqué que la garantie de paiement des obligations du gouvernement libérien reposait uniquement sur la mobilisation des recettes. Il a expliqué plus en détail qu'en novembre 2023, les recettes avaient diminué.

Des sources au sein de la CBL ont déclaré que la banque avait choisi de classer les 83 millions de dollars US dans la catégorie des prêts afin de donner un espace d'information au président Boakai. La source a déclaré que le tirage du prêt, qui aurait représenté un peu plus de 13 millions de dollars US par mois, aurait mis à rude épreuve l'administration Boakai, qui venait de prendre le pouvoir.

Amara Konneh cite une violation de la Constitution

L'article 34, section d (iii) de la Constitution stipule qu'aucun emprunt ne peut être contracté par le gouvernement au nom de la République ou aucune garantie accordée à une

institution ou autorité publique autre que par ou en vertu d'une disposition législative.

Cependant, selon la loi sur la CBL : L'article 46 (2) de la loi modifiée et refondue portant création de la Banque centrale du Libéria stipule que :

« Sous réserve des plafonds généraux fixés par la présente loi, la Banque centrale, par décision du Conseil des gouverneurs, peut accorder un crédit au gouvernement du Libéria à échéance ne dépassant pas six mois uniquement dans des circonstances exceptionnelles telles que la guerre, la famine ou d'autres catastrophes naturelles. Si un crédit n'est pas remboursé à la date d'échéance, la dette, y compris les intérêts courus, est convertie en titres négociables d'une maturité maximale de 12 mois et portant des taux d'intérêt liés au marché. Le gouvernement coopère avec la Banque centrale pour l'émission des instruments financiers nécessaires. »

Notre journal a pu consulter plusieurs résolutions du Conseil d'administration de la CBL qui montrent qu'à la fin de la guerre civile et pendant les 12 années de mandat de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, période durant laquelle le sénateur Konneh était ministre des Finances, la CBL n'avait pas obtenu d'app'obati'n législative directe pour des emprunts prolongés au gouvernement du Libéria.

Les archives révèlent que pendant le second mandat de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf, alors que le sénateur Konneh était ministre des Finances, le gouvernement libérien a emprunté 110 837 196,49 dollars américains (cent dix millions huit cent trente-sept mille cent quatre-vingt-seize dollars et quarante-neuf cents) à la CBL sans passer par le pouvoir législatif. Tous les crédits étaient basés sur des approbations du Conseil d'administration, et non sur une approbation législative, comme l'exige maintenant le sénateur Konneh.

À ce jour, le total du prêt dû par le gouvernement libérien à la CBL, y compris les 83 millions d'intérêts courus au fil des ans, dépasse 570,4 millions de dollars américains.

Le 6 décembre 2019, la CBL, sous le conseil d'administration actuel et le gouvernement du Libéria, a convenu de restructurer la dette du gouvernement. Cet accord est entré en vigueur le 1er janvier 2020. Cela a permis à la Banque de bénéficier du programme du FMI.

Le prêt (32,8 millions de dollars américains) obtenu auprès de la CBL par l'administration Weah a été garanti pendant la suspension du Libéria du programme du FMI en décembre de l'année dernière. À suivre...

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Beyond The Resolution Standing up Liberia's War Crimes Court

By : P. Alphonsus Zeon

**I**ntroduction February 8, 2006, David Crane, chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone appeared before the Subcommittee on Africa Global Human Rights and International Operations, a committee of the International Relations, United States House of Representatives. Crane asked Congress to push Nigeria to surrender former Liberian exiled President Charles Taylor to the Special Court to answer to war crimes charges. But Crane had much to advise the United States Government about moving forward in Liberia: "First, hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for a fair trial. This takes him out of the local and regional dynamic that is West Africa. This has to happen first and now, or the rest of my suggestions and recommendations and the one you are considering for Liberia's future will be a waste of time, money, and effort. "Second, tie any financial and political support to good governance in Liberia."

"Third, encourage the new administration in Liberia to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for in the earlier peace accords." And "fourth, within the next few years or so, another hybrid war crimes tribunal needs to be established to account for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Charles Taylor and his henchmen from 1990 to 2003 in Liberia."

With 68 members of Liberia's 103-member 55th Legislature signing the resolution for the establishment of the war crimes court for Liberia, we are at the last point of Crane's roadmap for Liberia.

**Taylor's Appearance** At Taylor's trial in The Hague, his lawyer, Courtney Griffiths put to the former NPFL leader, "So, Mr. Taylor, you have the prospect of another trial in Liberia, yes?" Taylor : "Yes, that's the, yes, that's the regime change. So, we will throw out, you get your pick. If we miss him in the Sierra Leonean court, I will try to get him in Liberia. The whole point. They may as well just shoot me."

