

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

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

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
of **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
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024	L\$192.3459/US\$1.00	L\$194.1283/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. 60

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

PRICE LD\$40.00



S/GOVERNMENT
decides

-on tenure case Wednesday

LEAA and BAGASOO
conduct training on
safety concerns



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

Deportation flights to Rwanda in summer, PM says

The first flights deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda will take off in 10 to 12 weeks Rishi Sunak has announced - missing his original spring

this is only enough to hold a fraction of the 52,000 people earmarked for deportation under the government's plans. Shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper denied Labour were blocking the bill, saying the government "has an overall majority in Parliament and could have passed this bill a month ago if they had scheduled it". "But as we know Rishi Sunak always looks for someone else to blame," she added.

Labour would enhance border security rather than spend "half-a-billion pounds for a scheme that will only cover 1% of asylum seekers", Ms Cooper said. Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said: "No amount of soundbites or spin can change the fact that the Conservatives' Rwanda scheme is a colossal failure.

"Millions of pounds and years of government attention have already been wasted, with absolutely nothing to show for it." Mr Sunak's announcement comes as a prolonged stand-off between the Lords and the Commons over the bill comes to a head - with both Houses of Parliament scheduled to sit late into the night to get the bill passed. Peers have been pushing for a change to the bill that would establish a committee to monitor the safety of asylum seekers in Rwanda, operating outside the country's own judiciary. Under the amendment, the first flights could not take off until the committee had deemed Rwanda safe. BBC



Watch: PM Rishi Sunak says opponents to the bill have used "every trick in the book"

target. The government has already prepared an airfield and secured charter plane slots to ensure flights take off, the PM said. Mr Sunak promised to keep MPs and Lords late into the night on Monday to pass his flagship Rwanda bill. "No ifs, no buts, these flights are going to Rwanda," he said. He told a Downing Street press conference: "The first flight will leave in 10 to 12 weeks. Of course that is later than we wanted but we have always been clear that processing will take time and if Labour peers had not spent weeks holding up the bill in the House of Lords to try to block these flights altogether we would have begun this process

he said. To smooth the approach to the first flights taking off, Mr Sunak said the Home Office had been building extra space in the asylum process, including: 200 case workers hired 25 courtrooms and 150 judges to hear asylum cases, offering 5,000 days in court Hardening rules around European Court of Human Rights injunction, making it difficult for the Strasbourg-based court to halt deportation flights A pre-booked airfield with slots for commercial charter flights to Rwanda booked 500 escorts for the flights, with 300 more in training. The prime minister announced immigration detention spaces have increased to 2,200 in preparation to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. But

Nigeria army vows revenge for soldiers killed in ambush

The Nigerian army has vowed revenge for the killing of six soldiers who were ambushed while on a peace mission in the central state of Niger last week. The troops were on a "fighting patrol" in Karaga village in the Shiroro area last Friday when they were attacked by what the army called "terrorists". An army statement said a number of the attackers had been killed, and others were still being pursued. It vowed that the "unfortunate setback would be avenged by the troops". The slain soldiers included two senior officers and four other personnel, according to the army. Two officers were injured during the attack. The army has not confirmed local reports that one officer

was abducted. It is not clear who was behind the ambush but armed gangs, known locally as bandits, have been blamed for targeting security forces in recent attacks. It comes as Nigeria hosts a two-day high-level African counter-terrorism summit in the capital, Abuja.

The ambush also comes a few weeks after 16 other soldiers were killed while responding to clashes between rival communities in the oil-rich southern Delta state. Nigeria has suffered a wave of kidnappings for ransom, as well as battling various jihadist groups. BBC



The army says it killed an unspecified number of the attackers

South Africa's ANC loses Zuma party name battle

South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) has lost a legal bid to stop a new party from using the name and logo of its former armed wing. The governing ANC had argued that uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), headed by ex-President Jacob Zuma, had breached trademark law. But the Durban High Court disagreed, allowing the use of the name, which translates as Spear of the Nation.

It is a significant victory for MK ahead the 29 May general election. Mr Zuma's supporters cheered and chanted in court after the judgement was delivered. The ANC has said it will appeal against the ruling. Last month, the ANC suffered another legal blow in its attempt to stop MK from running in the election, saying it had not met the official registration criteria.

The MK name and logo holds huge political symbolism because of the now-defunct

the party's existence showed it was running scared. In a 42-page ruling, Judge Mahendra Chetty said the ANC's case was really a matter for an electoral court, not the high court. He added that the high court was also not the forum to "settle a dispute where there are competing historical accounts of events which took place almost 60 years ago, as to who may rightfully lay claim to the name uMkhonto we Sizwe". When it came to the symbols confronting voters on the ballot paper, the judge said he was of the view that there would be no confusion. The ANC's trademark over the MK symbol was registered for "education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities", he said. "It was not entirely clear to me how the use of the mark in political activities" would fall under that category, he added. But ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula said the trademark was "about legacy" and the party



The spear logo is similar to that used by the now defunct armed wing of the ANC

armed wing's role in fighting for the end of white-minority rule in South Africa. The new MK party may have no chance of winning the election, but it likely to bruise the ANC, which, for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994, could lose its outright majority in parliament. Mr Zuma, a former stalwart of the ANC who once served in its armed wing, was South Africa's president for nine years from 2009. He was forced from power and replaced by current President Cyril Ramaphosa in part over corruption allegations, which Mr Zuma denies. Visvin Reddy - the provincial leader of MK in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Zuma's home province where he enjoys considerable support - said it was the best possible news for the party that was launched in December. He told the TV channel Newsroom Afrika from outside the courtroom in Durban that the ANC's legal challenges to

would appeal against the ruling "to stop and prohibit the unlawful use of the ANC's trademarks, symbols, and heritage by Mr Zuma's party". Earlier this month, an electoral court overturned an electoral commission ban on the 82-year-old former president's candidacy for a parliamentary seat. The constitution bars people from holding public office if convicted of a crime and sentenced to more than 12 months in prison. Mr Zuma had been sentenced to 15 months in jail in 2021 for failing to testify in a corruption investigation, though he only served three months on health grounds and was given a remission of sentence by Mr Ramaphosa. The electoral court has not yet given a reason for its ruling, but Mr Zuma's lawyers argued that the remission meant that his sentence had been "cancelled". The electoral commission has now lodged an urgent appeal with the highest court, the Constitutional Court, in a bid to overturn the electoral court's verdict. BBC

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: Austin S Fallah-A
True Son Of The Soil.

Overcoming Pains: The Way to a Prosperous Liberia:

I wish you all the best as I will continue to read but not pen. Intellectualism and education through sharing are continuing processes, Lessons often rise from adversity, chiseled in the stone of our deepest challenges and failures. Liberia, a nation with a rich history that is riddled with bloodshed, corruption, and poverty, stands as a lucid testament to this time-tested truth. This korero argues that we as Liberians must learn from our pains and scars and not only celebrate triumphs if our nation truly yearns for progress, prosperity, and peace. Liberia stands as an unparalleled symbol of hope and redemption.

Birthered from the longings of freed human beings and the vibrant cultures of indigenous tribes, Liberia represents the unison of diverse worlds and histories merged into a collective strength. However, the beacon of hope has dimmed in light of persistent challenges. Our nation's narrative has been discolored by rampant corruption, which threatens to erase the inspiring foundations upon which Liberia was built.

Unfortunately, too many of us Liberians, whether in government positions or merely citizens, have opted to play the fiddle while Rome burns. Turning a blind eye to the corruption that plagues our nation and inhibits its social and economic advancement. This apathy is the human cancer that continues to eat the very fabric of our beloved Liberia's future, casting ominous shadows on the dreams of prosperity we all hope for. Pains and scars, more often than not, equip us with lessons more profound than those harvested from success.

Like a phoenix rising from its ashes, our nation Liberia, and we the people need to transform our pain into power and our scars into stories of resilience. The nation's progress and prosperity will not spring from a soil devoid of adversity but will bloom much brighter through the lens of learned hardship. Adversity has always been an effective teacher. It provides a platform to reflect and learn, inspiring us to change, adapt, and grow.

Consequently, to change the narrative of our beloved country, we as Liberians

must channel our adversity into resilience and determination. The path to prosperity encompasses more than just economic development, though that forms a significant segment. It includes promoting a culture of truth and integrity, uprooting corruption from its very core, and fostering the essential values of accountability, transparency, and responsibility. When we as Liberians embrace these ideals, they lay sturdy foundations for economic advancement and social progress.

