

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 30, 2024	L\$192.4754/US\$1.00	L\$194.1893/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

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 14 NO. 65

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

PRICE LD\$40.00



GDC warns gov't



UP alarms national emergency



-over scramble for jobs

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

Kenya dam burst kills around 50, Red Cross says

About 50 people have died in Kenya after a dam burst its banks following heavy rains and flooding, a Red Cross official has said. People in villages near



Mai Mahiu, about 60km (37 miles) from the capital, Nairobi, were swept away as they slept. Rescue efforts are continuing to pull people out of the mud, with fears that the death toll could rise.

More than 100 people have been killed in floods that have devastated parts of Kenya in the last month.

A wide brown scar of mud, uprooted trees and crushed houses slices through the area of Mai Mahiu. A roaring sound woke people up in the early hours of Monday as a tide of water crashed down from a burst dam upriver.

Residents spoke of a night of

frantic efforts to pull people out of the raging flood and dig them out of the mud.

Deden Muiri, 60, said he heard the roar and saw lightening flash. But before he had time to think he

was up to his neck in water. He saw the flood take his wife and was swept in the opposite direction. Convinced he was going to die, Mr Muiri said a quiet goodbye to his family.

Miraculously though, he was able to grab a tree branch and clung to life by hanging on.

One of his daughters knows how to swim, he said, and was able to rescue two of his grandchildren.

When we arrived many people were out surveying the damage, walking along the gauged out riverbank, poking through the debris, trying to come to grips with the catastrophe.

Peter Munyinge's house survived but the rest of his

neighbourhood did not. "There are little babies in the water, older people...people are screaming, people are crying, losing their lives and their loved ones," he said.

The Kenya Red Cross has joined search and rescue operations, with its emergency response manager, Anthony Muchiri, telling the BBC that the death toll has risen to 50.

"This is the worst I've ever come across in my career," he said, adding that not only were people's homes swept away, but also their foundations. Of the bodies recovered so far, 17 were of children, police commander Stephen Kirui said, cited by Reuters news agency. The small villages of Kamuchiri and Kianugu were among those that bore the brunt of the disaster. "The water came at high speed from Old Kijabe Dam and washed away many houses and vehicles. We have never seen such devastating floods since we were born here in Mai Mahiu," David Kamau told the BBC. Another resident, Peter Muhoho, said that most of his neighbours were swept away in Kianugu, a village with about 18 homes. "I was asleep when I heard a loud bang and screams. Water had flooded the area. We started rescuing people," Mr Muhoho told the BBC.

Pointing to a bag he was holding, Mr Muhoho added: "This bag belongs to a child I knew. He was washed away. I found it [the bag] downstream." BBC

A president declared an emergency over rape. What happened next?

Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio took the bold step of declaring a national emergency over rape and sexual violence in 2019. Five years on, BBC Africa Eye explores whether survivors of attacks are getting justice.

Warning: This article contains details some readers may find upsetting.

In the city of Makeni, a three-hour drive east of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, a young mother sits outside her home with her three-year-old daughter. Anita, which is not her real name, describes the day in June 2023 when she found her toddler with blood dripping from her nappy.

"I worked for this woman, and she gave me an errand that Saturday morning to go to the market," she says, explaining that she then left her child with her employer and her 22-year-old son. "He took my child, he said, to buy sweets and biscuits

shirts emblazoned with the words "Hands off our girls" marched through Freetown.

News of another child rape had shocked the nation - a five-year-old girl who was left paralysed from the waist down. It was reported at the time that cases of sexual violence had almost doubled within a year, a third involving children. Sierra Leoneans had had enough.

The four-month long state of emergency from February 2019 allowed the president to divert state resources into tackling sexual violence. An updated Sexual Offences Act brought in stricter penalties for sexual assault.

Rape sentences were increased to a minimum of 15 years, or life if it involved a child. A Sexual Offences Model Court to fast-track trials was created in Freetown the following year.

There appears to have been some progress - reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence have gone down by almost 17%, from just over 12,000 in 2018 to



The laws are in place but the authorities lack the resources to deal with the issue

Nigeria's fuel crisis brings businesses to a halt

Fuel shortages that hit parts of Nigeria last week have escalated, bringing several businesses to a halt, including in commercial hub Lagos.

Public transport users were left stranded on Monday as operators pulled services, while some of those who obtained transportation were made to pay higher fares, privately-owned broadcaster Channels Television reported.

Local media reports say motorists are scrambling and queuing for fuel for hours at the petrol stations still operating.

Many stations have closed, citing shortages in supplies from the formerly state-owned oil company, which has seen black market retailers sell oil by up to three times the normal price.

Last Thursday, long queues returned at petrol stations in the capital, Abuja, and the neighbouring Nasarawa and

Niger states. But the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) warned against the panic buying of petrol, saying prices would not change and that there was sufficient fuel.

The NNPC said on Thursday in a statement on X, that the limited availability of petrol was a result of logistical problems, which had been fixed.

On Monday, a spokesperson for

the company denied reports that it was rationing fuel sold to retailers and that it was prioritising supplies to the capital, Abuja, privately-owned The Punch newspaper reported.

Nigeria frequently experiences oil scarcity, despite being one of Africa's biggest economy and oil producer. BBC



Nigeria frequently experiences fuel scarcity

for her. It was a lie. "When she got back, she realised her daughter was missing. After searching for her for some time, they were reunited but the 22-year-old mother could see that the toddler was bleeding. She took her to the hospital and after two rounds of stitches, it was confirmed she had been raped.

"The nurses began checking the child, and they said: 'Oh my God, what has this man done to this child?' The doctor who was treating my child even cried." Anita went to the police but the man fled and a year on the police have not been able to find him. "The president created a law so that whoever rapes children, should be arrested and sent to jail," she says, angry that nothing appears to have been done. She is referring to a tougher sexual offences law created five years ago after President Maada Bio declared the emergency over rape. It followed protests in December 2018 when hundreds of people wearing white T-

just over 10,000 in 2023, according to police statistics.

Creating increased awareness and new structures is one thing, but making sure that people, like Anita's daughter, get justice is another. The Rainbo Initiative is a national charity that works with survivors of sexual violence. It says that in 2022 just 5% of the 2,705 cases it handled made it to the High Court. One of the issues is the resources available to those who are supposed to enforce the law.

At the police station in Makeni where Anita reported her daughter's rape, Asst Supt Abu Bakarr Kanu who leads the Family Support Unit (FSU) says they get around four cases of child sexual assault each week. The big challenge his team faces is a lack of transport to physically go and arrest suspects. He co-ordinates all seven police divisions in the region and between them they do not have a single vehicle.

"There are times the suspect is available but because of lack of vehicles you can't reach that suspect to arrest him or her," says Asst Supt Kanu. "BBC

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 acting 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.

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 /

COMMENTARY

By Eric Posner

The Future of Work in the AI Era

CHICAGO - Recent discussions about the implications of artificial intelligence for employment have veered between the poles of apocalypse and utopia. Under the apocalyptic scenario, AI will displace a large share of all jobs, vastly exacerbating inequality as a small capital-owning class acquires productive surpluses previously shared with human laborers.

The utopian scenario, curiously, is the same, except that the very rich will be forced to share their winnings with everyone else through a universal basic income or similar transfer program. Everyone will enjoy plenty and freedom, finally achieving Marx's vision of communism, where it is "possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman, or critic."

The common assumption in both scenarios is that AI will vastly increase productivity, forcing even highly paid doctors, software programmers, and airline pilots to go on the dole alongside truck drivers and cashiers. AI will not only code better than an experienced programmer; it will also be better at performing any other tasks that that coder might be retrained to do. But if all this is true, then AI will generate unheard-of wealth that even the most extraordinary sybarite would have trouble exhausting.

The dystopic and utopian outcomes both reduce AI to a political problem: whether the left-behind (who will have the advantage of numbers) will be able to compel the AI tycoons to share their wealth. There is reason for optimism. First, the gains from AI under this scenario are so extravagant that the super-rich might not mind giving up a few marginal dollars, whether to appease their consciences or to buy social peace. Second, the growing mass of the left-behind will include highly educated, politically engaged people who will join the traditionally left-behind in agitating for redistribution.

But there is also a deeper question. How will people respond, psychologically and politically, to the realization that they can no longer contribute to society by engaging in paid work? Labor-force participation has already declined significantly since the 1940s for men, and though women entered the workforce in large numbers only in the 1970s and 1980s, their participation rate also has begun to decline. This may well reflect a trend of people at the bottom losing the capacity to convert their labor into compensable value as technology advances. AI could accelerate this trend, defenestrating people at the middle and top as well.

