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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024	L\$192.4513/US\$1.00	L\$194.1741/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.

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Boakai ambushes LTA

P11



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Continental News

Burkina Faso rejects 'baseless accusations' that soldiers massacred 223 villagers

Burkina Faso has rejected "baseless accusations" that soldiers massacred 223 people in attacks in February. A Human Rights Watch report alleged the army killed

Emmanuel Ouedraogo said in a statement late on Saturday. The minister also expressed his surprise that "while this inquiry is under way to establish the facts and identify the authors, HRW has been able, with boundless

against humanity". Villagers who survived the attack told HRW that a military convoy of more than 100 soldiers descended on Nondin village, about 30 minutes after Islamist fighters passed nearby. The soldiers went door-to-door, ejecting residents from their homes.

"They then rounded up villagers in groups before opening fire on them," the report added, citing witness and survivor accounts.

The soldiers arrived in Soro, about 5km (3 miles) away, an hour later, also gathering and shooting at villagers, the survivors added. In both villages, the soldiers also shot at those who attempted to hide or escape, witnesses said.

The alleged mass killings are believed to be retaliation by the military, which accused the villagers of aiding armed Islamist fighters.

They followed an attack by Islamist fighters on a nearby military camp in the northern Yatenga province. A survivor was quoted as saying that before the shootings, the soldiers accused the residents of failing to cooperate with them by not informing them of the movements of the Islamist fighters. BBC

African farmers look to the past and the future to address climate change

From ancient fertilizer methods in Zimbabwe to new greenhouse technology in Somalia, farmers across the heavily agriculture-reliant African continent are looking to the past and future to respond to climate change.

Africa, with the world's youngest population, faces the worst effects of a warming planet while contributing the least to the problem. Farmers are scrambling to make sure the booming population is fed.

With more than 60% of the world's uncultivated land, Africa should be able to feed itself, some experts say. And yet three in four people across the continent cannot afford a healthy diet, according to a report last year by the African Union and United Nations agencies. Reasons include conflict and lack of investment.

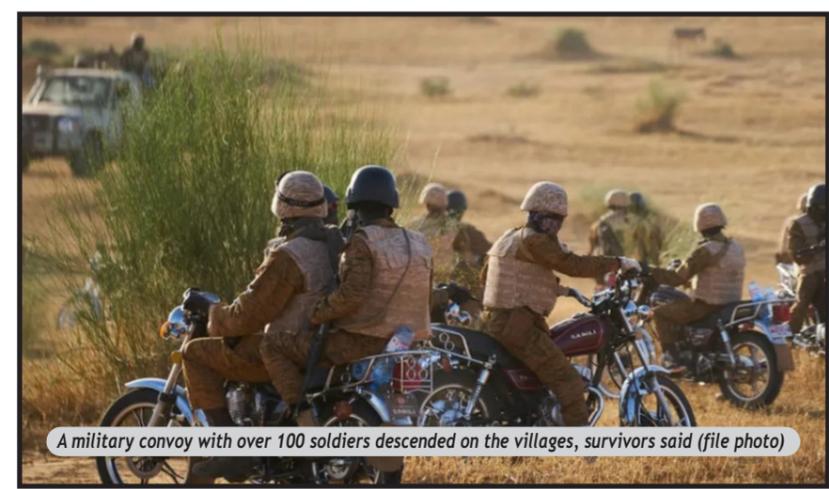
In Zimbabwe, where the El Nino phenomenon has worsened a drought, small-

compounding much of sub-Saharan Africa's longstanding problem of poor soil fertility, said Wonder Ngezimana, an associate professor of crop science at Zimbabwe's Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

"The combination is forcing people to re-look at how things were done in the past like nutrient recycling, but also blending these with modern methods," said Ngezimana, whose institution is researching the combination of traditional practices with new technologies.

Apart from being rich in nitrogen, organic fertilizers help increase the soil's carbon and ability to retain moisture, Ngezimana said. "Even if a farmer puts synthetic fertilizer into the soil, they are likely to suffer the consequences of poor moisture as long as there is a drought," he said.

Other moves to traditional practices are under way. Drought-resistant millets, sorghum and



A military convoy with over 100 soldiers descended on the villages, survivors said (file photo)

179 people in Soro village and 44 others in Nondin, at least 56 of who were children, on 25 February. The NGO said this was "among the worst army abuse" incidents in the country in nearly a decade.

Burkinabè authorities said they had opened a legal inquiry to "establish the facts" and condemned HRW's report.

"The government of Burkina Faso strongly rejects and condemns such baseless accusations," communications minister Rimalba Jean

imagination, to identify 'the guilty' and pronounce its verdict".

Earlier this week, officials in the military-ruled country suspended the BBC and US public broadcaster Voice of America over their coverage of the HRW report.

Two hundred killed by Burkina Faso army - report

In a statement released on Thursday, HRW said the alleged mass killings "appear to be part of a widespread military campaign against civilians accused of collaborating with Islamist armed groups, and may amount to crimes

Power restored to Sierra Leone as minister quits

Electricity supplies have been restored to Sierra Leone following weeks of power cuts, after it paid off part of the \$48m (£38m) bill it owed to a Turkish company. The \$18m payment came as the country's energy minister resigned, saying he took full responsibility for the crisis. Most electricity supplies to the capital, Freetown, come from a Turkish ship anchored off the country's coast.

Last week, Karpowership said it had severely cut supplies to the city - from 60 megawatts to 6 megawatts - because of the unpaid bills, but the disruption has been going on for far longer.

Residents of the country's main cities have been going for days on end without any power and hospitals have also been affected. The Reuters news agency quotes a doctor as saying that at least one infant has died because of a lack of power, while medics have been using mobile phones to provide light as they carry out procedures.

Before supplies were restored, Fatmata Gassim, a second-year engineering student in Freetown, told the BBC's What in the World

podcast of her frustration at the lack of power. "How do you iron your clothes, how do you make your food, how do you go to sleep? We pay our electricity bills so I don't see why we should be forced to live like this," she said.

Following the resignation of Kanja Sesay, the office of President Julius Maada Bio said the energy ministry would now fall under the direct supervision of the president.

Karpowership previously cut supplies to Sierra Leone in September over unpaid bills.

It is one of the world's biggest floating power plant operators, with several African states relying

on it for electricity.

In October, it briefly cut power to Guinea-Bissau, saying it had no option "following a protracted period of non-payment".

The power ships work by converting gas into electricity, which is then fed into the national grid.

Although access to electricity has increased in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, it still remains low, with more than 50% of the region's population having no grid connection, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). BBC



Farmers sort out climate-smart beans in Machakos, Kenya, March 18, 2024. From ancient fertilizer methods in Zimbabwe to new greenhouse technology in Somalia, farmers are looking both to the past and future to respond to climate change.

scale farmer James Tshuma has lost hope of harvesting anything from his fields. It's a familiar story in much of the country, where the government has declared a \$2 billion state of emergency and millions of people face hunger.

But a patch of green vegetables is thriving in a small garden the 65-year-old Tshuma is keeping alive with homemade organic manure and fertilizer. Previously discarded items have again become priceless.

"This is how our fathers and forefathers used to feed the Earth and themselves before the introduction of chemicals and inorganic fertilizers," Tshuma said.

He applies livestock droppings, grass, plant residue, remains of small animals, tree leaves and bark, food scraps and other biodegradable items like paper. Even the bones of animals that are dying in increasing numbers due to the drought are burned before being crushed into ash for their calcium.

Climate change is

legumes, staples until the early 20th century when they were overtaken by exotic white corn, have been taking up more land space in recent years.

Leaves of drought-resistant plants that were once a regular dish before being cast off as weeds are returning to dinner tables. They even appear on elite supermarket shelves and are served at classy restaurants, as are millet and sorghum.

This could create markets for the crops even beyond drought years, Ngezimana said.

In conflict-prone Somalia in East Africa, greenhouses are changing the way some people live, with shoppers filling up carts with locally produced vegetables and traditionally nomadic pastoralists under pressure to settle down and grow crops.

"They are organic, fresh and healthy," shopper Sucdi Hassan said in the capital, Mogadishu. "Knowing that they come from our local farms makes us feel secure."

Her new shopping experience is a sign of relative calm after three decades of conflict and the climate shocks of drought and flooding. VOA



Schoolchildren have been studying by candlelight (file photo)

EDITORIAL

Boakai's appointees acting at LTA is unnecessary

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. suspended all 5 members of the Board of Commissioners of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) over the weekend and has reportedly sent in his appointees to act pending an audit of the entity. The President has requested for the following a status report from the suspended Board.

This is happening so when the President has tried unsuccessfully to replace the commissioners, who hold or occupy tenure positions, especially after the Supreme Court of Liberia ruled last week Thursday that such move by the President violated their rights.

But President Boakai hurried moved a day after and suspended the commissioners, sending in has wanted to replace them with to act, pending the audit.

We thing that while it is within the purview or power to appoint, suspend or dismiss any official of government whether said person holds tenure position or not, but to proceed as he is doing right now gives an impression of witch-hunt, particularly by sending in his choice of persons for those offices to act, pending outcome of the suspension.