Our beloved nation, Liberia, can once again stand as a beacon of hope for humanity by incorporating these principles into the heart of its structures, government, education, business, and families. Such transformation will make its dream of prosperity a reality for all Liberians.

The path to a prosperous Liberia will not be found in studied ignorance or complacency but in the acknowledgment and learning from our shared adversities. Pain and scars can mold into stepping stones to a brighter future, not just for present Liberians but also for future generations. Any nation's greatest strength lies not in never falling, but in rising every time it falls.

It is high time we embraced the lessons etched within our scars. The future of our nation depends on our collective understanding that prosperity is not merely an economic ideal but a wide-ranging paradigm shift that begins with each Liberian's resolve to do their part to foster development. Through God Almighty and our collective efforts,

Our dear nation, Liberia can be transformed into a prosperous nation where every citizen not only lives freely but thrives where every liberated man and native of the land prospers and contributes to national progress. In striving towards this reality, let us not forget that the spirit of resilience lies within us all. Let us remember that the bright future we seek is not only possible but inevitable once we learn from our pains, our scars, and our success. It is through these experiences that our dear nation Liberia shall once again stand as a beacon of hope for all of humanity.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

Read the NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!

OP-ED

By Eric Posner

What to Look for in Trump's First Trial

CHICAGO - As the first criminal case against Donald Trump gets underway in New York City, the media have forgone their customary practice of declaring the "trial of the century." Trial of the month is more like it, since three more are set to follow. The sheer number of criminal trials involving different allegations - hush money payments, retention of confidential documents, and election interference - would seem to guarantee a conviction and Trump's final ejection from public life.

A conviction is indeed possible, even likely. But neither a conviction nor even jail time would disqualify Trump from running for the presidency. The important question is what impact a conviction might have on voters' choices on election day. Given that most people have already made up their minds about Trump, we are talking about a small, obscure group of undecided voters in a handful of swing states. And given that most of these people seem to have little interest in, or knowledge of, politics, they likely know very little about the accusations against Trump. The media deluge from the trials may finally end their ignorance.

The trial in New York is about business records, not insurrections or national security. The indictment accuses Trump of violating a New York statute under which a person who, with fraudulent intent, "makes or causes a false entry in the business records of an enterprise" is guilty of a felony if he intended to conceal or commit another crime.

The "other crime" is not clearly identified in the indictment, but the focus of the trial is likely to be a federal campaign-finance violation (or possibly a violation of New York election law). Trump's then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, paid hush money to the adult-film actress Stormy Daniels, who had threatened to disclose to a tabloid a sexual encounter with Trump. Paying money to someone to help a campaign is a campaign expenditure, and Cohen admitted to violating the law both by making a payment in excess of legal limits and failing to report it. Trump is accused of orchestrating this scheme, though he has not been indicted for the alleged campaign-finance violations.

The legal issues and the facts of the case are weirdly intricate. The US government did investigate Trump for violating federal campaign-finance law, but government lawyers probably feared that a jury would find that he concealed the hush-money payoff because it was personally embarrassing, not because it helped his campaign. That is what happened when the government prosecuted but failed to convict John Edwards in connection with the coverup of an extramarital affair during his 2008 Democratic presidential primary campaign.

Alvin Bragg, the New York district attorney, is not required to prove that Trump violated the campaign-finance law, only that he intended to do so. The federal government's failure to indict Trump for campaign-finance violations suggests that Bragg may need to prove to a jury that Trump intended to commit a crime that the jury won't think he actually committed. In making the journey into Trump's brain to discover what exactly the man was thinking eight years ago, Bragg's Virgil will be Cohen, an ex-con and admitted perjurer. Daniels will also testify.

You might think that this circus of seedy characters and events would end Trump's electoral chances for good, just as Edwards's dalliance destroyed his political career. But that would be a mistake, one that has been made a thousand times before. For Trump's supporters, every new disclosure about his shocking behavior and repulsive character merely confirms the malevolence of the disclosers. In their view, Bragg's prosecution of Trump for a business-records violation is actually an attempt to derail Trump's campaign for the presidency by distracting him and exposing him to public embarrassment.

Exhibit A for this theory may be that Bragg has styled his business-records case as an election interference case rather than as a minor financial peccadillo. Bragg argues that Trump is a threat to New York's reputation for business probity and to US democracy, bridging this yawning gulf by pointing out that the false business records concealed a campaign-finance violation that would have persuaded people to vote against Trump back in 2016 if they had learned of it. Hence, minor financial fraud is transmuted into major election interference. But the logic assumes that a substantial number of voters would not have supported Trump if they had known about the Daniels affair - an unknowable and perhaps implausible proposition. It also stumbles on the inconvenient fact that the business-records falsification occurred after the election, not before it. Trump may have attempted to interfere with the election by depriving voters of information about (parts of) his scandalous past, but it is not clear that it affected the outcome.

So, how much will this trial matter? It won't change Trump voters' support and may be too confusing to influence those independent voters who have not been paying attention to electoral politics. Maybe all that matters is the symbolism of the thing. If Trump is thrown in jail, he will surely present himself as a political prisoner in the mold of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn or Alexei Navalny. But the image of Trump being led off in handcuffs, or the (mental) image of him being strip-searched upon his reception into jail, will probably have more impact on people than anything that is revealed at the trial. Are Americans ready to elect a jailbird?

Well, that possibility cannot be ruled out.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of *How Antitrust Failed Workers* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

OPINION

By Justina Nixon-Saintil

AI Holds the Key to Resilient Cities

NEW YORK - The cities that some 4.4 billion people call home are increasingly at risk of catastrophic climate-driven events. Rising sea levels and flooding threaten coastal megacities like New York City and Jakarta, and extreme heat waves, like those that afflict cities across South Asia and the Middle East each year, are projected to become more frequent and severe.

While our built environments and infrastructure are being tested by unpredictable weather and changing populations, many urban communities are facing heightened climate-related health and economic risks. Dangers such as air pollution and natural disasters can be especially acute in developing countries, where they threaten to drive more people into poverty.

At the same time, cities contribute disproportionately to the broader challenges we face today. Cities already account for an estimated 70% of global carbon dioxide emissions and 78% of energy consumption, and these figures could grow in an urbanizing world. According to UN-Habitat, the share of people living in urban areas is expected to increase to 68% by 2050.

Clearly, cities will play a central role in how the world addresses climate change. One factor that could give cities much-needed support and unlock opportunities for building greater resilience is artificial intelligence. If developed and deployed responsibly and ethically, AI could potentially accelerate urban climate solutions, enable science-based and sustainable development, and deliver innovation at an unprecedented pace, allowing us to put the most vulnerable communities first.

But the first step is to improve our understanding of AI's many potential applications as a tool for resilient cities. For example, the challenge of handling vast amounts of data is a major obstacle to modeling future climate scenarios accurately and making informed planning decisions. Fortunately, through the power of AI, foundation models and geospatial analytics could help us visualize our cities in a new way.

Consider the metropolitan areas facing severe and changing weather patterns. With real-time and historical climate data and AI-powered predictive capabilities, governments could introduce new tools for disaster response and readiness. Everyone, from ordinary citizens to those tasked with protecting and maintaining critical infrastructure, could be better informed and prepared.

AI also has the potential to help make city operations more sustainable at every level, thus reducing cities' outsize emissions and environmental impact. Intelligent software applications could integrate AI to analyze buildings' energy usage, water consumption, and waste management, providing insights that allow communities and organizations to make more responsible decisions about sustainability.

Moreover, with the addition of connected devices to drive in-depth data collection, safety measures such as urban infrastructure maintenance could be more effective and efficient than ever before. Think of all the bridges and roadways threatened by unprecedented weather events. When combined with AI, the uses of data extend far beyond basic monitoring and reporting.

Nor will AI's urban applications stop there. The technology has the potential to optimize public transportation and traffic planning to achieve more sustainable urban transit. It could help to identify the best locations for expanding much-needed green space, while also preserving urban biodiversity and natural resources.