Liberia cannot have an effective and successful war crimes trial without Taylor, the leader of the biggest and original warring faction and unarguably, the most atrocious. Taylor's appearance before the Liberia war crimes court presents complications and we have to bear that in mind from the onset. Will the British authorities agree to release him to answer to extra charges relating to his role in the war in Liberia? That would mean releasing him to come back home! Or will his trial take place in his detention facility in the UK? That would mean having judges, court staff, lawyers and witnesses in the detention facility. Aside just the security implications of these people moving in and out of the detention facility, how will ordinary people have access to the trial?

## Value of War Crimes Court

Like Taylor, other key players in the Liberian civil war believe, "they may as well just shoot" us. The war crimes court is not just about arrest, trial and conviction. It will help Liberians understand why and how things happened and the roles of individuals. This goes to the very heart of reasserting the foundation for stability and peace. And that war crimes accountability is also "bread and butter issue." Liberians have the attitude of "let bygone be bygone." The growing lawlessness in the country draws its strength from war time impunity. And both undermine any viable investment that will provide jobs that put food on the table of families. The Government of Liberia, activists and international partners need to explain this link between justice and "bread and butter." Not many of the Liberian people know this. Seventy four percent of respondents in the University of California and Berkley School of Law survey in Liberia in 2011 stated that to build peace, it was necessary to unite the tribes, educate the youths, reduce poverty, provide social services and address land ownership issues. They did not believe that prosecution for war crimes would build peace. Authorities have to make the link that justice is inextricably linked to poverty reduction. If people are made to believe that a war crimes court cannot bring peace, the court may not attract support from local communities. This may affect the work of the court, including lack of community support for witnesses. This is true, because if 78 percent of the respondents in the same Berkley survey considered themselves victims, and still don't believe prosecution is the solutions for peace, we have work to do.

"More than 80 percent of respondents in the 2016 Catholic Relief Services survey felt that people who suffered grave injury during the war did not receive justice through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Half of respondents 49.7 percent believed that post-war reconciliation failed to achieve its objectives." We must not be misled by the silence in the enduring tension. There is a difference between silence and peace. People can be silent and not have peace. "Respondents were evenly split on whether Liberia is at risk of once again descending into large-scale violent conflict with 50.6 percent believing "high to very high risk" and 43.7 percent for "no to low risk", according to the CRS survey.

**Statutory and Constitutional Review** As activists woo people to prosecution, the work has to begin, identifying and reviewing all statutes and potential constitutional provisions that run counter to the establishment of the war crimes court. Amend and repeal them. And then seek judicial interpretations for constitutional provisions. If Liberia truly wants to institute a process for justice, the foundation upon which the court would rest must be just. There is one argument that Article 66 of the 1986 constitution of Liberia vests in the Supreme Court the "final arbiter of constitutional issues and shall exercise final appellate jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of record, courts not of record, administrative agencies, autonomous agencies or any other authority, both as to law and fact except cases involving ambassadors, ministers, or cases in which a county is a party . In all such cases, the Supreme Court shall exercise original jurisdiction. The Legislature shall make no law nor create any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted herein." By establishing the war crimes court, the Legislature, by that very act, may not have acted unconstitutional, because Articles 34(e) provides that the Legislature shall constitute courts inferior to the Supreme Court, including circuit courts, claims courts and such other courts with such prescribed jurisdictional powers as may be deemed necessary for the proper administration of justice throughout the Republic." Article 65 of the Constitution also provides that "the Legislature may from time to time establish such subordinate courts" which "shall apply both statutory and customary laws in accordance with the standards enacted by the Legislature."

Where the argument gets delicate is whether by creating an appeals chamber of the war crimes court, in which case the Supreme Court of Liberia, will not exercise final appellate jurisdiction, the Legislature

would not have created "any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted herein"? And whether the war crimes court would be deemed an "inferior" or "subordinate court" to the Supreme Court of Liberia, howbeit with its own exclusive appeals chamber as the "final arbiter"? And still, whether as a hybrid court applying both domestic and international laws, it would be legal to consider the court a subordinate court, in the face of the established principle that international law holds primacy over domestic law?