Rather than President Boakai sending in his men to act, while investigation is ongoing, we think it would have been appropriate to ask deputies of those commissioners to act instead, pending full investigation. This was not done. Rather, a confidence crisis is being created by sending in confidants of the President's, who by any measure would find it very difficult, if not impossible, to work with staffers left in those offices, who have been working with those that were suspended.

The point is, if President Boakai does not want the current LTA Board of Commissioners, as it is being indicated, he may remove them by directly engaging them about their salaries and benefits, as enshrined in the law, given that their tenures have not expired, and how they could be paid. But he wants them out immediately, so that his loyalists can go in.

From all indications, the President is resolved in getting the commissioners out of office at all cost, even thru unorthodox means, especially when he lacks the legal power to do so, as the Supreme Court has ruled. So where are we heading, if this is not a witch-hunt?

Those our brothers and sisters from the ruling Unity Party or he rescue team that are being pushed to the LTA should think of tomorrow. "Time trap", it is said, "is not for rate alone." There is another day after the Boakai era. It does not make any good sense to smoke one group of Liberians out of public service just to replace them with another. There must be clear and tangible cause.

It was in this vein unfortunately, that riot Police officers, fully armed, went to the LTA on Friday and psychologically terrorized a female staff of the entity and her daughter, who is a minor, with explanation that had mandate to inspect the lady's private vehicle for whatever reason without a search warrant from the court. That was wronged, totally wronged!

This lady's only crime was being an analyst in the office of one of the suspended commissioners. And the Police found nothing suspicious with her, leaving her and the innocent minor with psychological and mental torture.

We take this time to caution President Boakai to proceed circumspectly as he continues with the formation of his government to avoid putting one group of Liberians against another group of citizens just for the sake of jobs, because we are all one irrespective of party politics.

COMMENTARY

By Ifeanyi M. Nsofor

Governments Must Step Up to Prevent Cervical Cancer

SILVER SPRING - Jessica Pettway, a YouTube fashion and lifestyle influencer, died this month from cervical cancer at the age of 36. Her untimely death - and those of countless other women - probably could have been prevented, thanks to an effective vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV), which is responsible for about 95% of cervical cancers. But not nearly enough people are getting it.

A recent Public Health Scotland study shows just how effective the HPV vaccine is at preventing cervical cancer. Among the 40,000 women born between 1988 and 1996 who received the vaccine before turning 14, there has not been a single case of cervical cancer. This includes women who received only one or two doses, rather than the full three-dose protocol.

The implication is clear: if all eligible girls and women are vaccinated globally, we could eliminate nearly all cervical cancers.

It is not just women who benefit from the HPV vaccine. Beyond cervical cancer, the vaccine protects against cancers of the head, neck, anus, penis, vagina, and vulva. Moreover, because HPV is typically transmitted sexually, protecting boys also means protecting girls. That is why all girls and boys aged 9-14 years - and, ideally, women and men until the age of 45 - should be getting the vaccine.

The good news is that HPV-vaccine programs have been introduced in many countries across the Global North, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Moreover, the Global South is starting to catch up: last year, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Eswatini, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Togo added the HPV vaccine to their immunization schedules. But eliminating cervical cancer will require governments everywhere to get on board.

The top priority for effective HPV-vaccination programs is to vaccinate girls before they become sexually active - the recommended age is 9-14 years.

School-based programs are a good place to start, but in many countries, one cannot expect all - or even most - girls to be in school. Nigeria, for example, has more than 12 million out-of-school children, some 60% of whom are girls.

Given this, governments must work with community leaders, community-based organizations, and community health workers to take HPV vaccine to people where they live.

But ensuring that girls get vaccinated is not just a logistical challenge; there is also an important social component. A

recent Behavioral Insights Lab survey, in which I was principal investigator, showed that just 60% of the male and female caregivers of girls aged 9-17 across six states in Nigeria would be willing to have these children vaccinated.

Community perceptions were a major determinant of respondents' stances on the vaccine. Most caregivers (72%) reported that they were very likely to discuss HPV vaccination with their family and friends, and those who perceived that their family and friends supported it were more likely to believe that their female child would get vaccinated. We thus concluded that interventions that leverage positive family and peer influences and encourage discussion of HPV vaccination within caregivers' social networks are likely to boost vaccine uptake.

Knowledge about the HPV vaccine also makes a big difference, though the type of messaging used in any educational campaign is crucial. Depending on the context, a focus on the vaccine's general health benefits, rather than its role in preventing sexually transmitted infections, can help to reduce stigma. In our study, caregivers were 30% more likely to have their child vaccinated against HPV if they were exposed to messaging emphasizing the vaccine's positive effect on girls' future prospects.

And, again, vaccination programs must not neglect boys, for whom the vaccine also represents a cost-effective - and potentially life-saving - intervention.

Countries where HPV vaccines are already approved for males - including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Korea, Switzerland, the UK, and the US - should be leading the way. The US Centers for Disease Control recommends boys get the HPV vaccine between the ages of 11 and 12.

People who were not vaccinated in adolescence should also have access to the vaccine. In the Scotland study, women who received the three-dose protocol between the ages of 14 and 22 had significantly reduced incidence of cervical cancer compared to the unvaccinated.

In fact, one can receive the HPV vaccine until age 45. (It is unclear whether the vaccine can help those older than 45 - who are likely to have been exposed to HPV already - not least because it takes a while for cervical cancer to develop.)

No one should die from a vaccine-preventable cancer. It is too late to save Jessica, but we can honor her memory - and those of all the people who have died of HPV-linked cancers - by radically expanding access to HPV vaccination.

OP-ED

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Navigating Major Transitions in an Uncertain Economy

CAMBRIDGE - Once again, US economic and market forecasters are having a difficult time. Worse, while 2023 surprised on the upside, the deviation from projections in 2024 could be much less favorable.

Recall the start of 2023. Forecasters had overwhelmingly anticipated a difficult year for economic growth, and that this would translate into even more losses for the diversified-portfolio investors who had already suffered one of the worst years on record in 2022. In a now famous October 2022 headline, Bloomberg warned: "Forecast for US Recession Within Year Hits 100% in Blow to Biden."

The prediction of a 2023 recession proved correct, but only for Germany and the United Kingdom, not the United States. The contrast was stunning. While the first two countries experienced two quarters of negative growth in the second half of the year, the US economy grew at an annualized rate of around 4%. Meanwhile, the worrisome investment losses incurred earlier in the year yielded to handsome gains overall, owing to the dramatic turnaround in October for both stocks and bonds.

Chastened by that experience, most forecasters entered 2024 with quite a rosy outlook, anticipating that America's growth exceptionalism would continue, as would solid investment returns. Yet the growth data for the first quarter came below the consensus forecast, and inflation has proved stickier than many expected.

The difficulties facing forecasters are complicated by two broader phenomena that could last for years. These can be placed in two categories: transitions and divergences. Many advanced economies have embarked on a transition from a world of deregulation, liberalization, and fiscal prudence to one oriented around industrial policy, renewed regulation, and sustained budget deficits on a scale that would have been unthinkable previously.

Moreover, these economies' policies are becoming more differentiated, whereas previously they represented common responses to common shocks. Internationally, globalization is giving way to fragmentation. All this is happening at a time when economies around the world will have different sensitivities to transformational innovations in artificial intelligence, life sciences, sustainable energy, and other fields, as well as to geopolitical conflicts and trends. Moreover, some countries are much more flexible than others when it comes to adjusting factors of production and introducing policy measures to enhance productivity in the face of changing circumstances.

In the absence of common policy commitments and external sources of convergence, the world will be subject to a much wider range of outcomes, on top of potentially more frequent and violent shocks. But this is also a world that, if navigated well, could deliver better long-term productivity-driven growth outcomes that are also more inclusive and respectful of planetary limits.

Three issues are key to deciphering what 2024-25 will hold for the US economy, which is now the sole major engine of global growth: the Federal Reserve's reaction function; the resilience of lower-income consumers; and the balance between productivity-boosting innovations and political/social/geopolitical headwinds.

Sticky inflation combined with slower growth will put the Fed between a rock and a hard place. Faced with growth uncertainties and the new global paradigm of insufficiently flexible aggregate supply, the Fed will need to decide whether to stick with its 2% inflation target or allow for a slightly higher one, at least for now.

The future of American growth exceptionalism also will depend to a considerable degree on lower-income consumers. These households' balance sheets have been deteriorating as pandemic-era savings and stimulus payments have been drawn down, and as credit-card debt has risen. Given high interest rates and some creditors' loss of enthusiasm, this cohort's willingness to consume will hinge on whether the labor market remains tight.

The third factor relates to the tensions between exciting innovations and a fragile political and geopolitical landscape, which makes this the most difficult area in which to offer high-confidence forecasts.