Governments, public-service providers, and nonprofits alike have growing opportunities to access and explore AI tools, such as through requests for proposals and pro-bono programs, like those offered by IBM. However, recent research shows that while 69% of cities are already exploring or testing the uses of generative AI, only 2% are implementing it. As IBM's Chief Impact Officer, I know that access to technology and the skills required to use it effectively can be major obstacles to implementation. The need for greater access becomes all the more urgent when one considers the unequal distribution of climate-driven threats. Within our cities, problems like air pollution and a lack of access to clean energy disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable residents. These are the communities that have the most to gain from AI.

We all have a responsibility to make AI solutions support vulnerable populations. That means providing equal access to climate tools, supporting training in AI and related skills, and creating programs designed to respond to the specific needs of historically marginalized urban populations. Upskilling, especially, will play a key role in accelerating vulnerable communities' adoption of climate-mitigation and adaptation tools. The private sector can do its part by forming partnerships with public agencies and working closely with organizations that are already engaged in supporting vulnerable communities.

By embracing AI and putting it to work in the fight against climate change, we can help make our cities safer, more adaptable, and more sustainable. The technology to give people the tools to anticipate, address, and recover from climate-driven events is here. But it is up to all of us - communities, governments, and companies - to put it to the best possible use.



USAID | LIBERIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-24-00002
- ISSUANCE DATE:** April 22, 2024
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** May 21, 2024 at 11:59 pm
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Energy-Infrastructure Specialist
- MARKET VALUE:** \$45,350.00 - \$ 72,566.00, FSN- 11
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment for the purpose of automatic tax withholding.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Five-Year Period of Performance with the possibility to renew in accordance with ADS 309. Personal services contracts are subject to the five-year limitation in accordance with FAR Part 17. In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J, Cooperation Country Personal Services Contracts (CCNPSCs) are of a continuing nature and expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts, each not to exceed the five year limitation in the FAR. Start date is pending security and medical clearances.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** This solicitation is available for Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs). CCNs are individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Non-Liberian citizens must possess a valid Liberian work permit in compliance with host government laws and regulations prior to application. The Embassy cannot sponsor applicants for work permits.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access approved by the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer at post.

11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

A. Basic Function of Position

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will report to the Infrastructure Team Lead of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) at USAID/Liberia on administrative and management issues; and as a senior-level advisor and technical expert, he/she will exercise significant independent judgment on matters of policy and technical direction and will make decisions to ensure successful program implementation. Moreover, he/she may be required to provide policy analysis and options on energy, infrastructure, service delivery, and utility management issues as requested by senior Mission management and other US Government officials through Mission management.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also represent USAID, as requested and appropriate, at meetings with senior Liberian officials and technical counterparts donors, non-governmental organizations, and implementing partners.

Infrastructure and utility service delivery in general, and energy supply in particular, is a binding constraint to social and economic development in Liberia, as such, service delivery is critical to achieving the Mission's development objectives. The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist must be a proactive, forward-leaning, results-oriented professional that will actively work across Mission technical teams to provide leadership and technical input on energy and infrastructure needs to achieve the Mission development objectives and strategic vision. The position will provide technical expertise and support policy dialogue and coordination for the USAID/Liberia technical offices and Mission leadership. This includes providing requested technical advice in energy and infrastructure sector development issues and policies in Liberia to the Mission Director, Deputy Mission Director, and other Office Directors, as requested. The position will support the Team in maintaining a comprehensive knowledge of current energy and infrastructure sector issues as well as maintaining professional working relationships with Government of Liberia (GOL) officials, the United States Government (USG) interagency, other donors, key implementing partners, and local leaders.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will be asked to assimilate, analyze, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances and help guide the implementation of Agency and Mission strategies, and will serve as the lead on the Mission's Power Africa activities to achieve optimal results. He/she will be expected to bring state-of-the-art technical practices to Liberia's country-specific development context.

B. Major Duties and Responsibilities

Project Management: 50% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as a project management specialist on key energy and infrastructure activities, and will:

- Undertake duties of Contracting or Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager as needed. Provide input/advice regarding all matters pertaining to proposed, planned, and ongoing activities. Undertake infrastructure and engineering oversight activities as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the Contracting Officer. Provide technical direction to the Implementing Partner (IP) and technical review and concurrence of IP deliverables to the Contracting or Agreement Officer (CO/AO) and keep administrative files and records of these activities.
- Conduct regular site visits for quality assurance/quality control to monitor the progress and implementation of energy and infrastructure activities. Provide field trip reports, both written and photographic, as required to monitor progress and to ensure work is progressing in accordance with established contract requirements, specifications, and engineering practices. Monitor the Implementing Partners' adherence to USAID regulations and requirements, including environmental and safety considerations, as well as branding and marking requirements.
- Prepare performance reports, briefing papers, concept papers, and other periodic documentation for the Mission, USAID/Washington, the interagency as required, and coordinate site visits for high-level visits.
- Liaise with GoL institutions and organizations, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Public Works, the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other stakeholders implicated in the implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure programs, updating stakeholders on the implementation and progress of USAID/Liberia and Power Africa activities, and soliciting stakeholder feedback and buy-in as appropriate.
- Review and approve activity reports, vouchers, and payment requests related to assigned activities, noting discrepancies in documentation, and reporting such discrepancies to the Economic Growth Office supervisor and/or Mission authorities.
- Attend required meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities. This may involve interacting with national, county, and district community officials regarding project implementation or completion and modification issues, including inspection, security, maintenance, operations, and logistical support requirements. Frequent interactions with high-level government officials may be required.
- Ensure compliance with USAID 611e requirements by assessing the host country recipient organizations' technical and financial capacity to manage and operate infrastructure constructed by USAID, and work closely with the Mission Environmental Officer to ensure that Mission supported construction projects are in compliance with Regulation 216 requirements.
- Prepare technical documentation including Request for Applications (RFAs), Request for Proposals (RFPs), Statements of Work, Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGCEs), approval memos and other project design and procurement documents as required to develop and approve energy and infrastructure projects and activities, obligate funds, and award grants and contracts in accordance with USAID procurement regulations.
- Serve as the chair or member of various Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs) or Selection Committees to evaluate partner applications and proposals, or evaluate potential candidates for employment.

Program Management: 25% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as an expert on energy and infrastructure development for the Mission and will incorporate service delivery considerations into Mission strategy documents and plans, performing the following functions:

- Lead in developing a comprehensive strategy for USAID interventions in energy and infrastructure.
- Incorporate infrastructure priorities into the Embassy's Integrated Country Strategy (ICS), the USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), and other UGS strategy documents and agendas to ensure that the Mission is able to accomplish programmatic objectives.
- Work with USAID/Liberia Technical Teams to determine energy and infrastructure needs, incorporating key activities and components into project designs that address critical infrastructure gaps to achieve sector goals; and advise technical offices on USAID Policy and Guidance on the implementation of Energy and Infrastructure activities.
- Design programs and activities which support and improve the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other service delivery institutions, including the development of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the provision of energy and infrastructure services in Liberia.
- Assist in the preparation of the relevant sections of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) specific Portfolio Reviews, Mission Performance Plan and Reports, and the Operational Plans, as well as, other relevant program documents and reports as needed.

Knowledge Management and Relationship Development: 25% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also serve as the primary point of contact (POC) for the Mission on energy and infrastructure-related topics, building relationships with GOL, donor community, and private sector counterparts. As the Mission POC on energy and infrastructure sector issues, the Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will perform the following functions:

- Serve as the Mission's representative on the Energy Sector Steering Committee meetings and other donor or national dialogues on the energy or infrastructure sectors, and present USAID activities, priorities, and accomplishments.
- Advise GOL counterparts in the development of Liberian regulatory institutions, as needed, and helps them to effectively carry out their mandate; also provides advice to the GOL on energy sector reform, including appropriate models for private sector participation to improve utility management and operations, and development of an enabling legal and regulatory framework.
- Facilitate dialogues between GOL authorities, USG stakeholders, donors, and partners to reach consensus on energy and infrastructure-related activities and transactions; prepare and present reports pertinent to performance monitoring and evaluation, identifying, tracking, and monitoring milestones to evaluate progress.