The Legislature would also need to review and amend the Judiciary Law-Title 17-Liberian Code of Laws Revised. This statute was published June 20, 1972. Section 17.1 "Qualifications for admission to Bar" requires that "a person applying for admission to the Bar as an attorney must be a citizen of this Republic, have attained the age of twenty-one years, and be examined and licensed to practice as prescribed in this chapter." What this provision means is that no one can practice law in Liberia who is not a Liberian. There is no gain in asserting that foreign lawyers will play a larger role in Liberia's war crimes court, either as judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers and investigators.

The Legislature will need to repeal statutes like "An Act to Grant Immunity from Both Civil and Criminal Proceeding against All Persons within the Jurisdiction of the Republic of Liberia From Acts or Crimes Committed During the Civil War From December 1989 to August 2003." This Act was published on August 8, 2003. The statue passed by the Taylor administration, giving warring faction amnesty from prosecution is clearly a perpetrator's law deeply rooted in protecting themselves. That statute must go down, because it cannot stand in the face of Liberia's domestication of the Geneva Convention and other international humanitarian laws.

## Court Statute

Once lawyers have completed a desk review of statutes and constitutional provisions, drafters may now be informed of the range of legal implications to begin drafting the statute. As a hybrid court, Liberia's leaders should have a fair representation of international actors in the drafting of the statute. The statue will need to establish the competence of the court, define the crimes, jurisdictional issues—personal, territorial and temporal and concurrent. Define the structure of the court—composition and number of chambers.

The number of chambers will help speed up cases. So, Liberia may want a chamber deal with cases relating to violations by a faction. This allows for cases to roll simultaneously. The Special Court for Sierra Leone had two trial chambers with one appeals chamber. Drafters may need to decide the issue of reparation. The Special court for Sierra Leone did not provide for victims fund, because there was nothing to recover from perpetrators to pay victims. In the Taylor trial, for example, Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp had said "analysis of bank records led investigators to identify \$375 million in offshore accounts traceable to Taylor. Rapp : "Well, I mean, it's a hard thing to put a complete finger on, but we've got accounts where during the course of his presidency at least \$375 million flowed out of those accounts that were directly in his name; he was using that according to our evidence to continue the war of atrocities in Sierra Leone and we believe there is evidence that that money has not disappeared." Taylor's wealth, according to Rapp, could serve this purpose.

**Implications for home soil trial** Liberia should now begin assessing the implications of hosting the court in country. In many instances, local prejudice against a criminal court may inform its relocation. The Taylor trial had to be moved to The Hague. The Security Council passed a resolution under Chapter VII of its charter, determining that the presence of former President Taylor in the sub-region was an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and of Sierra Leone. If 78 percent of respondents in the Berkley survey consider themselves victims and yet 74 percent do not see prosecution as a panacea for peace, we cannot be sure they will support a war crimes court. In Rwanda, the Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had to be moved to Arusha, Tanzania. However, having the court on the home soil gives it greater access to ordinary people and deepen their awareness of the issues and the message.

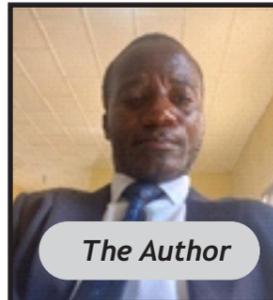
**Security** The other questions are about the security. Whether Liberia would exclusively depend on the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to provide security in case supporters of indictees get rowdy. And whether it would be the Liberia National Police (LNP) that will carry out arrests? Does Liberia need a dedicated and more neutral and capacitated force to guarantee stability for the time of the court's operations? Does that force need a status of forces agreement to define in clear terms its role?

Establishing a war crimes court is a meticulous process and takes considerable time. The Government of Sierra Leone together with the United Nations set up the Special Court in 2000. The Court began operations in 2002. In Rwanda, the court was set up in 1994 and heard its first case of Jean-Paul Akeyesu after 3 years.

**Witness Protection** Testifying in war crimes courts carries severe implications for protection, especially in trials involving suspects of tremendous political and military support. To build a good case against suspects, prosecutors need credible witnesses. In many cases, fear of reprisal attacks impacts evidence gathering, mainly attracting witnesses. And there can be a good number of them. Ninety-four witnesses testified against Taylor alone in the war crimes trial in The Hague. Long before the court's establishment, preparation of indictment, the Government of Liberia needs to begin asking other countries that could be willing to host potential witnesses who may have fears of reprisal for resettlement. The number of people to be resettled may grow depending on the number of indictees and the witnesses to testify against them. Added to the witnesses, are their families. Host nations will have to consider support for the resettled and a host of other issues, including whether witnesses and family members with skills can be permitted to work.