While technological advances promise a new favorable supply shock that could unlock higher growth and drive down inflation, geopolitical developments could do the opposite, as well as limit the scope for macroeconomic policy. Just consider the stagflationary consequences of a geopolitical shock that sends oil above \$100 per barrel, or of a further deterioration in China-US relations. It is easy to imagine how today's "stable disequilibrium" could give way to a more volatile disequilibrium, which would then fuel financial instability.

Sustained US growth is especially important at this juncture because China and Europe have yet to re-establish their own growth momentum, and because "swing countries" like India and Saudi Arabia are not yet in a position to substitute for these alternative global growth engines. (The same goes for Japan, even though its economy and policy mix are in the best place they have been in decades.)

From a sectoral perspective, growth for the next few years will be driven mainly by technological innovations and the economic, social, and political forces they engender. Generative AI, life sciences, and sustainable energy will bring a wide range of reactions at the company level, and sectors such as traditional defense, health care, and cyber security will also be ones to watch.

Despite the many uncertainties, I will stick my neck out and offer some illustrative probabilities: I put the chance of a US soft landing at around 50%; the probability of a (misleadingly named) "no landing" - higher growth with no additional inflationary pressures and genuine financial stability - at around 15%; and the chance of recession and new threats of financial instability at 35%.

Or, for those who prefer images to numbers, picture a bumpy, winding road that could well lead to a desirable destination in the long term. It is being traveled by cars whose engines and drivers vary widely in quality and in their stocks of spare tires; and those drivers must also interact with regulators who are still trying to figure out what the rules of the road should be.

While economic fundamentals, finance, and policymaking obviously will bear on the growth outlook for 2024-25, geopolitics and national politics will have a much bigger impact than in prior years. A world of inherently uncertain transitions and divergences calls for more granular analysis, a proper balance of resilience and agility, and an open mind.

OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato and David Eaves

Central Banks in a Cashless World

LONDON - Economics has always had a strange and much-debated relationship with money. For a long time, economists - including Nobel laureates like Merton Miller and Franco Modigliani - regarded money merely as a medium of exchange. But by building on the work of John Maynard Keynes and Hyman Minsky, economists have since moved beyond a narrow focus on the quantity of money to consider its structural influence on the real economy and the financial system.

A structural understanding of money and finance becomes even more important in an increasingly digitalized and cashless world, because there is a growing need for policymakers to operate not just as market fixers but as proactive market shapers. A cashless world not only changes people's relationship with money and creates new opportunities for how it is managed or even conceived; it also puts new pressure on central banks to reimagine their role and become more innovative.

While plenty of attention has been devoted to experiments with central bank digital currencies, an even more important intervention is to create and shape a new digital infrastructure around interoperable payment systems. Given the structural component of capital, this can increase bank competition, inclusion, and accessibility, and possibly offer new tools for managing economies in the face of crises.

Cashless transactions are growing faster than ever as reliance on physical cash declines. Consumers, businesses, and governments clearly prefer cashless technology's cost-effectiveness and ease of use. Tap-based payment systems, once confined to the realm of tech-savvy urbanites, now pervade even the most rudimentary economies. Interoperable payment systems are quickly emerging as the core economic infrastructure of the digital-era economy, marking a departure from the past 2,000 years of government-issued physical cash.

As with all technological change, this one is not neutral. It has a momentum of its own, and if policymakers do not direct it in the public interest, it could lead to deeper forms of exclusion and other structural problems across the economy. For example, digital payments systems in many countries are not interoperable, which means that the owners can determine who gets access and thereby extract undue rents. Those already on the margins are then pushed further outside the cashless world or, worse, outside the formal economy altogether.

Here, a central bank can serve as more than just a regulator, by influencing or even creating shared infrastructure. It can not only reduce the costs of digital transactions but also create new opportunities to improve efficiency and financial inclusion for those on the fringes of the formal economy. That is what India has done with UPI, an interoperable digital payments infrastructure that has been strongly shaped by the central bank.

It is also what Brazil has done with its Pix system, an interoperable instant-payment service that allows individuals and businesses to send and receive money at any time of day, usually for free or at very low cost. According to the Brazilian Central Bank (BCB), Pix is now the country's most popular payment method, surpassing credit and debit cards and other transfer methods rivaling cash. Over 66% of the population uses it.

This may sound like a typical fintech success story. Yet it was the BCB that stepped in proactively to build Pix, after it realized that private players would not make their systems interoperable on their own. Before Pix, each financial institution used its own transaction system and set its own fees. But now the competition has shifted away from fees to focus on the quality and quantity of services that financial institutions offer. Pix, as infrastructure, is delivering real, direct savings for consumers, and supporting inclusion and accessibility.

By driving this change, the BCB is helping to shape a much larger trend toward serving the common good. When a common-good framework becomes the foundation for most economic activities, there will be many more opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and co-investment between governments, private companies, civil society, and international organizations.

Of course, this role for central banks challenges the traditional view that they are regulation-oriented market fixers that should focus only on guaranteeing financial stability, thus leaving questions of equity, access, and inclusion to the private sector. The public sector has long been assigned the task of merely de-risking the value creators, not taking risks or creating value itself. It is seen as a lender of last resort, not an investor of first resort.

This narrow view of the state's role in wealth creation has limited policymakers' understanding of the range of tools and instruments they have for catalyzing sustainable economic growth. Although ensuring the financial system's stability will remain essential, Brazil and India's market-shaping efforts around interoperable payment infrastructure demonstrate that central banks have the tools to do more for the common good.

In the United Kingdom, the Bank of England's newly declared secondary objective is to facilitate innovation in providing financial-market infrastructure services when it exercises its powers as a regulator. It seems the appetite for more ambitious market-shaping may be spreading. We certainly hope so, because bringing about an equitable future will require more ambitious central banks.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All. David Eaves is Co-Deputy Director and Associate Professor of Digital Government at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Liberia: 176 years on, nothing has changed

Liberia is sui generis (a Latin phrase meaning one of a kind). Despite its unique history as the first independent African nation on the continent, its political leaders have often appeared less intent in terms of development and modernization compared to leaders elsewhere on the continent.

Leaders since independence, have not been able to develop the country's rich natural resources to maximize same for the development of the country, rather they have used it wastefully to their advantage, while the bulk of the population watches on as spectators.

Liberia's political system remains repletely ingrained with sycophants being the architects of the imperial presidency 176 years on-nothing has changed.

All officials have done over time and continue to do today is to maintain their relevance in the existing political system and their place within it- nothing more. It's the proximity to power. There is absolutely nothing new, it has been the same trend years in and years out.

No one leader has been able to crack the code for Liberia's development and modernization, simply because his or her immediate lieutenants have always come with their own agendas while blindfolding him or her into thinking that all is well with the citizens.

A dramatic story is told of President William V.S. Tubman, who for fear of flights often chose to travel by sea. Just as is being done today every cabinet official and their deputies want to be where the president is, so it was back then, nothing has changed.

But here is the story. So, on this day, Tubman and his officials were sailing on one of his Yachts, from Monrovia to Maryland. They had picked up officials from Marshall, now annexed by Margibi County thru to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, and were headed to Harper.

While they were sailing Tubman came on the deck to view the sea and in the process, the breeze took his hat off his head and threw it in the sea. When his officials saw it, they all began to tip their hats one by one for the breeze to throw it into the sea, and one by one all their hats were thrown into the sea. When President Tubman turned around and saw what had happened, he had a new sense of his authority.

Tubman, before ascending to the Presidency had been living in his native Maryland County from where he had usually set sail in boats to Monrovia as an Associate Justice at the time before his preferment by President Barclay. Before Barclay's arrangement, Tubman was not a regular Monrovia politician.

However, the systemic sycophantic behaviors of appointed officials in government only emboldened Tubman. As the story goes, when Tubman noticed that his officials intentionally threw away their hats to be in sync with him, he began to sense how powerful he had become as a president.

Tubman, for example, would take a nap and wake up in his under T-shirt, his cabinet members around would all remove their coats, shirts, and ties to be in sync with him.

This behavior that everything the president does is a trend within his official circle is not new. President William R. Tolbert came on the scene with higher height suit, and his appointed officials followed, Samuel K. Doe, Charles G. Taylor, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and now President Weah with a pro-poor which became very popular during the early days of his six-year reign.

Sure, nothing has changed from officials wanting to be eye servants rather than doing the job for which they were appointed. Rather, they fight to be in line with the president's trend, that they can siphon state resources with impunity, while the country lags in development and modernization.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Equality Before the Law- A Call for Liberian Justice

By: Austin S Fallah True Son of Liberia, Africa, and the Planet Soil.

In our increasingly interdependent and complex world, the principle of law must be established as an imperishable bulwark against not only the offenses of individual criminals but also those of powerful entities and individuals who wield influence.

This parley argues that no one person or group should have the privilege to defy the constitution, specifically within the context of Liberia.

All individuals, irrespective of their status, wealth, or influence, should strictly adhere to the laws of Liberia. Echoing the universal principle of equality before the law, these stipulations are the underpinnings that secure the threads of justice in the Liberian fabric.

As Liberia continues to rebuild, post its prolonged civil strife, the nation must confront inherent structural injustices that permeate through its societal fabric to stabilize law and order.