- Manage outreach efforts with USAID's Development Outreach Coordinator and the State Department's Public Affairs Officer that may include public events, press releases, and close coordination with other USG partners.
 - Liaise with other donors and institutions on energy and infrastructure sector policy reform, brief USAID and Embassy management on issues and discussions, and prepare necessary documents, including USAID's position, and talking points for meetings.
 - Develop and maintain close professional contacts and active dialogue with energy and infrastructure sector peers in other country donor agencies, and various GOL offices which engage in the policy reform issues.
 - Review policies of the GOL that affect the energy and infrastructure sector development including planned or proposed energy infrastructure, energy sector policy reforms, energy tariffs and revenues, and the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation; provide information on implications of these policies and agreements for Liberia and on the effective implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure sector programs.
- a. Supervision controls: None

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the field of engineering, utility management, business or public administration, energy and/or environmental management, international development, or other related degree.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of prior work experience in project management positions analyzing and coordinating programs in the field of energy or infrastructure development, or related areas, such as public-private partnerships, utility management or operations, or energy sector policy.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia (if applicable)
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (Fluent) English, both oral and written.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The Contracting Officer (CO) reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offerors. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far>.

The technical evaluation committee may conduct reference checks, including references from individuals who have not been specifically identified by the offeror, and may do so before or after a candidate is interviewed.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Education:** (10 points) Points will be given to candidates with advanced formal education in the required areas, for specialized education in the target areas, and/or for specialized training pertinent to position requirement.
- Prior Work Experience:** (20 points) Points will be assigned for prior experience greater than five years, and/or for experience in the energy sector or infrastructure development, public-private partnerships, utility management or operations.
- Language Proficiency** (pass/fail): Fluent English ability (Level IV Reading, writing, speaking) **will be evaluated through a written test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview.**
- Job Knowledge:** (35 points) Demonstrated knowledge, or the ability to quickly gain such knowledge, of utility and infrastructure management, and service delivery. Demonstrated understanding of the Liberian energy sector, including matters related to rural electrification, renewable resources, donor investment, public-private partnership, and government policy.
- Skills and Abilities:** (35 Points) Demonstrated analytical reasoning skills, proficiency in working with Microsoft suite and other computer applications. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information in concise written and oral form, and to work effectively with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and private sector counterparts.
- Supplemental Documents:** Please provide a supplement to the application addressing the following areas:
 - USAID representatives must be adept at building productive working relationships and working effectively in teams to accomplish goals. This includes communicating and collaborating with USAID staff, senior government officials, and other stakeholders to address challenges. Please describe an instance where you cultivated a constructive partnership with diverse stakeholders with differing opinions to accomplish a specific objective.
 - The Energy Infrastructure Specialist will design, implement, and oversee USAID programs. Please provide your prior experiences and responsibilities in program design and development. Please detail your involvement in situational or problem analysis and how you determined the best course of action or approach.

7. Reference check - pass/fail

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form AID 309-2, detailed current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed 3 pages providing email address and a daytime telephone number;
- Offerors must submit supplemental documents.
- Offerors must submit three references who are not friends or family members, along with their contact information.
- Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3, and submitted to the Point of Contact in Section I.
- Offeror submissions must clearly reference the Solicitation number on all submitted documents.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD

- The CO will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:
 - Background investigation forms
 - Medical clearance forms
- Ensuring Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors - Please be advised that, upon award, the contractor will be required to follow the Mission policies and/or directives from the U.S. Department of State regarding COVID-19 requirements.

VI. BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a CCNPSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

- BENEFITS:**
 - Foreign Service National Defined Contributions Plan (FSN DCP) – Eligible for this Department of State pension program.
 - Annual Leave – a total of 15 work days (120 hours) for the first three years of employment
 - Sick Leave – Sick Leave is granted as needed.
 - Health Insurance. Is provided under a U.S. Embassy-managed health plan.
- ALLOWANCES** (as applicable):
 - Transportation Allowance
 - Miscellaneous Allowance

VIII. USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs

USAID regulations and policies governing CCNPSC awards are available at these sources:

- USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), Appendix J, "Direct USAID Contracts With a Cooperating Country National and with a Third Country National for Personal Services Abroad," including contract clause "General Provisions," available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/aidar>
- Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1 available at <https://www.usaid.gov/forms>. Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

ITEM NO (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION) (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
0001	Compensation, Fringe, Benefits and Other Direct Costs (ODSc) - Award Type: Cost - Product Service Code: R497 - Accounting Info. TBD	1	Lot	\$ TBD	\$ TBD at Award after negotiations with contractor

- Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directives/Contract Information Bulletins (AAPDs/CIBs) for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs>
- Ethical Conduct. By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch," available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with General Provision 2 and 5 CFR 2635. See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGES%20Regulations>.

5. PSC Ombudsman

The PSC Ombudsman serves as a resource for any Personal Services Contractor who has entered into a contract with the United States Agency for International Development and is available to provide clarity on their specific contract with the Agency. Please visit our page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/personal-service-contracts-ombudsman>.

The PSC Ombudsman may be contacted via: PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

LCAA and BAGASOO conduct training on safety concerns

The Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) and the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO) conduct training on Resolution of Safety Concerns (RSC) at the Farmington Hotel in Harbel Margibi County.



The Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) has partnered with the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO) to conduct a 5-day Resolution of Safety Concerns (RSC) training course in Monrovia.



This initiative is the result of the visit of the Director-General of the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) Mr. Julius D. Dennis to Abuja Nigeria for the board of



Directors meeting of the Banjul Accord Group Safety Oversight Organization



(BAGASOO)

The primary objective of the training program is to enhance the capabilities and efficiency of Member States in the Banjul Accord Group (BAG) by providing the technical and legal personnel with knowledge, skills, and attitudes to carry out their duties and responsibilities associated with investigation and enforcement of aviation regulations.



This will enable them to tackle non-compliance by regulated organizations and personnel across the entire field of responsibility of a Civil Aviation Authority, according to the Resolution of Safety Concern Manual.



It can be recalled that the recent International Civil Aviation Organization/Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program - Continuous Monitoring Audit (ICAO/USOAP-CMA) of the Liberian aviation sector highlighted two Significant Safety Concerns (SSC) amongst others that must be urgently addressed. This training is in line with the LCAA corrective action plan to mitigate and alleviate these discrepancies.

The training program is sponsored by the EU-ASA Project, which aims to enhance aviation safety in the sub-Saharan Africa region.

The participants selected for the course are from Liberia and Sierra Leone and are ready to take on the challenge and gain valuable insights from the training.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dismissed EPS' threats unacceptable

-Says Information Minister

The head of the elite presidential guard Executive Protection Service (EPS) Mr. Sam Gaye has defended his decision, emphasizing his aim to uphold professionalism and standards for EPS staff.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, April 23, 2024: Liberian Information Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piah has condemned as unacceptable, an alleged threat by dismissed

We came to recuse, and nothing can stop us from doing so," said Mr. Piah.

There have been recent reports of 29 dismissed EPS officers issuing warnings to disrupt Liberia's stability if

procedures.

It is reported that the employment led to challenges in salary disbursement and hindered government operations.

Director Gaye has defended his decision, emphasizing his aim to uphold professionalism and standards for EPS staff.

The former EPS employees, dissatisfied with their reported retirement under Gaye's directive, wrote to the House of Representatives in August 2017, alleging wrongful retirement.

They cited the National Security Act of 2011, arguing that their retirement should not include the years of civil war, and expressed discontent over the denial of waivers.

However, Efforts to summon Director Gaye to explain his actions before the House were unsuccessful. However, Minister Piah has condemned the EPS Officers' actions as contradictory and unacceptable, emphasizing the importance of seeking justice through peaceful means.

Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police attempted to disarm the dismissed EPS officers, leading to resistance due to grievances over unpaid benefits and disputed dismissals.

The situation escalated into a serious confrontation with the former EPS agents insisting that they would remain unwilling to turn over weapons in their possession unless their issues were addressed promptly.



EPS OFFICERS

officers of the elite Executive Protection Agency (EPS) to disrupt the peace.

Responding to inquiries regarding the government's stance on the EPS Officers' threats over the weekend, Mr. Piah said the officers' action was contradictory and unacceptable, especially when they were seeking the government's intervention.

"How can you be asking for government intervention while making threatening remarks?"

their demands are not met.

It can be recalled that the current Director of the EPS, Mr. Sam Gaye, dismissed 29 EPS agents on 1 June 2017, amid allegations of perceived loyalty to former President George Manneh Weah. Mr. Weah won the 2017 presidential election, and a report later emerged that the Weah-led government employed partisans of the then-ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) without adhering to legal

Police brutality leads to death

-Family demands justice

Police brutality leaves one dead in 72nd Community, Paynesville, Liberia, April 23, 2024 -

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Family members are seeking Justice for their dead relative, 46-year-old Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman, who died following Police brutal assault recently in Paynesville.