If the social surplus is shared widely, one might ask, "Who cares?" In the past, members of the upper class avoided taking jobs, and disdained those who did. They filled their time with hunting, literary pursuits, parties, political activities, hobbies, and so on - and they seem to have been rather pleased with their situation (at least if you ignore the bored gentry idling in summer dachas in Chekhov's stories).

Modern economists tend to think of work in the same ways, as simply a cost ("c") that must be offset by a higher wage ("w") to induce people to work. Like Adam and Eve, they implicitly think of work as a pure bad. Social welfare is maximized through consumption, not through the acquisition of "good jobs." If this is right, we

can compensate people who lose their jobs simply by giving them money.

Maybe human psychology is flexible enough that a world of plenty and little or no work could be regarded as a boon rather than an apocalypse. If aristocrats of the past, retirees of today, and children of all eras can fill their time with play, hobbies, and parties, perhaps the rest of us can, too.

But research indicates that the psychological harms of unemployment are significant. Even after controlling for income, unemployment is associated with depression, alcoholism, anxiety, social withdrawal, disruption of family relations, worse outcomes for children, and even early mortality. The recent literature on "deaths of despair" provides evidence that unemployment is associated with elevated suicide and overdose risk. The mass unemployment linked to the "China shock" in some regions of the United States was associated with elevated mental-health risks among those affected. Loss of self-esteem and a sense of meaning and usefulness is inevitable in a society that valorizes work and scorns the unemployed and unemployable.

As such, the long-term challenge posed by AI may be less about how to redistribute wealth, and more about how to preserve jobs in a world in which human labor is no longer valued. One proposal is to tax AI more relative to labor, whereas another - recently advanced by MIT economist David Autor - is to use government resources to shape the development of AI so that it complements rather than substitutes for human labor.

Neither idea is promising. If the most optimistic predictions about AI's future productivity benefits are accurate, a tax would have to be tremendously high to have any impact. Moreover, AI applications are likely to be both complements and substitutes. After all, technological innovations generally enhance some workers' productivity, while eliminating others' tasks. If the government steps in to subsidize complementary AI - say, algorithms that improve writing or coding - it could just as easily end up displacing jobs as preserving them.

Even if taxes or subsidies can keep alive jobs that produce less value than AI substitutes, they will merely be putting off the day of reckoning. People who derive self-esteem from their jobs do so in part because they believe that society values their work. Once it becomes clear that their work can be done better and more cheaply by a machine, they will no longer be able to maintain the illusion that their work matters. If the US government had preserved the jobs of buggy-whip makers when automobiles displaced horse-drawn carriages, one doubts that those positions would still confer much self-esteem on anyone who took them today.

Even if humans are able to adjust to a life of leisure in the long term, the most optimistic projections of AI productivity portend massive short-run disruptions to labor markets, akin to the impact of the China shock. That means substantial - and for many people, permanent - unemployment. There is no social safety net generous enough to protect people from the mental-health effects, and society from the political turmoil, that would follow from such widespread disappointment and alienation.

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

OP-ED

By Sania Nishtar

Fifty Years of Immunization Success Call for 50 More

GENEVA- There is a good chance that you know one of the 154 million people who over the past 50 years have been saved from a preventable death by routine immunization. You might even be one. In fact, surveying the past half-century, it is hard to identify a public-health tool that has had a more positive impact than vaccination, or one that has done more to promote global health equity.

Routine immunization programs, once the purview of the wealthy world, now exist in every country, owing to the landmark commitment that the World Health Organization's member states made in 1974 to establish what is now known as the Essential Programme on Immunization. Initially, the EPI focused on ensuring universal access to vaccines against tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, and measles - all preventable child killers. Today, 84% of children globally are immunized against these six diseases, compared to only 5% in 1974.

But progress has been hard won. After rapid gains in immunization coverage throughout the 1980s, momentum was lost in the 1990s. The main issue was that lower-income countries lacked the resources and infrastructure needed to sustain immunization programs. Moreover, vaccine markets were fragmented and dysfunctional: countries depended on a few manufacturers, and uncertain demand deterred new entrants.

That is where Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, came in. The organization was established in 2000 to harness the strengths of the public and private sectors. By forging new partnerships, the thinking went, Gavi could improve access to vaccines against a wider range of infectious diseases in lower-income countries and marginalized communities.

In the decades since, Gavi has helped protect more than one billion children and halve childhood mortality in 78 countries, while delivering significant economic benefits. Meanwhile, most of the countries that Gavi supports have continued to increase funding for vaccination efforts, putting such programs on a more sustainable footing and creating an entry point for other health services.

The 50th anniversary of EPI is a fitting moment to celebrate the millions of lives saved through routine immunization, and the health workers who have devoted considerable effort, often in the most demanding environments, to realize the EPI's goals. But it is also an opportunity to reflect on what still needs to be done. According to our estimates, around one in ten children in lower-income countries have not received any routine vaccines. These "zero-dose" children are often in poor communities affected by conflict and displacement, in countries with extremely fragile health systems that provide no access to primary care.

Continued progress will depend on our ability to reach these marginalized communities. That is why, since taking over as CEO in March, my main priority has been ensuring that Gavi's work is informed by and grounded in the needs and experiences of the communities and countries that we serve.

At a time when violent conflict, geopolitical tensions, and climate change are dominating the headlines, the EPI's anniversary should also serve as a reminder that we can still achieve world-changing results when we work together. Every vaccination offers hope for a better, healthier future. And as we stand on the cusp of a new era for immunization, there is reason for optimism.

Since 2022, for example, a record number of people are protected by the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which protects against the main cause of cervical cancer. Moreover, we have the ambitious goal of immunizing 86 million girls against HPV in Gavi-supported countries by the end of 2025. And this week, three more African countries will join Burkina Faso and Cameroon in rolling out the world's first-ever malaria vaccine - a development that would have seemed impossible just a few decades ago.

The future of vaccines appears to be even brighter. It is possible that, before the end of the decade, there will be a new vaccine against tuberculosis - one of humanity's oldest scourges. Looking further ahead, we could even see vaccines delivered through dissolvable microarray patches instead of syringes.

In the half-century since the WHO instituted the EPI, the world has shown a remarkable capacity to come together on the crucial issue of vaccination. At this moment of deepening political polarization and global fragmentation, we must commit to another 50 years of changing the world for the better.

OPINION

By Kenneth Rogoff

The End of Magical Debt Thinking

CAMBRIDGE - For over a decade, numerous economists - primarily but not exclusively on the left - have argued that the potential benefits of using debt to finance government spending far outweigh any associated costs. The notion that advanced economies could suffer from debt overhang was widely dismissed, and dissenting voices were often ridiculed. Even the International Monetary Fund, traditionally a stalwart advocate of fiscal prudence, began to support high levels of debt-financed stimulus.

The tide has turned over the past two years, as this type of magical thinking collided with the harsh realities of high inflation and the return to normal long-term real interest rates. A recent reassessment by three senior IMF economists underscores this remarkable shift. The authors project that the advanced economies' average debt-to-income ratio will rise to 120% of GDP by 2028, owing to their declining long-term growth prospects. They also note that with elevated borrowing costs becoming the "new normal," developed countries must "gradually and credibly rebuild fiscal buffers and ensure the sustainability of their sovereign debt."

This balanced and measured assessment is far from alarmist. Yet, not too long ago, any suggestion of fiscal prudence was quickly dismissed as "austerity" by many on the left. For example, Adam Tooze's 2018 book on the 2008-09 global financial crisis and its consequences uses the word 102 times.

Until very recently, in fact, the notion that a high public-debt burden could be problematic was almost taboo. Just this past August, Barry Eichengreen and Serkan Arslanalp presented an excellent paper on global debt at the annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, documenting the extraordinary levels of government debt accumulated in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Curiously, however, the authors refrained from clearly explaining why this might pose a problem for advanced economies.

This is not merely an accounting issue. While developed countries rarely formally default on their domestic debt - often resorting to other tactics like surprise inflation and financial repression to manage their liabilities - a high debt burden is generally detrimental to economic growth. This was the argument Carmen M. Reinhart and I presented in a brief article for a conference in 2010 and in a more comprehensive analysis we co-authored with Vincent Reinhart in 2012.

These papers sparked a heated debate, frequently marred by gross misrepresentation. It did not help that much of the public struggled to differentiate between deficit financing, which can temporarily boost growth, and high debt, which tends to have negative long-term consequences. Academic economists largely agree that very high debt levels can impede economic growth, both by crowding out private investment and by narrowing the scope for fiscal stimulus during deep recessions or financial crises.