To maintain its sovereignty, the enforcement of the law must be indiscriminate, impartial, and comprehensive, vetting even the highest echelons of Liberian leadership.

Discretionary law enforcement functions as a dual-edged sword. On one hand, it is necessary to maintain order, while on the other hand, it can potentially corrupt the justice system by placing undue power in the hands of individuals.

This necessitates clear demarcations between civil and criminal actions.

The power to order arrests should not reside in personal quarrels but should stem from systematic investigations reinforcing court rulings.

Without these boundaries, Liberia risks descending into chaos colored by power games and personal vendettas.

The undue use of police power to satisfy personal feuds not only undermines the justice system but also puts immense psychological pressure on the debtor, contravening the norms of a civilized society. To counteract this, the police force's role needs urgent redefinition and reorientation.

They should serve as protectors of the common Liberian citizen, ensuring everyone's rights are upheld and safeguarded.

At the same time, any directive to arrest without court sanction must be viewed as an encroachment on police duties.

Instead of falling victim to such manipulations, law enforcement should be equipped and mandated to arrest those individuals who order such illegal arrests, breaking the cycle of abuse of power in Liberia.

Dismantling the edifice of power dynamics plaguing the Liberian society begins with the just dispensation of law, regardless of class, wealth, or governmental status.

The idea that justice need not be a luxury for the affluent or government officials but a fabric of everyday life for every Liberian citizen resonates strongly and clearly.

For a long time, Liberia's justice system has been skewed towards the rich and influential, creating a haven for illegal activities and fostering resentment and disillusionment among citizens.

This adda is a clarion call to rectify this disparity by ensuring that justice is not exclusively a rich man's privilege but an everyday reality for every Liberian citizen.

The need for justice to be dispensed fairly, impartially, and without fear or favor is critical for Liberia's journey toward lasting peace and sustainability.

Comprehensive legal reform, coupled with citizen-driven governance, would ensure that no individual or group is above the law.

This stance not only strengthens society's moral fabric but also instills a sense of ownership, accountability, and respect for the law among citizens.

The age-old dictum, "Justice should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done", must resonate in every corner of Liberia.

True equality before the law, the bedrock of any just society, must prevail.

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IDAD organizes national-level inception meetings on key policies and legislation

The high-level gathering was intended to discuss key issues relating to the 2018 Local Government Act, the Revenue Sharing Act of 2021, and the National Reconciliation Plan.

Monrovia, April 28, 2024: The Institute for Democratic Action & Development, (IDAD) has organized a one-day national-level inception meeting at a hotel in Monrovia.

The event, which took representatives from the Ministry of Justice, and Civil Society Organizations, working on decentralization, development partners, and relevant diplomatic missions. The essence of the high-level gathering was to discuss key issues relating to the 2018 Local Government Act, (LGA),



place recently, brought together Representatives from the Legislature, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Liberia Revenue Authority. Others came from the National Traditional Council, the Ministry of State and Presidential Affairs, the Law Reform Commission, the Ministry of Gender, and the Governance Commission. Also in attendance were

the Revenue Sharing Act of 2021 (RSA), and the National Reconciliation Plan. During the meeting, stakeholders highlighted the significance of the key legal instruments and derived recommendations for reform and implementation. The Executive Director of IDAD, Joseph Cheayan, provided the overview of the project and targeted legislation.

For his part, the Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, Cllr. Boakai Kanneh mentioned that the laws are yet to be implemented.

Cllr. Kanneh mentioned that the lack of infrastructure and capacity development is impeding the decentralization processes in the country relative to the full implementation of the Local Government Act.

The Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission pointed out that the 10-year period provided is insufficient for the realization of the Local Government Act.

He indicated that to actualize the law, there should be infrastructural and capacity development of locals before the decentralization process implementation.

Also speaking, the Focus Person on Fiscal Decentralization at the Liberia Revenue Authority, S. Tunny Cooper underscored the need for political will in the implementation of the decentralization processes. Cooper stressed that practical actions need to be implored in the decentralization processes to ensure full implementation.

For his part the Accountability Lab, Executive Director Mr. Lawrence Yealue, stated that the decentralization process

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NEC declares Twayen, Sokan winners of by-elections

The by-elections were conducted across Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties to fill vacancies left after then-sitting Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koug was elected as Liberia's Vice President and the death of Grand Gedeh Representative-elect Erol Madison Gwion.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, April 29, 2024: The National Elections Commission (NEC) has declared Nya D. Twayen and Jeremiah Garwo Sokan as winners of the Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties legislative by-elections, respectively.

Twayen contested the Nimba senatorial by-election as the candidate of the ruling Unity Party (UP), while Sokan contested in the Grand Gedeh representative by-election as an independent candidate for Electoral District #1.

NEC chairperson Davidetta Browne-Lansanah announced the final election results from the by-election over the weekend.

Sokan received the highest number of votes (3,168) constituting 30.74 percent of valid votes.

Madam Browne-Lansanah added that Twayen also received the highest number of votes,

67,138 constituting 59.27 percent of valid votes.

The by-elections were conducted across the two counties on 23 April 2024 due to the election to the vice presidency of then-sitting Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koug and the death of Grand Gedeh Representative-elect Erol Madison Gwion.

Announcing the results, Madam Browne-Lansanah said the electorate of Nimba and Grand Gedeh District #1 went

to the polls on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 to elect a Senator and a member of the House of Representatives, respectively.

Madam Browne-Lansanah explained that the by-elections in both Nimba and District #1, Grand Gedeh County, were conducted under a peaceful atmosphere.

She disclosed that the tally process began on 24 April 2024 at the two magisterial offices in Nimba (Sanniquellie, Upper Nimba) and (Tappita, Lower Nimba) as well as the Grand Gedeh magisterial office in Zwedru in the presence of candidates' agents and independent observers.

The NEC Chairperson detailed that the tallied results from

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MICAT goes dark at press briefing

By Kruah Thompson

The Charles Gabyon Press Hall at the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs, and Tourism was plunged into total darkness over the week, as the nation's electricity supply to the building suddenly ceased.

This incident occurred while Minister Jerolimek Matthew Piah was addressing the nation on key issues, including the recent arrest of 200 EPS agents allegedly in possession of firearms.

During the outage, the ministry expressed disappointment in its failure to secure a generator, and called on the government for assistance. The conference hall erupted into noise as soon as the power went out, while Minister Piah was addressing the nation.

"It's a shame for the ministry to not have a fitting standby

condition of the building, pointing out operational challenges. Similarly, upon taking office, Minister Piah has reiterated these same concerns.

Critics argue that the previous administration failed to maintain standards and address damages to the building, however Minister Piah pledges to make the ministry an attractive place for guests.

Over the week, the minister led journalists on a tour of the entire building, showcasing changes made, particularly in his office. Modern lighting systems, new furniture, including chairs, office desks, and ceilings, have been installed. However, he vowed not to remove any of these materials upon leaving office. He also promised to improve employees' salaries.

However, he was shock when the national electricity left for almost 3 hours and the briefing where held with no light to assist journalists who were using their various platform to go live.

Liberia has a history of power outages, largely stemming from



generator as backup for such incident like this. They don't even have a backup plan for employees in such a large ministry," remarked a journalist standing beside our reporter when the blackout occurred.

The Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) was created by an Act of the National Legislature in 1965 with the statutory responsibility to develop and disseminate factual information about the Government of Liberia both at home and abroad.

Since its establishment, the ministry has faced challenges especially after civil crisis and continues to do so. One major issue highlighted by past administrations is insufficient operational funds to manage its affairs.

In previous press conferences, former Minister Leggerhood Renney, during the Weah administration, emphasized the inadequate

inadequate infrastructure, limited investment in the energy sector, and a lack of maintenance. The country's power generation and distribution system have struggled to meet the demands of its population and industries, resulting in frequent blackouts and disruptions.

One of the main causes of power outages in Liberia is the outdated and poorly maintained electricity infrastructure. Much of the country's power grid is old and in need of significant upgrades. Additionally, the civil war that ravaged Liberia from 1989 to 2003 caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including power plants and transmission lines, exacerbating the problem.

Limited investment in the energy sector has also contributed to power outages. The government has faced challenges in attracting foreign investment to modernize the energy infrastructure and increase power generation capacity. As a result, the existing

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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AMEU signs MoU with Heritage University in Ghana

Monrovia, April 29, 2024: The Administration of African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) has signed a



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Heritage Christian University College (HCUC) in Ghana, with a commitment by both parties to work together in promoting areas of shared interests.

The MoU among other things, encourages cooperation through support for curricula development, joint faculty and staff exchanges, faculty development, student exchange programs, professional development for staff and students, and other scholarly activities as may be

deemed necessary by both institutions.

Speaking at the signing of the MoU, AME University's president, Alvin E. Attah,

start from zero as the experienced professors were either few or nowhere to be found.

"What we have done and will continue to do as a university is to leverage on the opportunities that exist to establish sisterly relationships with universities across the continent of Africa and other parts of the world," he said.