Reports say the late Austine did not commit any crime but was unmercifully beaten by seven Police officers, leading to his sudden death late Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

He reportedly died upon arrival at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville after the brutal beating received from the Police.

The sad incident occurred in 72nd Community around Onace Bibligual International Christian School System near 72nd Junction, Paynesville.

The late Freeman was uncle to a man identified as James Boima, commonly known as "Papay," who came to his house

to sleep after conflict ensued between him (James Boima) and his girlfriend, Ruth David, on the morning of Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 2:00 a.m.

Hawa Boima, a niece of the deceased, narrated to the NEW DAWN that the late Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman was allegedly mal-handled unmercifully by seven unnamed Police officers from Zone 9 Police

Depot in Jacob Town, Paynesville.

Hawa explains that on April 17 at 2:00 am, while they were asleep, seven officers of the Liberia National Police allegedly broke into the home of the late Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman, behind the ONACE International Christian School in 72nd Community and beat him and his Nephew, James Boima for unknown reasons before handcuffing James and taking him away on motorbike to the Zone 9 Depot, while Austine was left lying on the

▶ CONT'D page 11



St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital accused

-Family alleges negligence resulting to death

Family seeks clarity over death of an 84-year-old father at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Congo Town.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 23, 2024 - The Juwule Family, through its head, Mrs. Eugènia Titae Wisseh, from Chicago, United States of America, alleges that death certificate issued by the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Sophie Community, Congo Town, outside Monrovia, proved that wrong medications administered to her father by the hospital led to his death.

"My father deserved to live, and St. Joseph's Hospital must account for his death; they must account for what kind of examination was done that proved he died from Prostate Cancer and Kidney failure. My dad had never suffered any of these health complications", she laments.

Mrs. Wisseh: "I have been a registered nurse for about 17 years in the United States and

death. She argues that standard protocol requires that her father should have been placed on immediate oxygen to provide him fluid to his Respiratory System because of his condition, but notes that this was never done.

She narrates that her late father, Mr. Paul Juwule, 84, was admitted on April 16, 2024 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital after he was suspected of suffering from Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (enlarged Prostate and deficient respiration) because he wasn't breathing too well at the time of his admission at the hospital, and needed urgent attention, immediate Oxygen but that was never done until after 24 hours, because nurses allegedly didn't attend to him, so hanging the first fluid, by then his temperature has already decreased to 15% which indicated a very high risk of survival.

"It is so sad he had to die this



knew my father's health status; you cannot tell me that my dad died from prostate cancer and kidney failure; he never did.

This must be a forgery death certificate, and we are taking this seriously because we should prevent other lives from being destroyed and damaged by careless nurses and doctors. My father has died and gone, but I'm pursuing this in demand of change to prevent others from experiencing the same loss."

She demands that the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital must provide laboratory test results to substantiate that her father actually died of the indicated causes.

A death certificate obtained by the NEW DAWN, signed by Dr. Thaddle, states suspected prostate cancer, kidney failure, and amenia as official causes of death of the late Paul Juwule. Still, his daughter, Mrs. Eugènia Titae Wisseh, disagrees and challenges the result, instead blaming the hospital for his

way, untimely due to these arrogant and careless nurses. They didn't do their compassion and call to service; their negligence killed my dad because he had artery muscle to breathe and needed Oxygen, but it wasn't until after 3 pm the next day that they could hang the first fluid. Because he was losing so much blood and at the time they decided to pay attention to him, his Oxygen had already decreased, and there was absolutely nothing they could do to save him, Madam Wisseh further laments.

She adds that her father was only given two liters of blood at the eleventh minute, 24 hours after he was left alone in the Semi-Private Ward without any attention from nurses.

She expresses dissatisfaction with the hospital administration for services paid for at the time of his father's admission, which was never rendered until his demise, and then issuing a death certificate, indicating health complications that he had never suffered before.

▶ CONT'D page 11

Français

L'élection partielle au Sénat de Nimba: Koung & PYJ s'affrontent

Éditorial

Le budget présidentiel relègue l'éducation au second plan

Le NEW DAWN a appris que le sénateur Prince Johnson, autoproclamé parrain du comté de Nimba et leader du parti MDR, et le vice-président Jeremiah

comme son frère originaire de Gomaplay. Le vice-président Koung, qui vise la présidence en 2029, soutient quant à lui le candidat du parti au pouvoir, Nya D. Twayen Jr.

Cependant, des observateurs

cela, ils ont uniquement utilisé les stations de radio communautaires pour déclarer leur soutien au candidat du parti au pouvoir. De même, le sénateur PYJ, qui utilise les stations de radio communautaires et parle le dialecte Gio, fait campagne pour le représentant Kogar contre le parti au pouvoir.

Depuis que la Commission électorale nationale a qualifié les deux hommes en tant que candidats pour le Sénat, Nya D. Twayen Jr. et Samuel G. Kogar ont reçu de nombreux soutiens dans les 19 districts administratifs de Nimba, devançant ainsi leurs deux rivaux, l'ancien sénateur Thomas S. Grupee et Armstrong Gobac Selekpoh.

Qu'est-il déjà arrivé?

Les cadres du MDR, une alliance avec le parti au pouvoir, sont en désaccord sur le choix à soutenir lors de l'élection partielle au Sénat, qui fait suite à l'élection du sénateur Jeremiah Koung au poste de vice-président sur le ticket de sauvetage du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai lors des élections de 2023.

Le sénateur Prince

▶ CONT'D page 9



Kpan Koung prennent des chemins différents pour soutenir les candidats de leur choix lors de l'élection partielle au Sénat du comté, qui aura lieu le mardi 23 avril 2024.

PYJ soutient fermement le représentant du district #5 et candidat au Sénat, Samuel G. Kogar, qu'il décrit

attentifs affirment que la solidarité du vice-président n'est rien d'autre qu'un soutien de façade, car au fond, il ne le pense pas vraiment.

Un rapport de Nimba indique que le vice-président Koung et les cadres du parti au pouvoir dans le comté n'ont jamais été vus en train de faire campagne sur le terrain pour Nya. Au lieu de

Boakai s'engage à réduire la faim au Liberia

Le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, en photo avec l'ambassadeur britannique et un groupe de parties prenantes, s'attaque au problème ancestral du riz au Liberia. Il promet de réduire la faim en lançant un programme agricole vigoureux.

Le rapport 2023 de l'Indice mondial de la faim (GHI) a révélé que la situation de la faim au Liberia est grave. Le président du Liberia, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, s'est engagé à prendre des mesures concrètes pour réduire le niveau de faim dans le pays. Il a déclaré qu'il était inacceptable que le Liberia ne puisse toujours pas se nourrir lui-même.

Selon Boakai, son gouvernement fera de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire une priorité pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition. « Je veux croire que sous ma direction, si l'agriculture ne fonctionne pas dans ce pays, je ne pense pas qu'elle fonctionnera jamais. Nous allons nous assurer qu'elle fonctionne. Je ne vois aucune raison pour qu'un pays si bien pourvu en

eau et en terres, avec tout ce qui est nécessaire pour produire de la nourriture, ne puisse pas le faire. Nous allons produire de la nourriture. Les statistiques que je vois ne sont pas seulement alarmantes, mais elles ne représentent pas le Liberia », a-t-il déclaré.

Le président a fait ces déclarations mercredi à Monrovia, lorsqu'il a lancé le rapport GHI en collaboration avec Welthungerhilfe (WHH) et Concern Worldwide. Selon le rapport GHI 2023, le Liberia se classe au 117e rang sur 125 pays, avec un score de 32,2 indiquant

une situation de faim grave. Les rapports précédents indiquent également que la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle du Liberia est mauvaise et nécessite l'attention du gouvernement.

Le retard de croissance et la malnutrition restent un défi sérieux pour le pays, selon les rapports. Le rapport GHI est publié chaque année au Liberia par WHH et Concern Worldwide pour sensibiliser à la faim dans le pays. Le rapport de cette année recommande vivement de donner la priorité à l'autonomisation des jeunes

▶ CONT'D page 9



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 **L'élection partielle au Sénat de**

Johnson, qui avait été le premier à soutenir Nya D. Twayen Jr. pour le Sénat, a ensuite fait volte-face et a changé d'allégeance en faveur du candidat du Parti d'unification du peuple (PUP), le représentant Samuel G. Kogar.