To be sure, in the pre-pandemic era of ultra-low real interest rates, debt really did seem to be cost-free, enabling countries to spend now without having to pay later. But this spending spree rested on two assumptions. The first was that interest rates on government debt would remain low indefinitely, or at least rise so gradually that countries would have decades to adjust. The second assumption was that sudden, massive spending needs - for example, a military buildup in response to foreign aggression - could be funded by taking on more debt.

While some might argue that countries can simply grow their way out of high debt, citing the United States' postwar boom as an example, a recent paper by economists Julien Acalin and Laurence M. Ball refutes this notion. Their research shows that without the strict interest-rate controls the US imposed after the end of World War II and periodic inflationary surges, America's debt-to-GDP ratio would have been 74% in 1974, instead of 23%. The bad news is that in today's economic environment, characterized by inflation targeting and more open global financial markets, these tactics may no longer be viable, necessitating major adjustments in US fiscal policy.

To be fair, there is also no need to panic about public debt, at least in advanced economies. Occasional bouts of high inflation or extended periods of financial repression are not catastrophic. But it is important to emphasize that while wealthy people have access to a range of investment options that enable them to cushion the impact of such financial adjustments, low- and middle-income citizens tend to bear the brunt of the costs.

In short, government debt can be a valuable tool for addressing myriad economic challenges. But it is not - and has never been - a free lunch.

ARTICLE

The Battle for the Ballot Box'

(Courtesy of BBC World Service & 'Africa)

BBC World Service Presents: BBC explores state of democracy across Africa in major new documentary

In a year where nearly a third of African nations head to the polls, BBC World Service will explore the state of democracy across the world's fastest-growing continent in a new milestone documentary, *Africa: The Battle for the Ballot Box*.

Presented by correspondent Nomsa Maseko, the documentary - which premieres as part of BBC World Service Presents - examines the historical and socio-economic context of democracy across Africa, alongside recent the challenges of reported coups, corruption, and worsening security situations.

Africa: The Battle for the Ballot Box will see Nomsa Maseko return to her home country of South Africa, three decades into its democratic journey since the end of apartheid, to interview experts and citizens. It will also tackle pressing issues such as access to public healthcare, economic opportunities, and inequality in the country.

Reflecting on her childhood experience witnessing the first democratic elections, Maseko says: "On the 27th of April in 1994, we started queuing from 6 a.m., filled with both hope and anxiety. I was too young to vote back then, but I saw what it meant for black South Africans to be free, finally to choose their own government." She added: "Thousands of Black people lined up with their fists in the air chanting 'We are free!' and I understood that now I was too."

In the documentary, we hear from experts and academics including Professor Nic Cheeseman of the University of Birmingham who highlights the complex situation on the continent: "We see a significant decline in the quality of democracy across the continent. But it is also true that we see positive stories every year as well as negative stories." He added: "We're getting a continent that has countries that are getting towards being real strong democracies and countries that are so far away from democracy, they haven't really moved since the 1990s."

The film explores the historical context of colonialism, including decades of resistance against apartheid and highlights the significance of South Africa's first elections for the world, especially for Africans.

Africa: The Battle for the Ballot Box will examine the recent rise in reported military coups in Africa. A 2022 study by the African Youth Survey highlights a decline in confidence among young Africans in the continent's future, where a significant portion of the population (70%) is under 30.

Sola Tayo, Executive Producer, says: "Thirty years on from the first democratic elections, South Africa has reached a pivotal point. Different generations are grappling with very complex feelings about the governing party and the way their society is evolving. This year, a third of African countries will be engaged in elections and dealing with their own challenges. This documentary is a timely exploration of the democratic landscape in the world's fastest growing continent....seen through the eyes of its people."

Vara Szajkowski, Executive Producer says: "This documentary reflects a range of voices across Africa, from everyday citizens to experts and academics. They share their firsthand experiences with democracy, exploring their hopes and concerns about voting, leadership, and the future. We believe these stories offer a powerful and nuanced perspective on the challenges and possibilities facing African democracies."

Africa: The Battle for the Ballot Box is available on BBC News, BBC iPlayer and the BBC World Service YouTube channel from 4 May 2024.

The documentary premieres at BBC World Service Presents where BBC presenter and host Waihiga Mwaura will introduce the film. A discussion will then follow with panellists; Halima Aden, model and campaigner, Elham Saudi, co-founder and Director of Lawyers for Justice in Libya, Immaculate Akello, eco-feminist and lawyer, and Ibijoke Faborode, co-founder and CEO of ElectHER.

COMMENTARY

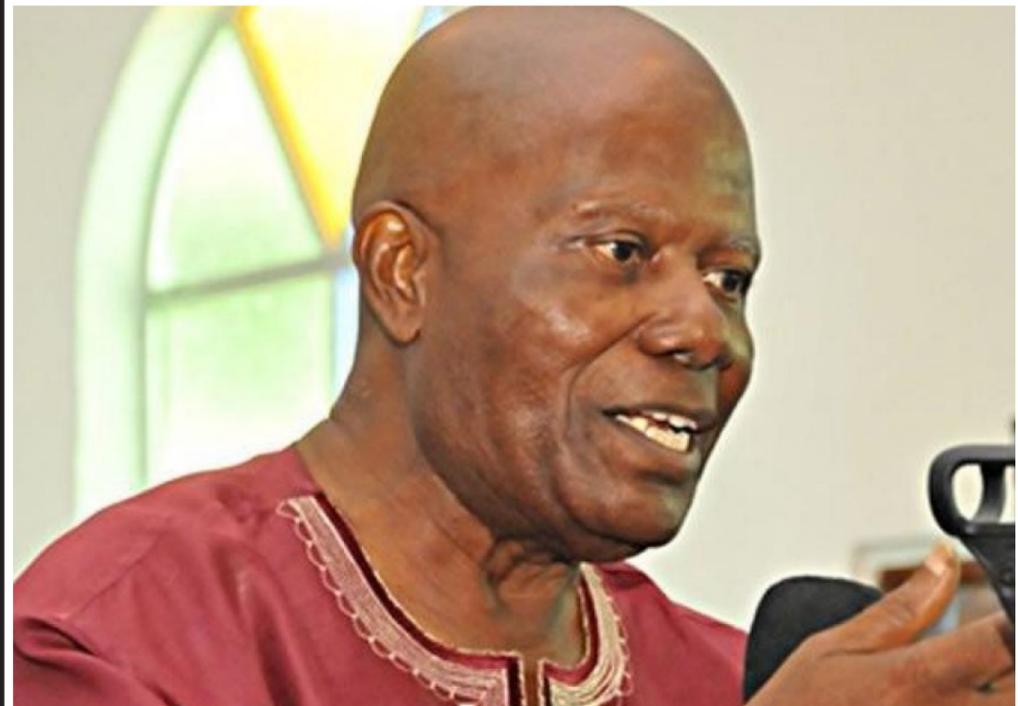
By: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Swamp Farming is the Solution

Front Page Africa and New Narratives have done a survey showing that "nine out of ten Liberian subsistence farmers want to migrate because climate change is making farming unviable". In the words of the thirty four years old Liberian Farmer Alex Conway, "I do not know book but I know what is happening is climate change, I have been farming for years, so I know when farms suppose to burn. Rain used to fall in March but not like this. This year, if my farm does not burn, it means I will not get food for next year. Even the corn I planted, they just getting dry because of the sun. That all that one make it I want to leave from here (Front Page Africa, page five, Friday, April 26, 2024).

The climate change farm problem is a longtime problem because nearly all of the farmers in Liberia are engaged in upland farming, using the slash and burn method of farming. For a long time, farmers in Liberia have been encouraged to move into swamp land farming to prevent them from getting schistosomiasis, the swamp disease. but to no avail. These farmers complain about the lack of money to buy rain boots and other supplies to avoid catching the disease.

While nearly all of the people of Liberia remain poor farmers, the few members of the National Legislature are rich with access to at least LD300,000 a day and their foreign partners have access to at least LD300,000,000 a day and nearly all Liberians remain poor with access to at most less than LD300 a day (The Annual Reports of CBL, LISGIS, MFDP, MCI, WB, IMF, ADB and UNDP). No wonder, rice imports to Liberia



amounted to almost USD300 million in 2023 (MCI, 2024). This importation is happening when over eighty per cent of the people of Liberia live from farming, especially rice farming.

Clearly, the powers that be do not promote local production, with local ownership and employment that would promote poverty alleviation rather than poverty generation. Most unfortunately, the incoming State rulers boast of promoting local agricultural production. But this is not the case because of the fact that most of the rice consumed in Liberia are imported and owned by foreign businesses. Now, with the encouragement of foreign investors, certainly the local ownership and production of rice, Liberia's staple food, is not being promoted by the powers that be. So the migration of Liberian farmers will take place in the midst of the fact over three thousand Africans have died this year as they tried to migrate by oceanic crossing.