He continued that the partnership would go a long way in AME University's quest to adequately build the capacity of students and faculty members.

Also speaking, the Vice President & Provost of Heritage Christian University College, Prof. William Atuilik indicated that the two institutions have a lot in common, making specific references to the institutions' core values.

"Just like you, we thought that to pursue excellence, we should reach out to sisterly institutions on the continent so we can collaborate, hold hands, and travel the journey," said Prof. Atuilik.

The HCUC Provost disclosed that he was particularly excited when the AME University President paid a short visit to HCUC in furtherance of his desire to ensure the relationship was established sooner rather than later. According to the HCUC

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Bai T. Moore Public School closed due to deplorable condition

Kids of school-going age in the town have now turned to farming activities and other sources of livelihood due to their school's deplorable condition.

By Lincoln G. Peters

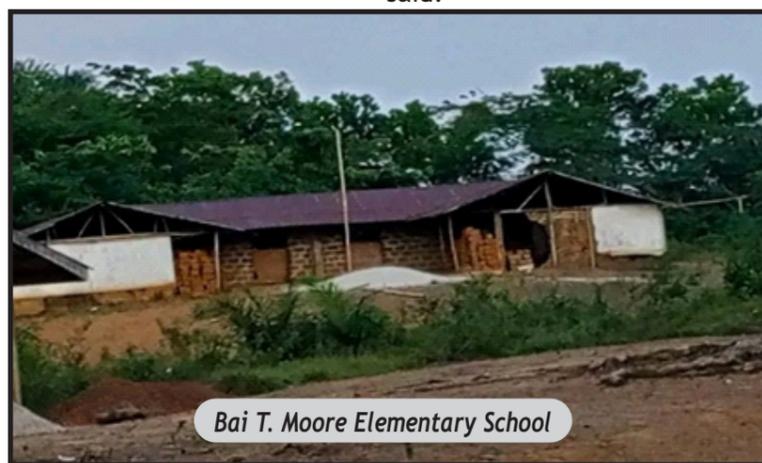
Monrovia, April 29, 2024: Over two thousand youths, especially females in Deman Town, Bomi County, are out of school because of the deplorable condition of the only public school there, the Bai T. Moore Town Public School in Senjeh District. The condition of the public has caused kids of school-going age to stay home and focus on farming activities and other sources of livelihood. The school has closed because both teachers and students are careful not to endanger their lives in deteriorating school buildings.

The closure of the school since the beginning of this year is said to have contributed to increased teenage pregnancy, illicit drug abuse, domestic violence, and other crimes in the town.

Speaking in an interview over the weekend in the county, the Development Chairman of the Town Mr. Zinnah Morris said the building has not been renovated for years.

He complained that it had not gotten the attention of the national government and the County Education Officer.

However, Chairman Morris called on authorities of Bomi County, the District Education Office, and the National Government to rebuild the school and bring in more teachers. He warned that the closure of the school is not good for school-going kids and youth in the area, especially females.



Bai T. Moore Elementary School

Due to the deplorable condition of the school, he said parents are keeping their children home while others who are financially strong are sending their children elsewhere to get quality education.

"The only public school we have in this town has been in deplorable condition for years now. Disappointingly, the government has done nothing to address this situation," he lamented. "The school building is a death trap for students and teachers. We want the government to come and build the school because this has caused our children to return to farming while crimes and violence have increased," he said.

MoPT leads campaign for female representation in ICT

The campaign kicked off over the weekend when the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications joined the rest of the Global Village in celebration of International Day of Girls in ICT.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 29, 2024: The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication (MoPT) has begun leading a robust campaign for female representation in the Information Communication Technology Sector (ICT) as well as Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The robust campaign officially kicked off over the weekend when the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications joined the rest of the Global Village in celebration of International Day of Girls in ICT.

The program was celebrated under the theme: "Leadership," and it brought together dozens of female students from universities and high schools in the Ministry's conference room.

Inspirational statements were

the way for a brighter and more equitable future.

Despite its transformative potential, Ms. Sackoe said women continue to be significantly underrepresented in this industry.

She noted that the Girls in ICT program strives to challenge this inequality by inspiring and equipping young women with the necessary skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive in the tech field.

"Through mentorship, workshops, and practical training, this program not only nurtures technical expertise but also fosters leadership qualities and an entrepreneurial mindset among its participants," said Ms. Sackoe.

"By empowering girls and women in ICT, we not only unlock their potential but also drive innovation, promote diversity, and construct a more inclusive digital future for all" Ms. Sackoe pointed out.



made to motivate and encourage participants during the event.

Girls in ICT Day initiative aims and embodies the values of empowerment, innovation, and inclusivity, to bridge the gender gap within the Information and Communication Technology sector.

Giving the overview and introduction of Girls in ICT Day, Ms. Regina Sackoe, a representative from the Liberia Information Technology Student Union (LITSU) and ICT student said that in the rapidly evolving digital landscape, ICT plays a crucial role in shaping the world.

She urged every Liberian to embrace this journey, question the existing norms, and become the catalysts for change that the ICT industry so desperately requires.

At the same time, she appealed that all should champion the cause of gender equality in technology and pave

Delivering a special statement on behalf of the Minister of Post and Telecommunication, Mr. Sekou Konneh, Deputy Minister for Technical Services, Mr. Mohammed Massalley urged the females to take on leadership and responsibility and embrace participation in technology.

According to him, the government of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai prioritizes and takes youth involvement and development in technology very seriously that's why he commits his government to developing the capacity of ten thousand youth in ICT.

Going forward, he assured that they will continue to lead a robust campaign for the full participation of females in ICT, saying that technology is the major tool countries are using to change policy and economy.

"We from the Ministry of Post

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Français

La loyauté politique serait en train de changer à Nimba

Si la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) confirme la victoire de Nya Twayen aux élections partielles à Nimba, les discussions pourraient désormais porter sur qui candidat sénatorial du parti au pouvoir, M. Nya Twayen, avant que la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) ne déclare un vainqueur.

Le sénateur Johnson avait soutenu un député en poste de

Outre le fait d'avoir remporté son siège de sénateur trois fois pour neuf ans chacun, les choix de candidats présidentiels de Johnson ont toujours été couronnés de succès depuis 2005.

Par le passé, ses choix de candidats législatifs à Nimba ont également remporté la plupart du temps.

Cependant, le résultat de cette élection partielle sénatoriale voit Twayen soutenu par le vice-président Jeremiah Koug du parti au pouvoir, l'UP, projeté comme vainqueur.

Si la NEC confirme cela dans son rapport final, les discussions pourraient désormais porter sur qui détient réellement le pouvoir à Nimba maintenant que la voix du sénateur Prince Johnson n'a pas été suivie par la majorité des électeurs.

Au fil des ans, Johnson a toujours compté sur sa brutale 'défense du comté de Nimba' pendant la guerre comme sa carte maîtresse pour obtenir le soutien politique contre ses rivaux.

La NEC n'a pas encore publié les résultats définitifs, mais Johnson a déjà admis que son candidat, le représentant Samuel Kogar, ne pouvait pas gagner.

Le jeudi 25 avril 2024, la

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Éditorial

Le budget présidentiel relègue l'éducation au second plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

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VP Koug

Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

détient réellement le pouvoir à Nimba maintenant que la voix du sénateur Prince Johnson n'a pas été suivie par la majorité des électeurs.

Monrovia, le 26 avril 2024 : Le 'parrain politique' de longue date du comté de Nimba, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, a félicité le

Nimba comme candidat sénatorial contre M. Twayen mais n'a pas réussi à remporter la victoire.

La dernière tendance du vote dans le comté de Nimba pourrait indiquer un changement progressif de la loyauté politique dont a bénéficié M. Johnson de la part de ses compatriotes depuis près de deux décennies.

Crise de l'eau à Feetuah : Les habitants luttent pour accéder à l'eau potable

Les habitants de la ville de Feetuah, dans le comté de Bong, n'ont pas accès à l'eau potable et sont contraints de s'approvisionner dans des cours d'eau contaminés, s'exposant ainsi à des maladies d'origine hydrique.

Bong, Libéria, 24 avril 2024 - Située au cœur de Sannoyea, dans le comté de Bong au centre du Liberia, la ville de Feetuah fait face à une situation critique. Ses 2 000 habitants sont aux prises avec la pénurie d'eau potable. L'absence de sources d'eau fiables a plongé la communauté dans l'incertitude et a mis en évidence le besoin urgent de solutions durables.

Mme Siannah Johnson, habitante de longue date de Feetuah, a exprimé ses inquiétudes : "L'eau est essentielle à notre survie, pourtant nous sommes obligés de parcourir de longues distances à la recherche de sources d'eau contaminée. Notre santé est en danger, et nos enfants sont particulièrement vulnérables aux maladies d'origine hydrique."

Le manque d'eau potable à Feetuah a des conséquences profondes, affectant non seulement la santé des habitants, mais aussi leurs moyens de subsistance et leur qualité de vie en général.