Le sénateur du comté de Nimba a alors qualifié son frère, le représentant Samuel Kogar, de la meilleure personne pour représenter les habitants du comté de Nimba.

Selon le MDR, Samuel G. Kogar, élu pour un troisième mandat en octobre 2023, est un enseignant en matière législative qui saura guider les autres législateurs.

« Cet homme, Samuel Kogar, est maintenant un enseignant qui saura guider les autres législateurs élus. Il a plus d'expérience et est bien équipé pour représenter les habitants du comté de Nimba aux niveaux local et national »,

a déclaré le sénateur autoproclamé, Prince Johnson.

Cependant, certains cadres du MDR, ainsi que ceux de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le CDC, collaborent avec le parti au pouvoir pour soutenir Nya D. Twayen Jr. au Sénat, tandis que quelques partisans du MDR, aux côtés de certains membres du CDC, se rallient au représentant Samuel Kogar.

La présence de Samuel Kogar dans la course a rendu l'élection partielle compétitive dans le comté.

Cependant, certains observateurs politiques et pessimistes prédisent une faible participation lors du scrutin de demain, invoquant un manque d'éducation civique et électorale.

Selon eux, contrairement aux élections précédentes, aucune sensibilisation n'a été menée par la Commission électorale nationale

Starts from page 8 **Boakai s'engage à réduire**

l'agriculture et les agro-entreprises pour façonner les systèmes alimentaires mondiaux.

Le directeur pays de WHH Liberia, Herbert Charles, a déclaré que les années précédentes, WHH et Concern Worldwide avaient lancé le rapport GHI au Liberia. Il a souligné que compte tenu du niveau de faim dans la plupart des pays du monde, des actions supplémentaires sont nécessaires pour améliorer l'accès à la nourriture. « Nous présentons donc également ce rapport pour guider les partenaires dans les endroits où ils travaillent en soutenant les efforts en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition », a-t-il déclaré.

Le rapport examine plusieurs indicateurs tels que le retard de croissance, la malnutrition et la mortalité infantile, entre autres. « Nous utilisons uniquement des données officielles publiées

pour montrer le taux de faim. Nous sommes très heureux que le ministère de l'Agriculture ait pu travailler avec nous et d'autres partenaires pour mener une enquête locale sur le niveau de nutrition et de faim. Mais il est clair que les résultats ne diffèrent pas de ce que nous présentons également », a-t-il ajouté.

L'institution est au Liberia pour aider le gouvernement à résoudre certains problèmes de nutrition et de santé. « Nous travaillons avec le gouvernement pour prendre des mesures face aux défis de l'alimentation et de la nutrition. Mais actuellement, nous accélérons les progrès réalisés dans l'amélioration de l'alimentation et de la nutrition », a-t-il déclaré. L'intervention vise principalement à réduire la malnutrition chez les enfants.

Selon lui, le Liberia a toutefois réalisé des progrès dans la lutte contre la mauvaise nutrition, mais les efforts d'expansion ont été faibles au fil des ans.

Ne participez pas à la corruption, exhorte le Président Pro-Tempore du Sénat aux diplômés



Nyongblee Karnga-Lawrence, Présidente Pro-Tempore du Sénat libérien, a mis en garde les diplômés du Centre de Formation Professionnelle et Domestique (BDOTC) contre la participation à la corruption qui leur a ravi des opportunités.

Le BDOTC a diplômé 18 étudiants le week-end dernier. Intervenant en tant que conférencière principale lors de la cérémonie au Complexe Sportif SKD à Paynesville, la sénatrice Karnga-Lawrence a exhorté les diplômés à ne pas tromper autrui.

« Tenez-vous responsable de faire ce qui est juste dans votre profession. Ne trompez pas autrui. Ne prenez pas de raccourcis au détriment d'autrui. Ne gérez pas mal les finances d'autrui à votre avantage », a défié la sénatrice Karnga-Lawrence aux diplômés. La sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa a en outre défié les diplômés à s'exercer quotidiennement à faire ce qui est juste et à continuer à le faire jusqu'à ce qu'ils deviennent d'excellents citoyens modèles.

Elle a souligné la nécessité de prioriser l'éducation et la formation techniques et professionnelles (EFTP) car la formation professionnelle met l'accent sur l'apprentissage par la pratique et développe une compétence chez la personne, un ensemble de compétences qui renforce la confiance en soi et l'estime de soi.

« Il y a quelques mois, nous avons utilisé l'EFTP comme message de campagne, le président a également mentionné l'EFTP comme l'un de ses engagements, et nous faisons de notre mieux en tant que Pro-Tempore du Sénat libérien pour donner plus à l'EFTP dans le budget national », a déclaré la sénatrice Karnga-Lawrence.

Elle a insisté sur le fait que l'EFTP rend une personne employable, réduisant le chômage lorsqu'il s'agit de trouver un emploi ou de gagner sa vie.

Elle a maintenu que l'EFTP permet à une personne d'être entrepreneur, exprimant sa confiance que les diplômés utiliseraient leurs nouvelles compétences pour être des citoyens innovants et productifs du pays.

« Les bonnes compétences ne vous profitent pas seulement avec une source de revenu, mais elles profitent également aux employeurs et au grand public », a-t-elle noté.

« Vous êtes maintenant employables et avec le temps, vous gagnerez un salaire pour améliorer votre vie et celle des personnes qui vous sont chères. »

« Le Libéria bénéficie car votre emploi signifie que nous aurons un Libérien au chômage en moins. »

Prenant la parole en tant que major de promotion, Victoria James a proposé la mise à disposition d'un bus de 18 places à des fins opérationnelles au BDOTC.

Elle a proposé la fourniture de matériel pratique pour tous les cours enseignés à l'institution, l'embauche d'assistants formateurs pour chaque cours et de matériel d'exposition pour la couture à envoyer après le stage comme mesures pour

répondre aux défis actuels auxquels l'institution est confrontée.

Mme James a en outre exhorté ses collègues à tirer les leçons apprises et la croissance qu'ils ont connue et à affronter l'inconnu avec confiance, sachant qu'ils ont ce qu'il faut pour gérer tout ce qui se présente à eux.

« Saisissons les opportunités qui s'offrent à nous, ayons confiance en nos capacités et soyons déterminés à laisser notre empreinte sur le monde », a-t-elle poursuivi.

Pendant ce temps, Cllr. J. Cole Bangalu, le ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports, a félicité le gouvernement du Libéria et ses partenaires, en particulier l'Union européenne, pour les nombreux efforts déployés pour réhabiliter l'installation.

« L'un des engagements des cent premiers jours du président était que le ministère soumettrait à nouveau le projet de loi sur l'EFTP qui avait été soumis il y a quelque temps après des réunions de groupes de travail techniques entre le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports et le ministère de l'Éducation », a noté Bangalu.

Bangalu a en outre remercié le personnel du BDOTC pour son engagement et son dévouement et son impact sur les jeunes du Libéria.

Il a souligné la nécessité de s'attaquer à la disparité entre les sexes entre les femmes et les filles au sein de l'institution.

Le BDOTC a été créé en 1975 sous la direction du défunt président William R. Tolbert, Jr., sous le ministère du Travail, de la Jeunesse et des Sports.

La Jeunesse et les Sports ont ensuite été extraits du Travail et promulgués en tant que ministère par la loi. Le BDOTC est l'un des bras de formation du ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports sous le département de l'EFTP.

Le centre offre une formation spécialisée en compétences aux jeunes défavorisés, en particulier aux jeunes filles et aux femmes, pour obtenir des compétences employables et auto-durables en gestion de l'hôtellerie.

Actuellement, le centre intervient pour réduire l'écart de chômage, en particulier parmi les jeunes filles et les femmes de tous les niveaux de la société.

Son objectif principal est d'introduire les stagiaires en tant que stagiaires dans diverses entités commerciales pour vivre une formation pratique sur le terrain, de développer l'esprit des jeunes, en particulier des filles et des femmes, pour être optimistes face aux défis de la vie, et de promouvoir la dignité du travail à travers la formation professionnelle.

Read the NewDawn everyday
 &
Advertise with us!

Read the NewDawn everyday
 &
Advertise with us!