The sad story of the deaths by drowning provides the people who love Liberia with the opportunity of raising awareness to motivate the people to take action to move from upland farming to swamp land farming, within the Rule of Law, to transform the prevailing unfair sectoral system to the enduring fair electoral system. It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS Council of the Wise convene retreat

As part of efforts to reinvigorate the ECOWAS Council of the Wise, the ECOWAS Commission has convened a two day retreat of the council

increasing socioeconomic consequences of youth unemployment. These have been major concerns of the ECOWAS Commission in its bid to promote political stability,

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan declared open the retreat and urged the ECOWAS Commission to support the Council of the Wise with adequate resources. Goodwill messages were delivered by representatives of the GiZ and European Union Delegation in Cote d'Ivoire. The retreat of the ECOWAS Council is also being attended by the Permanent Representatives of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Cote d'Ivoire and some regional experts in peace and security. The Council of the Wise is made up of statesmen and women from the region and provides a vital platform for the members to extensively discuss issues affecting peace and security within the region and provide wise counsel to the President of the Commission. The first retreat of the Council of the Wise was held in February 2022 at Marriot Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria. The current retreat is being supported by the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



beginning today in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The council which is an important instrument for the promotion of peace, security and stability in West Africa, will be examining the governance, peace and security situation in the region. The members will deliberate on the disturbing resurgence of military coups, the democratic reversals arising from the spate of constitutional amendments and electoral irregularities, the unsettling trend of diminishing political participation, the alarming rise in politically motivated violence as well as the

peace and democracy in the region through dialogue and mediation. Addressing the opening of the retreat, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, HE Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musa, reaffirmed the Commitment of the ECOWAS Commission under the leadership of H.E Dr Omar Alieu Touray to find enduring solutions to the myriad of crisis affecting the region in collaboration with members of the ECOWAS Council of the Wise. Chairperson of the Council and Former President of Nigeria, His Excellency, President

Society for Human Rights laments plight of Liberians in Ghana

Group appeals to President Boakai to address plight of Liberians driven out of the former refugee camp.

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Buduburam, Ghana, April 30, 2024 - The National Society for Human Rights wants the Government of Liberia to take concrete steps that will help address current situations Liberians living in the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana are going through.

Speaking in a joint press conference at the New Water in the Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentothal Church International, the group's President, Archbishop Thomas Paul Schirmacker, described the plight of Liberians at the Buduburam Refugee Camp as terrible.

According to him, roofs of church buildings where Liberians seeking refuge after they were driven out of Buduburam are being removed by the Ghanaian government on the grounds that they will not have a sleeping place.

"What we saw during our visit at the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana last week is very frustrating and [needs] urgent

attention from the Government of Liberia," Archbishop Schirmacker said.

Also speaking at the press conference, the Secretary General of the National Society for Human Rights, Matthias Bohning, called on Canadian International Footballer Alphonso Davis, who was born at the Buduburam Refugee Camp, to help his fellow Liberians.

Alphonso Davies, born November 2, 2000, is a

professional footballer who plays left-back or winger for Bundesliga club Bayern Munich and the Canada national team. He is widely regarded as one of the best full-backs in the world and among the best North American players ever. His exceptional pace, dribbling ability, and creativity have earned him the nickname "The Roadrunner."

Born in Ghana to Liberian refugee parents, Davies and his family moved to Canada when he was five. He obtained Canadian citizenship in June 2017 and became the youngest player to appear for Canada's national team later that month.

▶ CONT'D page 7



SIANL opens offices in Monrovia

Monrovia, Liberia, April 30, 2024 - Liberian scholars, who studied in Sweden open offices here.

The Swedish Institute Alumni Network of Liberia (SIANL) has celebrated the opening of its offices in the country, while bestowing honors upon several dedicated members during a ceremonious event in Paynesville.

Amidst a gathering of esteemed members and guests, the former president of SIANL, Sam Samie Sumo, officially opened the office and emphasized the importance of having a dedicated workspace for the network.

He hailed the opening of the office in the Swakamo Community in Paynesville, as a pivotal moment, enabling members to convene, deliberate on pertinent issues, and devise strategies to better serve the community. Sumo extended heartfelt appreciation to former board members for their

impacting Liberian society with the knowledge acquired from Sweden.

Those certificated include the network's former SIANL President Sam Samie Sumo, former Financial Secretary Josephine Boakai Sumo, Communication Manager Danicius Kaihennh Sengbeh as well as former leaders and scholars Abraham Monah, Alvin Yelloway, Calixe Hessou and Zubah Kollie Yenego, Jr.

In an inspiring keynote address, Flimore Wiagbe, President of the Association of Chinese Trained Scholars, underscored the fundamental principles of commitment, dedication, teamwork, and transparency as indispensable pillars for organizational success. Wiagbe urged SIANL members to actively participate in network activities while emphasizing the importance of transparency and accountability in leadership. Drawing from his experience, Wiagbe encouraged SIANL to forge strong ties with the



collaborative efforts in securing the office space, underscoring the collective commitment of all network members.

The event also witnessed the recognition of several members for their unwavering dedication and service over the years. Julateh Mulbah, the current president of SIANL, highlighted the significance of honoring these individuals as a means of fostering motivation and commitment within the network.

The event, she said, served as an "opportunity to recognize and pay tribute" to the honored members of the network whose "unwavering dedication and exemplary leadership have significantly contributed to the shared goals and successes" of the network. Mulbah, the first female president of SIANL, urged all members to unite in advancing the organization's mission of fostering collaboration and positively

Swedish Embassy to garner support for initiatives that align with the ideals of Swedish-Liberian relations.

As SIANL charts its course forward, Wiagbe emphasized the invaluable contributions of individual talents and expertise in driving the organization's endeavors, advocating for a collaborative approach to address challenges and seize opportunities. He underscored the potential for SIANL to leverage its partnership with Sweden to undertake impactful projects that reflect the shared values and goals of both nations.

The inauguration of the SIANL office marks a significant step forward in the organization's journey, symbolizing its commitment to excellence, collaboration, and service to society. SIANL continues to evolve and remains steadfast in its mission to foster meaningful connections, drive positive change, and uphold

▶ CONT'D page 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberians homeless in Ghana over demolition of refugee camp

-Rights group says

The Liberia Camp ceased to be classified as a refugee shelter in 2012. Since then, the landowners have made several attempts at demolition.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, April 30, 2024: The National Society for Human Rights, urgent attention from the Government of Liberia," Schirmacker is quoted as



Rights has asked the Liberian government to take concrete steps to address the situation with Liberians displaced from the Buduburam Refugee Camp, in Ghana.

The group addressed a press conference recently at the New Water in the Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentecostal Church International. The group's president Archbishop Thomas Paul Schirmacker said the situation at the Buduburam Refugee Camp is very terrible. According to him, Ghanaians are allegedly removing roofs over church buildings where Liberians are seeking refuge. "What we saw during our visit at the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana last week is very frustrating and it [needs an]

brightly painted houses to salvage belongings as bulldozers plowed on around them.

In the nearby Point Hope Basic School, women, children, and the elderly slept on improvised beds. The Liberia Camp ceased to be classified as a refugee shelter in 2012. Since then, the landowners have made several attempts at demolition.

Also speaking, the Secretary General of the National Society for the Human Rights Group Matthias Bohning called on Canadian International Footballer Alphonso Davis who was also born at the Buduburam Refugee Camp to help his fellow Liberians.

Alphonso Davies, born on November 2, 2000, is a professional soccer player for Bundesliga Club Bayern Munich and the Canadian national team. He is widely regarded as one of the best fullbacks in the world and one of the best North American players of all time. His exceptional pace, dribbling ability, and creativity have earned him the nickname "The Roadrunner."

Born in Ghana to Liberian refugee parents, Davies and his family moved to Canada when he was five years old. He obtained Canadian citizenship in June 2017 and became the youngest player to appear for the Canadian national team later that month. In a 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup match, he scored two goals, becoming the youngest player to score for the team and the youngest to score at the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Musa Bility pledges ferry for river connecting Bong and Nimba

There have been reports of numerous deaths by drowning in the St. John River which connects Bong and Nimba Counties, prompting Mr. Bility to announce a plan to get a ferry for the locals.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 30, 2024: Nimba County Electoral District #7 Representative Musa Bility has vowed to purchase a new ferry for commuters to have safe transport over a river connecting his county to Bong.