**Detention Facility** The last point is detention. Liberian authorities will have to make the decision whether those who may be found guilty will serve sentences in country or in other countries. A full review of the prison facilities in Liberia will need be done to inform that decision. With the already poor prison conditions and the overcrowded facilities, Liberia may need to build additional detention facilities well equipped enough to avoid jail breaks or make arrangements with countries that have had similar trials and built prison facilities to move convicts.

**About the Author** Poliyon Alphonsus Zeon is a member of Liberia's Supreme Court Bar. He holds an LLB from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, Monrovia. He holds two relevant certificates, one in International Criminal Law from the International Law Institute, Kampala, Uganda and the other in Implementing Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Boston, USA. As a journalist of more than 15 years, he covered the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague from 2008-2010.



The Author

# Koung & PYJ squared off

As the people of vote rich Nimba County go to the poll in Tuesday's senatorial by-election, the two major leaders of the county, Vice President Jeremiah Koung, and Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, are divided over whether to support the ruling UP or their own MDR

By Thomas Domah /Nimba County

Nimba, Liberia, April 22, 2024—The NEW DAWN has gathered that Senator Prince Johnson, self-proclaimed godfather of Nimba County and leader of the MDR party, and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan

Commission qualified both men as candidates for the senate along with two others, Nya D. Twayen, Jr., and Samuel G. Kogar have been receiving huge endorsements across the 19 administrative districts of Nimba ahead of their two rivals, former Senator Thomas S. Grupee and Armstrong

who they claim is the best person to represent the people of Nimba.

According to the MDR, Samuel G. Kogar, who was elected in October 2023 for a third term, is a teacher in legislative work who will teach other lawmakers.

"This man, Samuel Kogar, is now a teacher who will teach other lawmakers who have been elected. He has more experience and is well-equipped to represent the people of Nimba County at both local and national levels", Self-proclaimed godfather Senator Johnson noted.

However, some MDR executives, along with those from the former ruling CDC, are collaborating with the ruling UP to support Nya D. Twayen, Jr. for the Senate, while a few MDR partisans, alongside some CDCians, are rallying behind Rep. Samuel Kogar.

The presence of Samuel Kogar in the race has made the by-election competitive in the county.

However, some political observers and pessimists predict poor turnout in tomorrow's poll, citing a lack of civic and voter education.

According to them, unlike previous elections, no awareness was carried out by the National Elections Commission.

Addressing local media in Nimba County, Senator Prince Johnson said that he made a mistake in bringing the Unity Party to power, which has now turned against him by calling for the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

He has been telling Nimbaians that the election of UP Candidate Nya D, Twayen, Jr. would intensify such a campaign. However, the leader of the disbanded INPFL rebels is among 28 senators who recently signed a resolution expressing support for the court that is meant to make people account for their deeds from the 14-year bloody civil war that left 250,000 people, including women and children. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# NEC denies paying over US\$160,000 to local vendor

Monrovia, April 19, 2024: The National Elections Commission (NEC) says its attention has been drawn to a malicious report circulating in the media alleging "financial malpractices" at the NEC.

Through a press release, the Commission noted that the report alleges that the NEC paid over US\$160,000 to a local vendor "for services that were never rendered."

The commission described the report as baseless, which has gone viral on social media with varying interpretations on different news platforms.

The NEC, in no uncertain terms, categorically denied these allegations and described them as fake news and

budgeted procurable goods for the Nimba County Senatorial and Grand Gedeh District #1 Representative By-elections were procured and delivered to the NEC Central Warehouse, following all the procurement rules and, with all the documentary trails that are required for checks and balances.

The NEC detailed that its procurement process for the By-elections was done in line with the Public Procurement and Concession Commission Act and that there is no record to prove such a dangerous and baseless claim. On the contrary, it said, all materials that were already available in the NEC Central Warehouse to be used for the By-Elections were never budgeted for procurement. Finally, the NEC called on all journalists and stakeholders to always contact the Commission, with



Vice President Jeremiah Kpan

Senator Prince Johnson

Koung are going separate ways in supporting candidates of their choice in the county's senatorial by-election on Tuesday, 23 April 2024.

PYJ is firmly behind District#5 Representative and senatorial candidate Samuel G. Kogar, whom he describes as his brother from Gomaplay. Vice President Koung, who has his sights fixed on 2029 for the presidency, is supporting ruling Unity Party Candidate Nya D. Twayen, Jr.

But keen observers say the Vice President's solidarity is nothing but cow pupu support, as deep down, he does not mean it.

A report from Nimba indicates that VP Koung and UP executives in the county were never seen campaigning for Nya in the field. Instead, they only used community radio stations to declare support for the ruling party candidate, likewise, Senator PYJ, who has been using community radio stations, speaking the Gio dialect to campaign for Representative Kogar against the Unity Party.