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Government's restriction imposed on commercial bikes

By Naneka Hoffman

The Liberia National Police has announced restriction of commercial motorbikes from the main streets of Monrovia for public safety purposes. But commercial bike riders are unhappy about the restriction, as they explain to the NEW DAWN, Read their responses as compiled below.

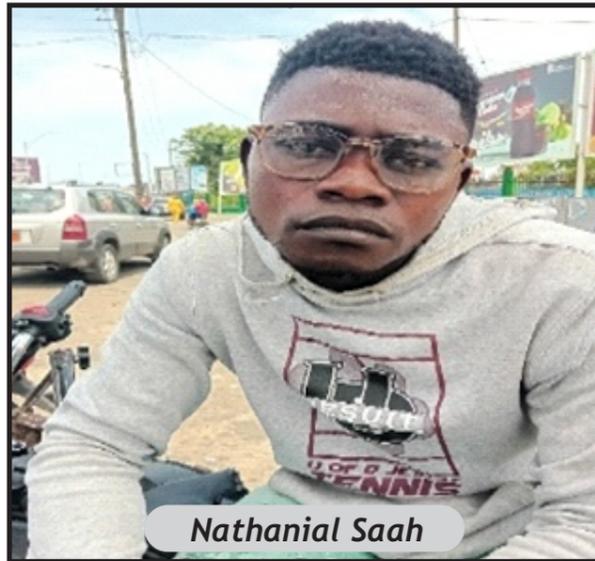


Patrick Lamie

"I can't go against the government. If the government says motorbikes will

be restricted from running in Central Monrovia, I agreed with them because they are key stakeholders. Secondly, if government even says motorbikes shouldn't run on car roads, I agreed with them because it isn't only happening in Liberia. I have been to Sierra Leone, I've been to Ivory Coast, in the capital city, I didn't see any motorbike running in the capital city, so I agree with the police spokesman."

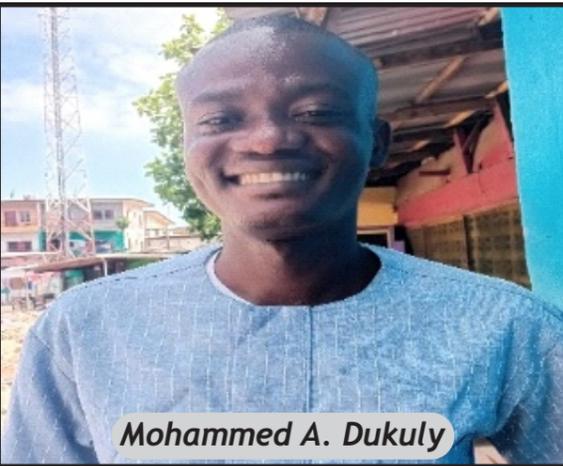
"If the police spokesman is coming up with such restriction, stopping motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, no problem but, let them give us job first, let jobs come in the country. But no job, how will we move from the street? If you go in the community to run your motorbike, you will not get the money you can get in the street. It is from this motorbike I am feeding my family, sending my children to school and paying my rental, so if the government says they are restricting motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, I will not be able to



Nathaniel Saah

get that money to support my children and myself. We the youth are many so, if the government is doing this, not me oh, but someone will be hacking people things in the street more than ever before."

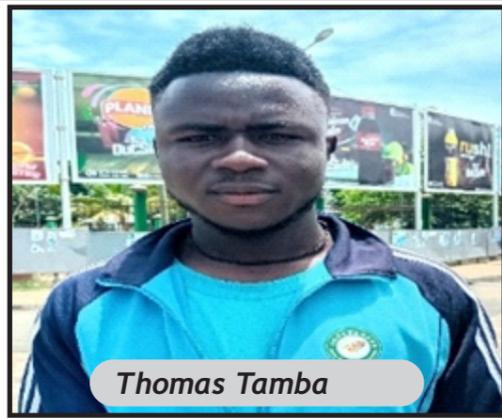
you will realize that most of the accidents that occurred are from motorbikes. We want to save lives and property; we want to have a city where there is free-flow or such a very high security rate, so looking at the rescue mission and they want to redefine course of action for the traffic in Monrovia. So we support that motorbikes should be restricted, not coming in the main street of the city but stopping in some local areas, and move ahead with their daily journey in the traffic.



Mohammed A. Dukuly

"Yes, it is timely from a security perspective, and looking at the security and the accident rate in the country, it is timely for the motorbikes to leave the street, because the data analysis about accident rate through police official data,

"For this restriction, let the police spokesman and especially the President help us. As for me, I learned trade, so how will I go beg someone to do things for me? I have to feed my family through motorbike, so if the government will be restricting motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia, then government is saying that we will be restricted from running in certain parts of the street in the capital city. How will we survival? How will we help our family? How will I hustle? My friends that are running bikes in the community are thousands and they are not making money, so if I go join them, how will we survival?"



Thomas Tamba

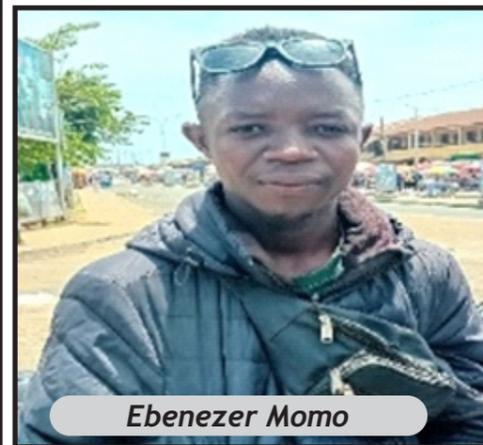
How we will get money? Traffic is not running in the community, so the government needs to find jobs for us before taking us from the street."

"Well, I don't just want to say that it isn't timely, but I would like to give a recommendation to the government, as it relates to restricting motorbikes. But before I can give that recommendation, let me just say few things: One is the issue of economic impact, motorbikes are bringing [money] to the economy. If you do a statistics, every year you have importation of motorbikes in the country that also brings money to the economy. Secondly, our citizens move from one destination to another, in times it has been helping, so let the government understands this thing first. My recommendation is that if you want motorbikes restricted in the country, you should have the standard. Example, we will reduce taxes on motorbikes and we will ensure that every bike coming in the country has helmet. The restriction

placed on motorbikes isn't timely; that is they should put some deterring measures into place, that is the issue of registration of bikes should be reduced and every motorbike must have helmet, because the government's argument is the risks, so if they put these things in place, then they can come up with it."



Marcus M. Goodridge



Ebenezer Momo

restricting motorbikes from running in Central Monrovia; for me, nobody is above the law that is the government's decision. But for me, if it happens, it will bring a lot of noise. And the restriction the government is putting in place isn't timely. We all know that it is possible for it to happen, but let the government give us chance, so like the way we put them in power for them to bring investors in the country so that the youth can get job, so the motorbikes can reduce small."

"The government talks about

*Read the
NewDawn everyday
&*

Advertise with us!

*Read the
NewDawn everyday
&*

Advertise with us!

S/Court decides on tenure case Wednesday

The Court's decision is crucial in addressing disputes surrounding the current administration's attempt to appoint new officials in tenure positions amidst claims that some tenure-serving officials from the past government engaged in active politics.

Monrovia, April 23, 2024: Liberia's Supreme Court will render its decision about tenure positions in government this Wednesday, April 24, 2024, and give opinions in other cases. The court has for several weeks been hearing multiple

or independent candidate's campaign team. The officials challenging their removal from tenured positions are the Chairman of the Governance Commission, Garrison Yealue, Reginald Nagbe, Director General of the National Lottery Authority, Edwina Zackpah,

Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has said judgments in these cases will have significant implications and are eagerly anticipated by the parties involved and the public.

According to reports, the decisions will be pivotal in shaping legal interpretations and providing clarity on the issues presented in these petitions for a writ of prohibition.

Legal pundits, the parties involved, and the public have been urged to attend the sessions where the court will decide on very sensitive issues that have dominated the polity for some time now.

The Supreme Court's rulings will be closely watched as they are expected to set precedents and clarify legal positions on the much-debated tenured matters.

It can be recalled that the Boakai-led government replaced the aggrieved officials.

The government contended that those removed from office violated their tenures when they openly and actively campaigned for the former ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

The Boakai administration said the officials' actions violated Liberia's Code of Conduct, although the affected officials denied the allegations.