There have been reports of numerous deaths by drowning in the St. John River which connects Bong and Nimba Counties, prompting Mr. Bility to announce a plan to get a ferry for the locals.

He said the ferry will mitigate the uncontrollable drowning of people at the crossing point over the St. John River that connects Quoiqa, Bong Electoral District #1, and Lainton, Nimba Electoral District #9. Quoiqa Wolota is said to be the hometown of Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe's

mother. Bility announced the plan over the weekend when

Cllr. Gongloe led an array of policymakers in his mother's home in Quiopa Wolota Clan to find a solution to the numerous deaths by drowning of residents of the town along the St. John River. The visitation was also geared toward acquiring a ferry at the crossing point. Those in the gathering included Mr. Bility, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Boss Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey-Yarkpawolo, and Bong County Electoral District #1 Representative Prince Koinah. During the visitation, the delegates visited the site and acquired first-hand

information. Following the visit, Mr. Bility extolled Cllr. Gongloe for allowing him to form part of the delegation to Quoiqa. He urged the people of Quoiqa to continue the developmental mindset, describing the community as a historic town. "I will purchase the ferry you people need to mitigate the drowning you are experiencing. I think this is an opportunity for me to pay back Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe for helping me in the establishment of my business" said Mr. Bility. "Cllr. Gongloe was very instrumental in the business I have today because he did my article of incorporation free of charge," Bility noted.

In the same vein, Representative Bility pledged 100 pieces of solar lights for the people of Quoiqa and asked them to emulate Cllr. Gongloe's fair practices by distributing the lights to the needed positions void of politics.

Starts from back page

Businessman threatens

Kromah has called him via phone to inform him about drug syndicates, but he told the Agency that he has no dealings with drugs. Noting that they had mandated his presence at the Royal Grand Hotel to substantiate the fact, he decided that a few of his workers would accompany him to said meeting with the LDEA Boss to disprove his claims.

"I'm not a person running away from the law. I embrace the law, and AB doesn't have the right to harass any citizen, so when he called my office phone and asked a few questions about my link with drugs, I said no; I don't drink; I don't smoke, and neither my workers do, and we have no affiliation with drugs, but when he insisted my presence, I decided to go alone, but my boys decided to accompany me."

According to Mr. Dabor, he employs more than a hundred Liberians, some of whom are engineers, electricians, and plumbers. He says, "Our work here is advertising. We work with Orange GSM and Lone Star Cell MTN and plant most of the billboards you see around the

country. We have nothing to do with drugs."

Mr. Darbor described himself as a Liberian citizen, but has ties in Sierra Leone.

He continued that the behavior exhibited against him by the LDEA Boss and his deputy for operations, Fadiga, was unprofessional, accusing them of using excessive force against innocent Liberians.

When contacted, LDEA Boss Col. Abraham Kromah clarified briefly via mobile phone that the meeting with Mr. Darbo Grand Royal Hotel was unrelated to LDEA.

Col. Kromah explained that upon his arrival at the hotel, he saw the CEO of Magic Group of Companies, Mr. Mamudu Darbo, bringing along a huge number of men, which intimidated him and his deputy Fadiga, so they called for agents of the LDEA for protection.

Kromah continue that it was because of outburst from the opposing men that the LDEA agents began to pepper spray.

He decided not to comment any further on the issue but rather said his chief of operations, Hassan Fadiga, would address the media. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

Society for Human Rights

In a 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup match against French Guiana, he scored two goals, becoming the youngest player to score for the team and the youngest to score at the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

For his part, the Bishop of the New Water in the Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentothal Church International, Dr. Kortu Brown, is urging the Boakai administration to take immediate steps to address the plight of Liberians from the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana. The group currently operates in about thirty-seven (37) countries worldwide. It describes as terrible, experiences of Liberians over the months since the Ghanaian government started demolition of the Buduburam Refugee Camp, situated about 40 miles away from Accra.

According to them, based on visitations, findings, and people spoken with at the Camp, yellow machines moved on the Liberians as early as 4 am while they were still asleep and demolished their structures, forcing them out of the premises.

Though the United Nations

ruled in 2006 that it was safe for refugees to return home, many, traumatized and without connections, remained in the so-called Liberia Camp in Buduburam, about 45 km West of Ghana's capital, Accra. But last week, under the orders of traditional authorities, who own the land, demolition of the camp began. By Monday, a large part of the site where the once bustling Liberia Camp had stood for 34 years was reduced to rubble, leaning only palm trees standing.

Residents picked through the wreckage of their once brightly painted houses to salvage belongings as bulldozers plowed on around them. In nearby Point Hope Basic School, women, children, and the elderly slept on improvised beds.

Liberia Camp ceased to be classified as a refugee shelter in 2012. Since then, the landowners have made several attempts at demolition to get the Liberians out.

The Liberian government recently sent a delegation to Ghana to meet with Ghanaian authorities about the situation. Negotiations were said to be ongoing to bring the Liberians home, as they no longer bear refugee status in that country. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

SIANL opens offices in Monrovia

the legacy of the Swedish Institute Network for Global Professionals. About the Swedish Institute Alumni Network of Liberia (SIANL):

The Swedish Institute Alumni Network of Liberia (SIANL) is a vibrant community of professionals dedicated to

fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and societal impact. Comprising alumni of the Swedish Institute programs, SIANL endeavors to leverage its collective expertise to address challenges and drive positive change in Liberian society. Press Release

Français

Le président Boakai s'attaque aux titulaires de postes à durée déterminée

Suite à un récent avis de la Cour suprême qui a contrecarré sa tentative de révoquer de force les commissaires de l'Autorité des télécommunications du

Joseph Nyuma Boakai a suspendu avec effet immédiat Madame Edwina C. Zackpah, Monsieur Israel Akinsanya, Monsieur Zotawon D. Titus, Monsieur James Gbarwea et Monsieur Osborne K. Diggs,

Commission générale de vérification (GAC) afin d'enquêter sur les allégations au sein de l'entité.

Il a exhorté les responsables suspendus à coopérer pleinement avec la GAC pendant l'enquête.

Le président Boakai est convaincu que l'enquête révélera toute malversation financière et aidera à identifier des mesures correctives pour prévenir de tels incidents à l'avenir.

La Cour suprême du Liberia a statué la semaine dernière que les droits au droit de procédure des responsables occupant des postes à durée déterminée étaient violés par la tentative du président de les révoquer de force.

Prononçant le jugement le mercredi 24 avril 2024 dans la salle de la Cour suprême, le juge en chef Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh a déclaré que le mandat alternatif d'interdiction émis par le juge en chambre, Yussif D. Kaba, est par la présente confirmé et que le mandat impératif demandé par les groupes de titulaires de postes à durée déterminée est accordé.

Le juge en chef Yuoh a également ordonné que les nominations faites par le président Joseph N.

▶ CONT'D page 9

Éditorial

Les nominations par le président libérien à la LTA sont inutiles

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a suspendu les 5 membres du Conseil des commissaires de l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia (LTA) pendant le week-end et a apparemment désigné ses propres représentants pour assurer l'intérim en attendant un audit de l'entité. Le président a demandé un rapport d'état aux membres du conseil suspendus.

Cette situation survient alors que le président a tenté sans succès de remplacer les commissaires, qui occupent des postes à durée déterminée, notamment après que la Cour suprême du Liberia ait statué la semaine dernière que cette démarche du président violait leurs droits.

Cependant, le président Boakai a agi rapidement et a suspendu les commissaires, envoyant ses propres choix pour les remplacer en attendant l'audit.

Nous pensons que bien qu'il soit dans les prérogatives du président de nommer, suspendre ou révoquer tout fonctionnaire du gouvernement, qu'il occupe ou non un poste à durée déterminée, agir comme il le fait actuellement donne l'impression d'une chasse aux sorcières, en particulier en désignant ses propres proches pour assurer l'intérim pendant la suspension.

Plutôt que d'envoyer ses hommes agir, le président Boakai aurait dû demander aux adjoints des commissaires de prendre l'intérim pendant l'enquête. Cela n'a pas été fait. Au contraire, une crise de confiance est créée en envoyant les proches du président, qui auraient du mal, voire seraient incapables, de travailler avec le personnel resté en poste et qui collaborait avec les commissaires suspendus.

L'essentiel est que si le président Boakai ne souhaite pas conserver l'actuel conseil d'administration de la LTA, comme cela semble être le cas, il pourrait les révoquer en s'engageant directement avec eux sur leurs salaires et avantages, conformément à la loi, étant donné que leurs mandats n'ont pas expiré, et déterminer comment ils pourraient être rémunérés. Mais il veut les évincer immédiatement pour que ses partisans puissent prendre leur place.