Selon le chef de la ville, Aaron Foloquah, la ville disposait autrefois de trois pompes à main, mais elles ont toutes été endommagées. Les habitants n'ont désormais d'autre choix que d'aller chercher de l'eau contaminée à distance.

Sans accès à l'eau potable, les

familles peinent à maintenir des pratiques d'hygiène de base, les activités agricoles en pâtissent et le risque de maladies liées à l'eau plane sur la communauté.

Selon notre correspondant du comté de Bong qui s'est rendu dans la ville mercredi, l'installation de pompes à main est une solution cruciale pour résoudre la crise de l'eau à Feetuah.

Notre correspondant

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Français

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La loyauté politique

NEC a comptabilisé 706 bureaux de vote sur 736 dans le comté, où le candidat de l'UP, Nya Twayen, était en tête avec 66 616 voix, tandis que son rival, le représentant Samuel Kogar, avait 37 557 voix.

L'annonce finale devrait être publiée le vendredi 26 avril 2024.

Maintenant, beaucoup comparent la situation politique de Nimba à une histoire biblique trouvée dans le Premier livre de Samuel 18:7, lorsque les femmes chantaient et dansaient en disant : "Saül a frappé ses milliers, et David ses dix mille."

Pour certains, ce résultat d'élection partielle pourrait affaiblir le pouvoir politique du sénateur Johnson, tandis qu'il renforce le pouvoir de son fils politique et vice-président libérien M. Koung.

Le 9 février 2024, le Parlement, en vertu de l'article 37 de la Constitution de 1986, a notifié à la NEC les vacances au Sénat et à la Chambre des représentants, ce qui a entraîné la tenue d'élections partielles à Nimba et dans les comtés de Grand Gedeh.

L'élection partielle à Nimba est due à l'élection du sénateur en poste Jeremiah Koung en tant que vice-président du Libéria, tandis que l'élection partielle du représentant à Grand Gedeh est due au décès du représentant élu E. Madison Gwion.

Le comté de Nimba compte en moyenne 307 254 électeurs inscrits, ce qui en fait l'un des 'comtés riches en votes' du Libéria.

Avant le jour du vote, The NewDawn a appris que le sénateur Prince Johnson et le vice-président Jeremiah Kpan Koung soutenaient des candidats différents.

« Bienvenue à bord, mon fils. La tâche qui nous attend est importante. Nimba t'a élu pour me rejoindre en tant que sénateur opérationnel », a écrit Johnson sur sa page Facebook jeudi.

"Compte tenu de ta nature respectueuse et organisée, je crois qu'ensemble, nous pouvons améliorer le progrès de Nimba. J'exhorte tout le monde à éviter de diffuser des messages tribaux, car ils ont la tendance à dérailler notre progrès en tant que comté en détournant notre attention", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a appelé son peuple à privilégier la paix, l'amour et l'unité à Nimba et dans tout le Libéria.

"Je m'engage à soutenir pleinement notre nouveau sénateur. Ensemble, le succès est assuré. Félicitations, sénateur, et merci, Nimba", a-t-il noté.

De même, la fille du candidat sénatorial du comté de Nimba, Samuel Kogar, Mlle Tabitha Humanitarian Kogar, a écrit sur sa page Facebook officielle, jeudi, pour remercier les habitants de Nimba d'avoir voté et féliciter M. Tawayen.

"Perdre n'est jamais facile, et je peux seulement imaginer à quel point vous êtes déçus et découragés en ce moment. Enfin, si nous ne pouvons pas être sénateurs aujourd'hui, nous pouvons devenir sénateurs, vice-présidents et président dans le futur", a-t-elle écrit.

Starts from page 8

Crise de l'eau à Feetuah :

affirme que cela permettrait de réduire leur dépendance aux sources d'eau insalubres et d'atténuer les risques associés aux maladies d'origine hydrique.

Kelvin Jutee, un agent de santé communautaire, a souligné l'importance des pompes à main à Feetuah : "Les pompes à main sont essentielles pour garantir l'accès à l'eau potable dans des communautés comme Feetuah. En construisant des pompes à main, nous pouvons permettre aux habitants de prendre le contrôle de leur approvisionnement en eau et de préserver leur santé."

"La construction de pompes à main à Feetuah permettrait non seulement d'améliorer l'accès des habitants à l'eau potable, mais aussi de contribuer au développement global et au bien-être de la communauté. Avec un approvisionnement en eau adéquat, les habitants peuvent

mener une vie plus saine, les enfants peuvent aller régulièrement à l'école et les opportunités économiques peuvent prospérer", ajoute-t-il.

Alors que les habitants de Feetuah continuent à faire face à la crise de l'eau, il est crucial que les parties prenantes, locales et internationales, se mobilisent et soutiennent des initiatives qui promeuvent des pratiques durables de gestion de l'eau.

M. Jutee a déclaré qu'en accordant la priorité à l'installation de pompes à main et en investissant dans des solutions à long terme, nous pouvons garantir à chaque habitant de Feetuah le droit fondamental d'accéder à l'eau potable et salubre.

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Bagarre entre députés à Monrovia



Les députés perturbent la session en se chamaillant, bafouant le décorum.

Capitole, Liberia, 26 avril 2024 - Un drame a éclaté sur le sol de la Chambre des représentants à Capitol Hill après que les représentants James Kolleh du district n°2 du comté de Bong et Saah Foko du district n°9 du comté de Montserrado se soient livrés à une altercation jeudi 25 avril 2024, s'échangeant des insultes.

Les accès de colère ont contraint le vice-président, qui présidait la séance, à expulser les deux législateurs, les empêchant ainsi de participer au débat budgétaire de jeudi. Tout a commencé lorsque le représentant James Kolleh a fait part de ses préoccupations au vice-président Fallah, qui présidait la séance en l'absence du président J. Fonati Koffa.

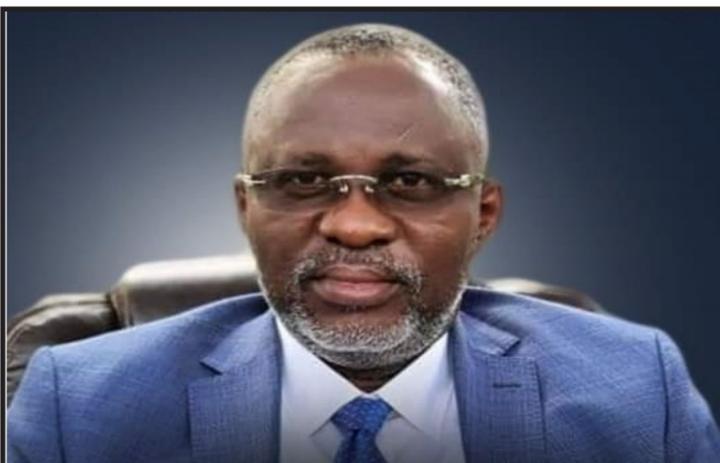
Il a demandé de modifier l'ordre du jour après la lecture de la première communication, et de recourir à une session exécutive pour discuter des questions affectant directement les législateurs.

Cependant, le vice-président refuse et ordonne au greffier en chef de poursuivre la lecture en passant à la communication suivante. Cette décision irrite le représentant Kolleh, qui s'oppose avec défi en déclarant qu'il ne se taira pas tant que le vice-président Fallah présidera à tort.

Kolleh reste inflexible malgré les tentatives de certains de ses collègues pour le calmer. Il maintient qu'il n'écouterait pas tant que la bonne décision ne sera pas prise, un défi qui tape sur les nerfs du représentant Saah Foko. Ce dernier exige de Kolleh qu'il s'asseye et cesse de le déranger, car il n'est pas le seul législateur en session qui puisse parler ou faire preuve d'arrogance envers ses collègues.

L'intervention de Foko a eu l'effet de jeter de l'huile sur le feu, irritant davantage Kolleh, et les deux législateurs se sont lancés dans des insultes, faisant preuve de vulgarité et frôlant presque la bagarre.

Le sénateur McGill demande 1 million de dollars US pour l'hôpital C.H. Rennie



de Bong et du Grand Bassa", souligne-t-il.

Le sénateur de Margibi poursuit en disant que l'absence d'un hôpital de référence fonctionnel dans la région centrale laisse cette communauté vulnérable et sans accès aux services de santé essentiels.

Dans cette optique, il exhorte le Sénat libérien à envisager l'allocation d'au moins un million de dollars américains (1 000 000 USD) à l'hôpital C.H. Rennie, soulignant que ce financement serait essentiel pour entamer le processus de

Le sénateur plaide pour une augmentation budgétaire de l'hôpital local.

Margibi, Liberia, le 26 avril 2024 - Le sénateur du comté de Margibi, Nathaniel F. McGill, souhaite que l'hôpital C.H. Rennie de Margibi soit inscrit au budget national 2024 et que son budget soit porté à un million de dollars américains.

Dans sa communication à la session plénière du jeudi 25 avril 2024, le sénateur McGill a souligné l'urgence d'inclure l'hôpital dans le budget national en cours en raison de ses services essentiels à la population.