Consequently, the aggrieved tenured officials ran to the Supreme Court for relief and interpretation of the tenure laws of the land.



petitions filed by some officials who have accused the new administration of removing them from their tenured positions.

Part Five Section (E) of the Code of Conduct disallows all presidential appointees from engaging in political activities, canvassing, or contesting for elected offices.

Section (C) of the same provision prohibits presidential appointees from serving on any political party's

Chairperson of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), and Prof. Wilson K Tarpeh, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

They petitioned the Supreme Court of Liberia for a Writ of Prohibition to stop the Boakai government from removing them from their respective offices in consideration that they serve for tenures.

Reports say Chief Justice

Starts from page 7 Police brutality leads to death

ground helplessly.

She details that her late uncle, still in pain after the Police had left the scene, tearfully told her and other relatives, including some neighbors, that it was because he took James in at his residence that's why the Police flogged them.

According to her, the late Mr. Freeman had detailed that before his death, James Boima, alias "Papay," had come early Wednesday, knocking on his door to spend the morning with him because there was conflict between him and his girlfriend, Ruth David.

"We were sleeping when the officers came at 2:00 am, and when we heard the sound, a few persons came outside, and one was me, who heard the sound at my uncle's door. And before I could leave my room to come, the Police drove out on the motorbike with my brother handcuffed, while my uncle, Mr. Freeman, was lying helpless", she narrates.

Hawa continues that when day broke, the late Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman told her and other neighbors that he was

experiencing severe pain from the beating by the Police and needed to be taken to the hospital, adding "It was by then he starting breathing bit by bit, and we rushed him from one clinic to another; first to the Afro-Medical Clinic, later the Lofa Eyes Clinic in Jacob, Benson Hospital in Duport road, but they all rejected him, so we took him at the ELWA Hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival."

They have killed him; he bled to death, with fumes oozing from his nose; the Police are evil and wicked; they killed an innocent man, and we need justice", she laments.

Fatu Boima, mother of the deceased, was speechless but told reporters, "Journalists, you see it oh-oo. The Police have killed my son; what has he done to deserve being killed?" They beat him to death; ah God, my son. Justice, oh-oo, Justice."

Police Spokesman Moses

Carter (102) confirmed the incident and said the Liberia National Police (LNP) is investigating the situation.

Mr. Carter did not provide details about the officers involved but refuted the claim that they were seven Police officers of the Jacob Town Depot. According to him, there were rather four officers.

Meanwhile, Austine's death has sparked outrage in the community, as residents are demanding a thorough investigation into the incident so that Justice may be served. Many are calling for transparency and swift action to address police misconduct and protect the rights of citizens.

At the same time, Montserrado County District# 5 Representative Priscilla Cooper has vowed to pursue the case to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice. The body of the late Freeman has since been deposited at Abraham Roberts Funeral home opposite Stephen Tolbert Estate in Gardnersville. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from back page Revealed: I. Coast exporting

as intermediaries between small, poorly paid cocoa farmers and retailers.

This world has long been impenetrable, with one major consequence: thousands of hectares of forest have been destroyed to make way for cocoa plantations.

Now, the EU has taken a decisive step with the adoption in June 2023 of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) for products linked to deforestation and forest degradation. As of December 2024, it will be illegal to import and market cocoa beans that, after 2020, were harvested on plots of land deforested to create plantations.

This regulation presents a unique opportunity to address the historical problems of deforestation in the cocoa sector, which the industry and certification systems have never been able to resolve on a voluntary basis.

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa (source: FAO), with 75 percent of its production absorbed within Europe as its single privileged consumer, including 90 percent of France's imports and 70 percent of Germany's.

However, for years, cocoa plantations have been developed at the expense of forests, contributing significantly to their destruction.

As land becomes less productive, farmers clear another area of forest, replanting it with cocoa trees. The figures speak for themselves: with 16 million hectares at the beginning of the 20th century (source: REDD+), by 1986 Côte d'Ivoire's forests had shrunk to 7.85 million hectares. By 2020, when the government clamped down, a mere 2.9 million hectares remained.

As the investigation shows, the situation is driving Ivorian growers to migrate to the fertile lands of neighboring Liberia, home to more than half of West Africa's remaining tropical forests.

In the three Liberian villages that were the focus of the report, residents stated that, with this migration, no fewer

than "183 producers have settled in recent years, 60 between December 2023 and January 2024 alone."

Not only is there new deforestation taking place, but there is also a lack of infrastructure in Liberia for growers to export their beans. As a result, once harvested, the cocoa beans are carried back to Côte d'Ivoire on people's backs.

The investigators found that Liberian beans were easily mixed with local product, indiscriminately filling bags intended for ordinary sale as well as those destined for export and certified accordingly. This undermines a system meant to prevent cheating and the importing of beans from other countries.

The traceability system established by the Côte d'Ivoire government is therefore indispensable. By mapping all production plots and having a complete overview of their use, the national system should prevent cheating. At present, because of multiple systems in use, a single plot can repeatedly be designated as a production source, thereby 'laundering' cocoa beans produced through deforestation in Liberia.

The investigators also call on the EU to put in place robust controls as part of the due diligence required by EUDR to help curb this.

"The cocoa industry has pledged to end deforestation, but our investigation shows that this is still not happening. EU regulation on deforestation represents a historic opportunity to finally honor the commitment," said Bakary Traoré. "The best way to achieve it is to implement a national traceability system covering the entire sector, rather than rely on a piecemeal approach by individual companies. We call on traders, certifiers, and the major chocolate companies to join the conversation and commit to a national traceability system in Côte d'Ivoire."

"Many companies claim to be acting to improve cocoa's sustainability, but our investigation shows that the reality on the ground is very different from that projected by big PR campaigns targeting European consumers," Traoré added. "In fact, the large companies are afraid of losing their edge and their access to cheap cocoa. They're doing very well from the inefficient system that has been used so far, and which only produces poverty for millions of producers. This cannot go on."

Starts from page 7 St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital accused

Madam Wisseh reveals that she paid for three days' services for her father to be kept in the Private Ward and given urgent attention and medication but to her disbelief, he wasn't given immediate attention despite fees paid.

When the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital Administration was contacted, the hospital director, Bro. Peter L. Dawoh, confirmed the death but said the hospital wouldn't discuss the

situation via interview.

Instead, he asked the press to reserve publication for 24 hours, as Administration of the hospital was exploring possibility to investigate doctors and nurses, who attended to the late Mr. Juwle prior to his death.

A day later, Bro Dawoh indicated that the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital would comment on the matter only through its legal team. Editing by Jonathan Browne

I. Coast cocoa trade destroying Liberian forest-report

An investigation by Côte d'Ivoire NGO, suggests that the European Union law on deforestation urgently needs to be implemented to strengthen supply chain traceability mechanisms significantly.

+225 07 49 10 21 93 / bakary.traore@ongidef.org

By Bakary Traoré
BRUSSELS, April 22, 2024 - At a major event which took place on Monday, April 22, 2024, in Brussels, the authors of an investigation reveal that

traceability mechanisms used by these companies are flawed and do not comply with the new anti-deforestation regulation published on June 9, 2023, in the Official Journal of the European Union. The



companies sourcing cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire are promoting the destruction of forests in neighbouring Liberia. The conclusions of the field investigation presented by IDEF representative Bakary Traoré highlight that the

investigators argue that these mechanisms should be replaced by the robust and transparent national traceability system now in place in Côte d'Ivoire. "Work is currently underway in Côte d'Ivoire to set up a

national traceability system. Under this system, all plots of land in Côte d'Ivoire will be geolocated, and producers will be registered. A map of producers, including a barcode system, will also indicate what individual farms are able to produce and track their sales. Our investigation shows the importance of speeding up the work begun by the Ivorian authorities," explains Bakary Traoré, Executive Director of the Ivorian NGO (IDEF) and the report's main author.

"Current traceability systems were set up by the chocolate companies and are controlled by them. They are not transparent, and our investigation found them to be flawed. To resolve the problem and comply with new European regulations, traders in raw materials will have to change their approach."

Demand for cocoa beans is booming around the world. Before these beans can be transformed into silver- or gold-leafed chocolates for the pleasure of billions of consumers, they have to pass through a complex market made up of a variety of parties acting

▶ CONT'D page 11

Logos: 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