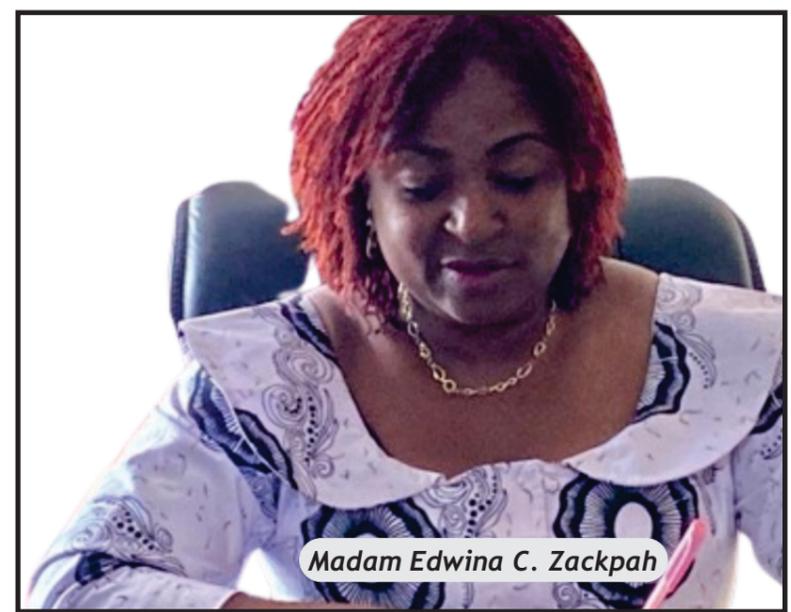
D'après toutes les indications, le président est déterminé à se débarrasser des commissaires à tout prix, même par des moyens peu orthodoxes, surtout lorsqu'il n'a pas le pouvoir légal de le faire, comme l'a statué la Cour suprême. Alors, où allons-nous si ce n'est pas une chasse aux sorcières ?

Nos frères et sœurs du parti au pouvoir, ou de l'équipe de secours, qui sont poussés vers la LTA devraient penser à l'avenir. "Le piège du temps", dit-on, "n'est pas seulement pour les taux." Il y a un autre jour après l'ère Boakai. Il n'est pas sensé de chasser un groupe de Libériens de la fonction publique pour les remplacer par un autre. Il doit y avoir une cause claire et tangible.

C'est malheureusement dans cette veine que des policiers anti-émeute, lourdement armés, se sont rendus à la LTA vendredi et ont terrorisé psychologiquement une employée de l'entité et sa fille, mineure, en expliquant qu'ils avaient le mandat d'inspecter le véhicule privé de la dame pour une raison quelconque, sans mandat de perquisition du tribunal. C'était injuste, totalement injuste !

Le seul crime de cette dame était d'être analyste dans le bureau de l'un des commissaires suspendus. Et la police n'a rien trouvé de suspect chez elle, laissant cette femme et la jeune mineure avec un traumatisme psychologique.

Nous profitons de cette occasion pour mettre en garde le président Boakai de procéder avec circonspection dans la formation de son gouvernement, afin d'éviter d'opposer un groupe de Libériens à un autre groupe de citoyens, simplement pour des emplois, car nous sommes tous unis, indépendamment des affiliations politiques.



Madam Edwina C. Zackpah

Liberia (LTA) et d'autres titulaires de postes à durée déterminée, le président Boakai a pris une autre voie en suspendant les cinq commissaires de la LTA, dont la présidente, Madame Edwina C. Zackpah.

Le Palais exécutif de Monrovia a annoncé ce week-end que le président

respectivement présidente et commissaires de l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia, pour des allégations de transactions financières douteuses et d'autres pratiques répréhensibles au sein de l'entité.

Le communiqué indique que le président a demandé un audit complet de la LTA par la

La NEC déclare Twayen et Sokan vainqueurs des élections partielles

Les élections partielles ont eu lieu dans les comtés de Nimba et de Grand Gedeh pour combler les postes vacants laissés après l'élection du sénateur de Nimba, Jeremiah Koung, au poste de vice-président du Liberia, et le décès du représentant élu de Grand Gedeh, Erol Madison Gwion.

Monrovia, le 29 avril 2024 : La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a déclaré Nya D. Twayen et Jeremiah Garwo Sokan vainqueurs des élections législatives partielles des comtés de Nimba et de Grand Gedeh, respectivement.

Twayen a participé à l'élection partielle sénatoriale de Nimba en tant que candidate du parti au pouvoir, l'Union pour la démocratie et la réconciliation (UP), tandis que Sokan a concouru à l'élection partielle du représentant de Grand Gedeh en tant que candidat indépendant pour le district électoral n°1.

La présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, a annoncé les résultats définitifs des élections

partielles ce week-end.

Sokan a obtenu le plus grand nombre de voix (3 168), soit 30,74 % des votes valides.

Madame Browne-Lansanah a ajouté que Twayen a également obtenu le plus grand nombre de voix, soit 67 138, soit 59,27 % des votes valides. Les élections partielles ont eu lieu dans les deux comtés le 23 avril 2024 en raison de l'élection au poste de vice-président du sénateur de Nimba, Jeremiah Koung, et du décès du représentant élu de Grand Gedeh, Erol Madison

Gwion. Annonçant les résultats, Madame Browne-Lansanah a déclaré que les électeurs de Nimba et du district n°1 de Grand Gedeh se sont rendus aux urnes le mardi 23 avril 2024 pour élire un sénateur et un membre de la Chambre des représentants, respectivement. Madame Browne-Lansanah a expliqué que les élections partielles à Nimba et dans le district n°1 du comté de Grand Gedeh se

▶ CONT'D page 9



Français

Starts from page 8 Le président Boakai s'attaque

Boakai à ces différents postes et institutions donnant lieu à ces pétitions soient révoquées et retirées.

Elle a ordonné au greffier de la Cour suprême d'informer toutes les parties de la décision de la cour.

La juge en chef a souligné qu'il n'y a aucune preuve de l'existence de l'une des conditions pour le mandat, qui est la révocation des pétitionnaires de leurs fonctions, comme le stipulent les lois créant les entités respectives auxquelles les titulaires de postes à durée déterminée sont nommés.

"Leur révocation de leurs fonctions avant l'expiration de leur mandat sans procédure régulière est ultra vires", a souligné la juge en chef Yuoh.

Elle a ajouté que la Cour suprême a statué que l'article 89 de la Constitution du Liberia (1986), qui donne au législateur le pouvoir de créer

des agences autonomes, ne contrevient pas à l'article 56 de la même Constitution, notant que l'acte du président Boakai, en nommant des personnes à des postes à durée déterminée, alors que leurs mandats sont encore en cours et non expirés, équivaut à leur révocation de leurs fonctions.

Cependant, à peine un jour après le jugement de la Haute Cour la semaine dernière, le président a suspendu les titulaires de postes à durée déterminée Garrison Doldeh Yealue, président de la Commission de gouvernance, Andrew Peter, directeur exécutif du Registre national d'identification, Edwina Crump Zackpah, présidente, Israel Akinsanya, James Gbarwea, Zatonon Titus et Osborn Diggs, commissaires de l'Autorité des télécommunications du Liberia, ainsi que Reginald Kpan Nagbe, directeur général de la Loterie nationale du Liberia.

Starts from page 8 La NEC déclare Twayen et Sokan

sont déroulées dans une atmosphère paisible.

Elle a révélé que le processus de dépouillement a commencé le 24 avril 2024 dans les deux bureaux de magistrature de Nimba (Sanniquellie, Upper Nimba) et (Tappita, Lower Nimba), ainsi que dans le bureau de magistrature de Grand Gedeh à Zwedru, en présence des agents des candidats et d'observateurs indépendants.

La présidente de la NEC a précisé que les résultats dépouillés des bureaux de magistrature ont été progressivement transmis au centre de données au siège de la NEC à Monrovia. Madame Browne-Lansanah a remercié les habitants du comté de Nimba et du district n°1 du comté de Grand Gedeh pour leur participation pacifique au processus des élections partielles du 23 avril 2024. Elle a également exprimé la gratitude de la NEC au gouvernement du Liberia pour avoir fourni les fonds

nécessaires à la tenue des élections partielles.

De plus, elle a salué le ministère de la Justice et les forces de sécurité conjointes pour avoir maintenu la paix pendant le processus des élections partielles. Elle a également remercié le personnel temporaire ainsi que les employés de la NEC et l'équipe de direction de la NEC pour leur diligence dans la préparation et l'exécution de leurs tâches lors du scrutin du 23 avril. Elle a apprécié les propriétaires des biens utilisés comme bureaux de vote de la NEC, affirmant que la Commission leur est reconnaissante pour leur patriotisme et leur amour désintéressé pour le pays.