Il note que l'hôpital C.H. Rennie est le seul hôpital public de référence au centre du Liberia, qui a été tragiquement ravagé par un incendie en 2021.

Il rappelle qu'en 2023, le gouvernement de l'ancien président Weah a procédé à une cérémonie de pose de la première pierre et a alloué huit cent mille dollars américains (800 000 USD) pour lancer la reconstruction, dont le coût est estimé à six millions de dollars américains (6 000 000 USD). Malheureusement, aucune allocation n'est prévue dans le budget national 2024 pour la reconstruction de l'hôpital.

"L'importance de l'hôpital C.H. Rennie ne peut être surestimée, car il dessert non seulement les résidents du comté de Margibi, mais aussi ceux du bas Montserrado

reconstruction de ce centre de santé vital et de rétablir les services médicaux essentiels aux habitants du centre du Liberia.

"J'ai confiance dans votre engagement à prioriser le bien-être et les besoins en matière de santé de nos citoyens et j'espère que vous accorderez toute l'attention voulue à cette demande. Votre soutien en la matière ferait une différence significative dans la vie de countless individus qui comptent sur l'hôpital C.H. Rennie pour leurs soins médicaux. J'attends une réponse positive des membres éminents du Sénat libérien", ajoute-t-il.

En réponse, la présidente pro-tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, a déclaré que la direction du Sénat prendra en charge cette question, car elle est importante, révélant qu'ils ont déjà des discussions en cours pour faire allouer des fonds à l'hôpital, avec elle, en tant que présidente pro-tempore, à la tête de ces discussions.

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COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

JOB VACANCIES AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI)

The Board of Directors of the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), under the chairmanship of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture (MOA), announces the following JOB VACANCIES AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI) located in Suakoko, Bong County.

- **Director General (DG)** (a five-year tenure position which may be renewed based on satisfactory performance on the job). The salary is attractive and offers fringe benefits, including accommodation and transportation on the CARI campus.
- **Deputy Director General for Research and Programs (DDGRP)** (a five-year tenure position). Salary is attractive in addition to accommodation on the CARI campus.

Qualification & Requirements for DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG)

- Must hold a Ph.D. in Agriculture or a closely related discipline from a recognized university with not less than ten years of distinction and experience in administration, management, and coordination in an agricultural organization.
- Should also have no less than five years of successful experience as Head of a Research Program Unit in an agricultural research institution or academic program in an agricultural college or university or coordinator of agricultural development project(s).
- Distinguished research contribution as evidenced by at least ten peer-reviewed scientific publications with at least five publications in the last five years.
- Proven ability to write research grant proposals to attract internal and external funding to support research activities.
- Ability to organize, direct, and coordinate research activities within a research institute, agricultural college, or university.
- Good knowledge of the agencies in the relevant Sectors and the ability to interact with top management in other institutions and agencies.
- Ability to translate policy decisions into action programs.
- Good interpersonal relations with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Must have served in research, academic or related reputable research institution at a Senior Research/ Management level.
- A proven track record in planning and managing human, financial, and physical resources.

Qualification & Requirements for Deputy Director General for Research and Programs (DDGRP).

- Must be a Ph.D. holder in agriculture or closely related disciplines from a recognized university.
- Not less than eight years of experience in agricultural research, including at least three years of successful experience as Head of a Research Program Unit in an agricultural research institution or academic programs in an agricultural college or university.
- Distinguished research contribution as evidenced by at least five peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- Ability to write research grant proposals to attract internal and external funding to support research activities.
- Ability to organize, direct, and coordinate research activities within a research institute or an agricultural college or university.
- Good knowledge of agencies in the relevant sectors and the ability to interact with top management in other institutions and agencies.
- Ability to translate policy decisions into action programs.
- Good interpersonal relations.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the critical role of agricultural research in addressing the global development challenges of poverty, food and nutrition security, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Application MUST include:

- ❖ Application Letter
- ❖ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ❖ Names and Address of three (3) confidential referees
- ❖ Academic diplomas/certificates
- ❖ Vision Statement for the advertised position (maximum of 1,500 words)

Application should be emailed to januetah@moa.gov.lr no later than Monday, May 10, 2024, at 16:00 GMT. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Qualified females are especially encouraged to apply.

The Terms of Reference for each position can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture website at <https://www.moa.gov.lr> and its official Facebook page: Ministry of Agriculture Liberia—MOA Liberia.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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IDAD organizes national-level inception meetings

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requires a multidimensional approach in its implementation, this means all stakeholders and policymakers must collectively work through complementing each other efforts and ensure that legal practitioners should also be involved in the legal interpretation and education of all stakeholders.

Mr. Yealue also lauded the efforts of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other partners for their continued support of the Liberia decentralization processes which is allowing Civil society organizations to actively participate.

However, he indicated that more effort is needed to salvage the major problems confronting the process.

The National Level Inception Meeting forms part of IDAD's funded project by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is titled: Strengthening Citizens' Knowledge

through Awareness on the Local Governance Act (LGA), Revenue Sharing Act (RSA) and the National Reconciliation Plan (NRP) and the Decentralization Process in Liberia.

The project is expected to be rolled out in seven Counties including Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru, and Sinoe.

The IDAD is an independent, not-for-profit registered, policy research and advocacy organization that promotes decentralization and local governance processes in Liberia. It also promotes natural resource governance, democracy, and the rule of law including access to justice.

It is a Liberian policy advocacy organization that channels the voices of Liberian citizens through community dialogues and advocacy.

IDAD strives to link communities to the overall governance framework to engender a culture of local participation in policy development and implementation. —Press release

NEC declares Twayen, Sokan winners of by-elections

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magisterial offices have been progressively transmitted to the Data Center at NEC Headquarters in Monrovia.

Madam Browne-Lansanah thanked the people of Nimba County and Electoral District #1, Grand Gedeh County for their peaceful participation in the 23 April 2024 by-elections process.

She extended the NEC's thanks to the Government of Liberia for providing the funds for the conduct of the by-elections.

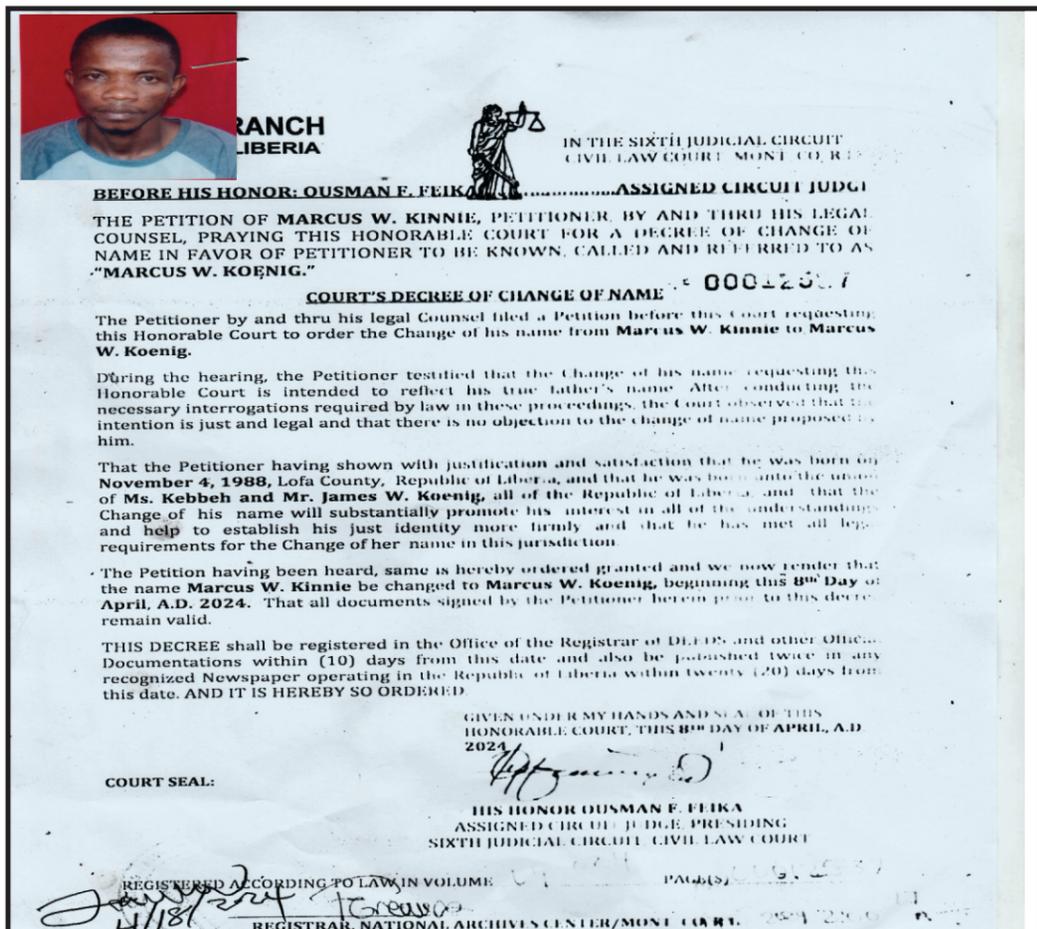
Additionally, she applauded the Ministry of Justice, the Joint Security for maintaining the peace during the by-election process.