Since the National Elections

Gobac Selekpoh.

What ready happened?

Executives of the MDR, an alliance of the ruling UP, are in disarray on who to support in tomorrow's senatorial by-election, which comes about as the result of the election of Senator Jeremiah Koung as Vice President on the Rescue Ticket of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai in 2023 election.

Senator Prince Johnson, who was the first person to endorse Nya D. Twayen, Jr. for the Senate, subsequently made a U-turn and switched his allegiance to People Unification Party (PUP) Candidate Representative Samuel G. Kogar.

The Nimba County Senator then referred to his brother, Representative Samuel Kogar, as the best person to represent the people of Nimba County.

This paper is receiving report that executives of Senator Johnson's MDR party, including VP Koung, have received a minute mandate to support Representative Samuel G. Kogar in Tuesday's by-election for the senate,

# Boakai vows to reduce hunger in Liberia

Starts from page 7

according to the report.

Charles said that this situation also highly affect the young people who actually need better and healthy diet in order to develop. "The lack of access to food serves as a barrier to the development of the young people.

Charles called on the government to take concrete action or measures in address the country's performance in

improving food and nutrition security. "We are working with are of the stakeholders in addressing the hunger and malnutrition situation still facing the country," he concluded. For her part, the Country Director of Concern Worldwide, Ciara Begley, said that her institution has developed a five year strategic plan to help Liberia improve food and nutrition security. She said that the

strategic plan seeks to address the issue of chronic malnutrition through program and advocacy works. Begley said the plan hopes to succeed in promoting breast feeding and the consumption of healthy and rich diets.

According to her, Concernwide will seek to work with communities to improve their food and nutrition security. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



(NEC) Davidetta Browne Lansanah

disinformation. The NEC whatever evidence they may have, lamented that the report is a before publishing these kinds of continuation of attempts by misinformation that have the mischievous individuals to propensity to undermine the hard-impugn the hard-earned earned credibility of other Liberians. characters of the NEC He noted that there may be Chairperson and others in the unscrupulous people sitting in Commission for selfish reasons. privileged positions bent on using The NEC assured the Liberian disinformation to undermine the people and the public that all credibility of others.—Press release

# LP not pro-government party

Starts from back page

we will hold them accountable for every action they take as they steer the affairs of our state," said Mr. Bility.

"We also want them to know that the opposition is here and it remains here. Whatsoever this government does will be accountable to the Liberian people," he assured.

Mr. Bility described the end of the CPP as the beginning of a renewed commitment to opposition

collaboration.

"The end of the CPP is the beginning of a renewed commitment to opposition collaboration."

"For us, after all the conflict in the CPP, we break up so that other oppositions can join for us to work together and ensure that this government is held accountable and delivers on the aspiration of the Liberian people as promised" he noted.

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

## LP not pro-government party

### -- Musa Bility says

Mr. Bility and his loyalists supported the re-election bid of the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the 2023 elections, but Unity Party and its alliance became victorious.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 22, 2024: Liberty Party embattled Chairman and Nimba County District #7 Representative Musa Bility says Liberty Party (LP) is not a pro-

institution as insinuated by the public.

"I'm here to announce to the public that the Liberty Party is not, and will not, and has not been a pro-government

For years, LP has been in an internal political crisis that was not resolved in the months leading to the 2023 presential and legislative elections.

Mr. Bility and his loyalists supported the re-election bid of the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the 2023 elections, but Unity Party and its alliance became victorious.

Other leaders of the Liberty Party and their followers are part of the alliance that backed the Unity Party's 2023 presidential bid.

Representative Bility has called on the opposition community to remain the opposition.

"As chairman of the Liberty Party, I also want to reiterate the Liberty Party's commitment to opposition collaboration. We are willing and ready and open to embrace opposition collaboration," Mr. Bility stated.

He pointed out that those who masterminded the demise and turbulence of the erstwhile Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) over the period are the ones in power.

"We want them to know that



Rep. Musa Bility

government party. Addressing scores of supporters over the weekend, Mr. Bility said the Liberty Party is an opposition political party and not a pro-government

political party," said Mr. Bility. "Therefore, the LP is an opposition political party that will hold this government accountable for its actions," he noted.

▶ CONT'D page 11

Lonestar Cell | MTN | Coca-Cola

## RECHARGE & BUMPAY!

100 mins | 5GB Data

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

Recharge with Airtime or Bundle to become a Landlord

# The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

## WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

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

## DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

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