La Commission a également applaudi le soutien général des organisations locales, régionales et internationales, notamment Democracy International, LEON, EISA et ECC, entre autres, ainsi que tous les observateurs nationaux, régionaux et internationaux qui ont suivi le processus.

Le chef de la LDEA exhorte les législateurs à lutter contre la drogue



Chief Col. Abraham Kromah

Le Liberia a connu des années de consommation généralisée de drogues chez les jeunes, dont beaucoup ont abandonné l'école pour vivre dans les cimetières ou terroriser les citoyens paisibles.

Monrovia, le 29 avril 2024 : Le chef de l'Agence de lutte contre la drogue du Liberia (LDEA), le colonel Abraham Kromah, appelle les législateurs à unir leurs forces dans la lutte contre l'abus de drogues.

Le Liberia a connu des années de consommation généralisée de drogues chez les jeunes, dont beaucoup ont abandonné l'école pour vivre dans les cimetières ou terroriser les citoyens paisibles.

Lors d'une récente conférence de presse, le directeur Kromah a souligné le rôle essentiel des deux organes législatifs. Il a cité une révélation du directeur du USAID selon laquelle **60 % des jeunes Libériens**, soit un total de **2,7 millions d'individus**, sont touchés par l'abus de drogues. Conscient de la nécessité d'une action décisive, le directeur Kromah a insisté sur la nécessité d'efforts concertés pour endiguer la propagation de la toxicomanie dans le pays. Cependant, les vulnérabilités géographiques du Liberia et les défis existants en matière d'application de la

loi ont créé des conditions favorables au trafic et à la consommation de drogues, entravant les progrès malgré les initiatives gouvernementales. Dans une évaluation franche, Kromah a attribué l'impasse actuelle à l'approche fragmentée de la lutte contre l'abus de drogues.

Il a souligné l'impératif de l'implication législative pour promulguer une législation solide, allouer les ressources nécessaires et mettre en œuvre des stratégies efficaces.

"En exploitant la force collective du leadership politique de la nation", a noté Kromah, "le Liberia peut renforcer ses défenses contre la menace omniprésente de l'abus de drogues."

Par ailleurs, Kromah a mis en lumière les partenariats en cours avec la Police nationale du Liberia et les résidents des communautés pour sensibiliser aux risques associés aux drogues et aux conséquences de l'implication dans le trafic de drogues.

Entre-temps, il a noté que la récente augmentation des prix des produits sur les marchés libériens est due à leurs efforts intensifiés contre le trafic de drogues et a appelé à un financement supplémentaire pour les opérations de renseignement visant à lutter contre les drogues de manière globale à travers le Liberia.

Le MoPT mène une campagne pour la représentation féminine dans les TIC

Le gouvernement du Liberia, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Postes et des Télécommunications (MoPT), a lancé une campagne robuste pour la représentation féminine dans le secteur des technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC) ainsi que dans les domaines des sciences, de l'ingénierie et des mathématiques (STEM).

Cette campagne a officiellement débuté le week-end dernier, lorsque le ministère des Postes et des Télécommunications s'est joint au reste du village mondial pour célébrer la Journée internationale des filles dans les TIC.

Le programme a été célébré sous le thème : "Leadership", et il a réuni des dizaines d'étudiantes d'universités et de lycées dans la salle de conférence du ministère.

Des déclarations inspirantes ont été faites pour motiver et encourager les participantes lors de l'événement.

L'initiative de la Journée des filles dans les TIC vise à incarner les valeurs d'autonomisation, d'innovation et d'inclusion, afin de combler l'écart entre les genres dans le secteur des technologies de l'information et de la communication.

En présentant un aperçu et une introduction de la Journée des filles dans les TIC, Mme Regina Sackoe, représentante de l'Union des étudiants en technologie de l'Information du Liberia (LITSU) et étudiante en TIC, a déclaré que dans le paysage numérique en constante évolution, les TIC jouent un rôle crucial dans la transformation du monde.

Elle a exhorté chaque Libérien à embrasser ce parcours, à remettre en question les normes existantes et à devenir les catalyseurs du changement dont l'industrie



des TIC a désespérément besoin. Dans le même temps, elle a plaidé pour que tous défendent la cause de l'égalité des sexes dans la technologie et ouvrent la voie à un avenir plus lumineux et plus équitable. Malgré son potentiel de transformation, Mme Sackoe a souligné que les femmes continuent d'être nettement sous-représentées dans ce secteur.

Elle a noté que le programme des Filles dans les TIC s'efforce de remédier à cette inégalité en inspirant et en équipant les jeunes femmes des compétences, de la confiance et des opportunités nécessaires pour réussir dans le domaine technologique.

"Grâce au mentorat, aux ateliers et à la formation pratique, ce programme ne se contente pas de développer l'expertise technique, mais il favorise également les qualités de leadership et une mentalité entrepreneuriale chez ses participants", a déclaré Mme Sackoe. "En autonomisant les filles et les femmes dans les TIC, nous libérons non seulement leur potentiel, mais nous stimulons également l'innovation, favorisons la diversité et construisons un avenir numérique plus inclusif pour tous", a souligné Mme Sackoe.

Read the NewDawn everyday
 &
Advertise with us!

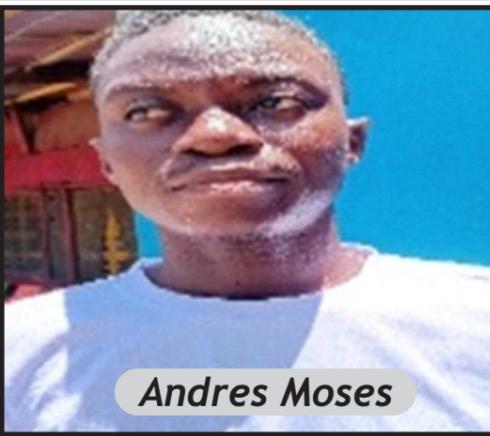
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Nimba Senatorial By-election

By Naneka Hoffman

The April 23, 2024 Senatorial By-election in Nimba indicates a turning point in politics in the county, rejecting self-proclaimed godfather Senator Prince Yormie Johnson's candidate in favor of ruling Unity Party Candidate Nya D. Twayen, Jr., who won the poll with wide margin. In a random sampling, the NE DAWN asked some ordinary citizens in Monrovia does this victory means for politics in that county that has gone the way of PYJ. Read the comments, as compiled below.



Andres Moses

"I think the dramatic is changing in Nimba County and it will not just be in Nimba County but the Liberian people are changing from the stage; they don't want to become slaves to certain group of people or because you feel that you did certain thing for them and they rewarded you more than what you did for them but, you are still being ungrateful to them.

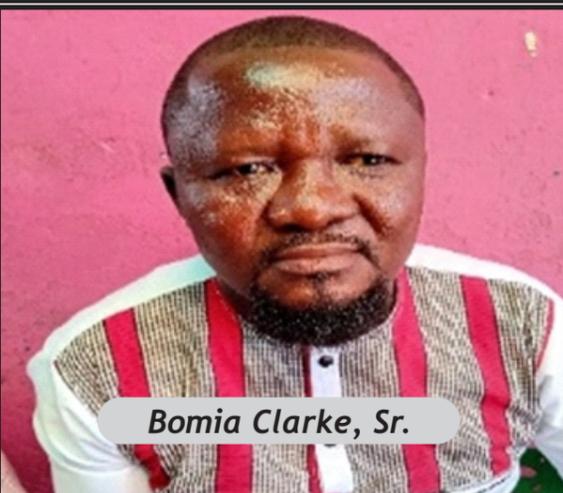
When they say they going against you, they will go against you. This is what happened to Senator Prince Johnson now in Nimba County. Prince Johnson had never been disrespected in Nimba County. The people of Nimba believe in him but he continues to use the people for his personal goal or achievement. I think it is from that point, few people who went to school and are very educated rise to the occasion and say no! We can't go his way this time around. Making the people to understand that Prince Johnson, who people listen to in this county, isn't doing well for the county. This man is only doing it for himself, all of the things the county supposed to be receiving, this man is getting it and he is the one taking all the grace, so it reached a stage that we will make our own decisions and stop listening to Prince Johnson."