She further thanked the temporary

staff as well as NEC employees and the NEC management team for their diligence in the preparation and execution of their duties during the conduct of the 23 April polls.

She appreciated owners of properties used as NEC voting precincts, saying the Commission remains grateful to them for their patriotism and selfless love for the country.

The Commission also applauded the general support of local, regional, and international organizations including Democracy International, LEON, EISA, and ECC, among others, and all national, regional, and international observers who observed.



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Boakai ambushes tenure holders

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Following a recent Supreme Court's opinion that went against his attempt to forcibly remove commissioners of the Liberia Telecommunication Authority and other tenure position holders from office, President Boakai has taken the route, suspending all five

help identify corrective measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. The Supreme Court of Liberia last week ruled that rights to due process of officials holding tenure positions were being violated by the President's attempt to forcibly remove them.

process is ultra vires" Chief Justice Yuoh stressed. Chief Justice Yuoh said the Supreme Court has held that Article 89 of the constitution of Liberia (1986), which gives Legislature the authority to create autonomous agencies does not contravene Article 56 of the same constitution, noting that the act by President Boakai, in nominating persons to tenure position, who are the petitioners to the positions while their tenures are still in force and unexpired is tantamount their removal from office.

However, barely a day after the High Court's ruling last week, the President suspended tenure position holders Garrison Doldeh Yealue, Chairman Governance Commission, Andrew Peter, Executive Director, National Identification Registry, Edwina Crump Zackpah, Chairperson, Israel Akinsanya, James Gbarwea, Zatowon Titus and Osborn Diggs, Commissioners, Liberia Telecommunications Authority and Reginald Kpan Nagbe, Director General, Liberia National Lottery Authority, respectively.

The Executive Mansion stressed that the LTA is a critical institution responsible for regulating the telecommunications sector in the country and should uphold high standards of integrity and accountability in carrying out its mandate. It maintains that the suspension of the Chairperson and Commissioners is a clear indication of the President's confidence in his Administration's commitment to ensuring that the LTA operates in the best interest of the Liberian people.

President Boakai has emphasized that the Government is committed to promoting transparency and accountability in all sectors and urged all public officials to uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability in carrying out their duties to the Liberian people. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

AMEU signs MoU with Heritage University in Ghana

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Provost, that singular action was an indication of AME University's commitment to the MOU signed, and he therefore had no doubt it would have been signed.

For his part, Dr. Timothy Kie, Vice President for Academic Affairs at AMEU, thanked HCUC for the reception accorded the AMEU delegation.

He noted that it signifies how prepared and upbeat the host university was in signing the MoU.

The AMEU's Vice President for Academic Affairs wondered why Western and Asian Universities were forming partnerships with their African counterparts and why Africans could not do the same with one another.

"What do these Western and

Asian Universities see that they are forming partnerships with African Universities that we, African Universities do not see," he asked rhetorically.

The agreement as signed, will among other things see the exchange of students and faculty, mentorship opportunities, joint research and service activities sharing and facilitation of entrepreneurial opportunities, faculty development opportunities, and exchange of scholarly materials.

Rev. Dr. Alvin E. Attah and Dr. Timothy Kie signed on behalf of AME University, while Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah and Prof. Williams Atuilik did the same for the Heritage Christian University College.—Press release

MoPT leads campaign for female representation in ICT

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and Telecommunications are committed to this vision and policy by the president. Girls have the capacity as boys to take control of the ICT sector," he said.

"The Ministry of Post is ready

and willing to provide mentorship, training, internship as well as job opportunity for females who want to enter this field."

Mr. Massalley said their doors are open and they encourage all females to take on the challenge and take leadership.

MICAT goes dark at press briefing

Starts from page 6

power plants often operate below capacity, leading to supply shortages and blackouts.

Efforts have been made in recent years to address Liberia's power challenges, including the construction of new power plants and the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. Additionally, initiatives to attract private investment in the energy sector have been launched, aiming to improve access to electricity and reduce power outages.

Despite these efforts, power outages remain a persistent issue in Liberia, impacting businesses, healthcare facilities, and the daily lives of its citizens.

In 2015, Liberia and Ivory Coast engaged in an agreement to supply electricity as part of efforts to address power shortages and enhance energy cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

The Ivorian government, through its power utility company, Côte d'Ivoire Énergies, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC). The MoU outlined plans for Ivory Coast to supply electricity to Liberia, particularly to areas along the border between the two countries.

Under this agreement, Ivory Coast agreed to provide up to 60 megawatts (MW) of electricity to Liberia, with the potential for future expansion. This electricity supply was intended to help alleviate Liberia's power shortages and improve access to electricity for its citizens.

The agreement involved the construction and rehabilitation of transmission lines and other necessary infrastructure to facilitate the cross-border electricity supply, which was completed in 2023. It also included provisions for technical cooperation and capacity building between the two countries' energy sectors.

The collaboration between Liberia and Ivory Coast in the energy sector has been seen as mutually beneficial, with Ivory Coast leveraging its surplus electricity generation capacity to support Liberia's development goals. For Liberia, access to reliable electricity from Ivory Coast has helped reduce dependence on costly and unreliable power sources, such as diesel generators.

Since the signing of the agreement, efforts have been ongoing to implement the necessary infrastructure upgrades and operational measures to enable the smooth flow of electricity from Ivory Coast to Liberia. While challenges such as financing, technical issues, and regulatory frameworks have been encountered along the way, the commitment to enhancing energy cooperation between the two countries remains strong.

According to recent reports, President Boikai's visit to Ivory Coast has resulted in the addition of additional megawatts to the country's power supply, but over all the problems, if power outages remain common in Liberia



Madam Edwina C. Zackpah

commissioners of the LTA, including its chair Madam Edwina C. Zackpah.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia announced during the weekend that President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has suspended, with immediate effect, Madam Edwina C. Zackpah, Mr. Israel Akinsanya, Mr. Zotawon D. Titus, Mr. James Gbarwea, and Mr. Osborne K. Diggs, Chairperson and Commissioners respectively of the Liberia Telecommunication Authority for allegations of questionable financial transactions and other alleged malpractices at the Authority.

The release says the President has requested a comprehensive audit of the LTA by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to investigate the allegations at the Authority.

He urged the suspended officials to cooperate fully with the GAC as they undertake the investigation.

President Boakai is confident that the investigation would reveal any financial impropriety and

Delivering the ruling, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in the Supreme Court Chamber, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, said the alternative writ of Prohibition issued by Justice in chambers, Yussif D.Kaba is hereby affirmed and the peremptory writ prayed for by the tenure groups is granted.

Chief Justice Yuoh, at the same time, ordered that nominations made by President Joseph N. Boakai to those various positions and institutions giving rise to these petitions are hereby ordered revoked and withdrawn. She ordered the clerk of the Supreme Court to inform all the parties about the court mandate accordingly. The Chief Justice noted that there is no showing of the existence of any of the conditions for the tenure, which is the petitioners' removal from office as stipulated in the acts creating the respective entities to which the tenure are appointed.

"Their said removal from office prior to the expiry of their tenure without due



Mr. Israel Akinsanya

Mr. Zotawon D. Titus

Mr. James Gbarwea

LDEA Chief rallies lawmakers to combat drugs

Liberia has seen years of widespread drug abuse among young people, many of whom have abandoned schools to live in cemeteries or terrorize peaceful citizens.

By Kruah Thompson
Monrovia, April 29, 2024: Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) chief Col. Abraham Kromah is rallying lawmakers to join forces in the battle against drug abuse. Liberia has seen years of

legislative bodies. He cited a revelation from the USAID Country Director that a staggering 60% of Liberian youth, totaling 2.7 million individuals, are affected by drug abuse. Acknowledging the urgent need for decisive action,

favorable conditions for drug trafficking and consumption, hindering progress despite government initiatives.

In a frank assessment, Kromah attributed the current impasse to the fragmented approach to combating drug abuse. He emphasized the imperative of legislative involvement to enact robust legislation, allocate necessary resources, and implement effective strategies.

"By leveraging the collective strength of the nation's political leadership," Kromah noted, "Liberia can strengthen its defenses against the pervasive threat of drug abuse."

Furthermore, Kromah highlighted ongoing partnerships with the Liberia National Police and community residents to raise awareness about the risks associated with drugs and the consequences of involvement in drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, he noted that the recent increase in the commodity prices on the Liberian markets is due to their intensified efforts against drug trafficking and called for additional funding for intelligence operations to combat drugs holistically across Liberia.



Chief Col. Abraham Kromah

widespread drug abuse among young people, many of whom have abandoned schools to live in cemeteries or terrorize peaceful citizens.

Director Kromah emphasized the necessity of unified efforts to curb the spread of substance abuse within the nation.

However, Liberia's geographical vulnerabilities and existing law enforcement challenges have created

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