"It is more about what the people want. It is no longer about influence or a particular person that thinks he or she has over the people again. And looking at Prince Johnson's candidate being defeated in the by-election by Vice President Jeremiah Koung's candidate, it shows that the issue of supremacy can't be guarantee. We the people are not in our lane, so if you fail to deliver to the people's expectation, they will not go in agreement all the time, that's what I actually learned from them. From history, people from Nimba usually agree with Prince Johnson in most of his decisions, and it's not that they don't have rights to make their own decision or their own will, but because of respect, admiration and what he did for the people of Nimba. They think that he is



Benjamin Wonder

the best man to make decision for them. This time around, this message for the people to vote for his candidate didn't materialize in this gone by-election. That is, they went on the other side and voted for the Vice President's candidate. What I have to say from this by-election is that, no matter your influence and position you serve or the responsibility attached to you to govern people and control their minds shouldn't be on sentiment. It should be based on advisability or commitment, if that person can performance and actually meet the will of the people, the people will obey by what you say."

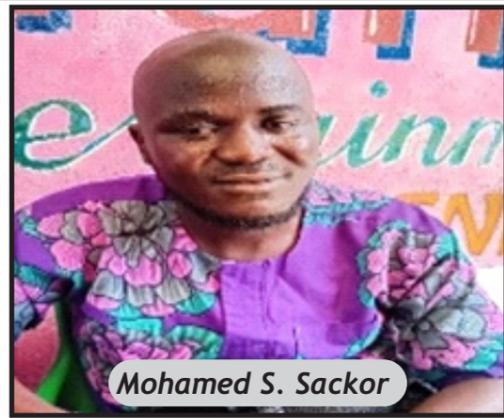


Bomia Clarke, Sr.

"It tells us that Nimba County has taken another trun. It tells us that the strength of Prince Johnson is declining gradually.

Jeremiah Koung will soon become the Nimba godfather - the fact that he is the Vice President of Liberia. They will we looking at things that Boakai may might go second term and of course, Jeremiah Koung will be the standard bearer for Unity Party in 2029 and that supposed to be clear to anybody that he might likely be Nimba godfather, looking at that, the Nimba people decided to follow the side of Jeremiah Koung so that they can have strength in the next election."

"I can safely say that Prince Johnson still remain popular in Nimba with all variable and factors. You know, putting candidate's hand up and candidate not winning election doesn't mean that you have lost the popularity. During the 2017 elections, Prince Johnson supported some candidates and they lost the elections like for instance, Prince Johnson put out candidate against Musa Bility and Musa won the election. Prince Johnson himself cannot los election but when he put out candidate there is possibility those candidates will loss. For me, I think the people are thinking in a different direction. Samuel Kongar is a representative and Twayen is not representative and he has no job and the people feel that it is better for them to give one of their sons that

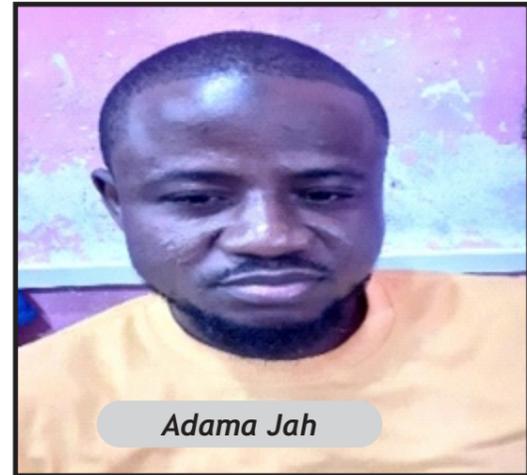


Mohamed S. Sackor

don't have job than giving Samuel Kongar that already has job, so based on that aspect, they preferred giving the job to Twayen because Twayen doesn't have job, so that is the reason they denied Samuel Kongar even though Prince Johnson supported him, but that was the major reason for his defeat."

"I think that the people of Nimba just decided to carry Twayen in this gone by-election because Samuel Kongar got job already, and Twayen is not working and secondly, both of them are sons of Nimba. Prince Johnson still remains the godfather of Nimba, but this gone by-election, the people of Nimba decided to carry Twayen as the candidate for the by-election. The people of Nimba still believe in Prince Johnson. If you put out a candidate and the candidate lost the election, it doesn't mean that the people don't like you. It just means that maybe the candidate that you put out, the people don't like him or don't believe in the candidate for

that position or as I said earlier, maybe the people just want Samuel Koung to maintain his position to avoid another by-election."



Adama Jah



Titus Siakor

"I think the by-election in Nimba County have shown us that the

people of Nimba are exhausted with one person's decision over the years so they have decided to follow one of their sons, Jeremiah Koung, this time around. I think the people of Nimba are ready to make a serious decision on their own without anyone interfering into it. This gone by-election in Nimba County shows that Nimbainas are not waiting on one person to make decision for them. The people of Nimba County think that this time around, it is time for every one of them to be part of the decision making in the county."

**Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!**

CDC warns gov't

Addressing a wide range of national issues, the CDC has warned the government against playing with the peace and stability of the country, which the people have maintained for years.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, April 30, 2024: Liberia's main opposition, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), has warned the

tenured positions that were still occupied.

The immediate past ruling party urged the Unity Party (UP)-led government to refrain from creating

Kowo suggested that anyone who intends to protect the office of the president will not get involved in undermining the peace of Liberia by allegedly attacking citizens who once served the force.

According to him, all the EPS officers that the CDC-led government inherited were maintained, adding that at no point in time did the CDC try to dismiss any of them.

Atty. Kowo further accused Liberia National Police (LNP) Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman of allegedly committing a 'classic abuse of power' over LNP officers' discharge of live bullets against demonstrators in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County.

At the same time, Kowo frowned on the government's public safety measures restricting commercial motorcyclists from riding in major routes considered no-go zone areas.

The CDC chair argued that motorcycle and tricycle riders are part of society and that, therefore, the restriction would go against their 'rights' as citizens.

"You can't use regulations to intimidate or stop the survival of citizens of the country," he claimed.

He said it was a deliberate policy of the Weah administration not to harass any motorcycle and tricycle rider.

Barely five months into the UP-led regime, Kowo lamented that it is unacceptable that the government is allegedly going after the cyclists.

"We want to encourage our cyclists, shoeshine boys, petit traders that we will defend your rights at all times," he noted.

"To the government, we think there are more pressing issues that need to be settled rather than going after citizens that [are] riding motorcycles for survival," he continued.

He stated that the CDC will remain robust in its advocacy to protect the lives of the citizens.

UP alarms national emergency

Ruling is overwhelmed by scramble for jobs, describing the situation as a national emergency.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, April 30, 2024—Barely days from completing its first hundred days in office, the ruling Unity Party (UP) says the scramble for jobs among its partisans and political collaborators has become a national emergency that needs to be addressed quickly.

"We in the Unity Party are satisfied with the individuals being appointed by the President; they are all educated people, but my disappointment is the scramble for jobs by those who helped us to take state power."

National Chairman Reverend Luther Tarpeh disclosed this on Monday, April 29, 2024, when he appeared on Prime FM in Monrovia.

Rev. Tarpeh notes that it is totally unfair for institutions and individuals who collaborated with the UP during the 2023 presidential and legislative elections to demand almost half of government positions.

"The fact that you helped me

take all; no way!"

He describes collaborators' actions as greedy, saying some of them are greedier than us only because they think they are part of this rescue thing.

Rev. Tarpeh: "The Unity Party is the political vehicle that delivers President Boakai, but their actions put the President under immense pressure, and for me, it's frustrating."

However, he says they are aware that the UP didn't obtain state power by itself, as they sought collaboration from other political parties, and they played a huge role in ascending to the Presidency.

"That's why, as a chairman, I remain engaged with the President to discuss things that affect the party," he adds.

Chairman Tarpeh reminds leaders of the ruling Unity Party that once the President is engaged with the country, every party leader is incumbent upon supporting his vision instead of opposing it.

Meanwhile, he clarifies that President Boakai's statement



government against inviting instability and chaos in the country through its alleged actions.

CDC Chairman Atty. Janga Kowo told a press conference on Monday, 29 April 2024, that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's mandate for the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to audit the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) allegedly contravenes the GAC's Act.

At the press conference in Monrovia, Kowo alleged that the GAC doesn't need anyone mandating it to conduct an audit.

"We call on all our international partners to take due notes on all of the violations being perpetrated against the state and its people," said Atty. Kowo.

Kowo suggested that it was a mockery for the government to the ruling of the Supreme Court ordering a withdrawal of nominations made in tenured positions.

The suspended LTA officials who have been ordered to face audits were among those who won their tenure cases at the Supreme Court after challenging President Boakai's nomination of officials in

situations that have the propensity to cause instability and chaos across the country.

"The government you inherited was never a military takeover, instead, it was a democratic turnover of power," he continued.

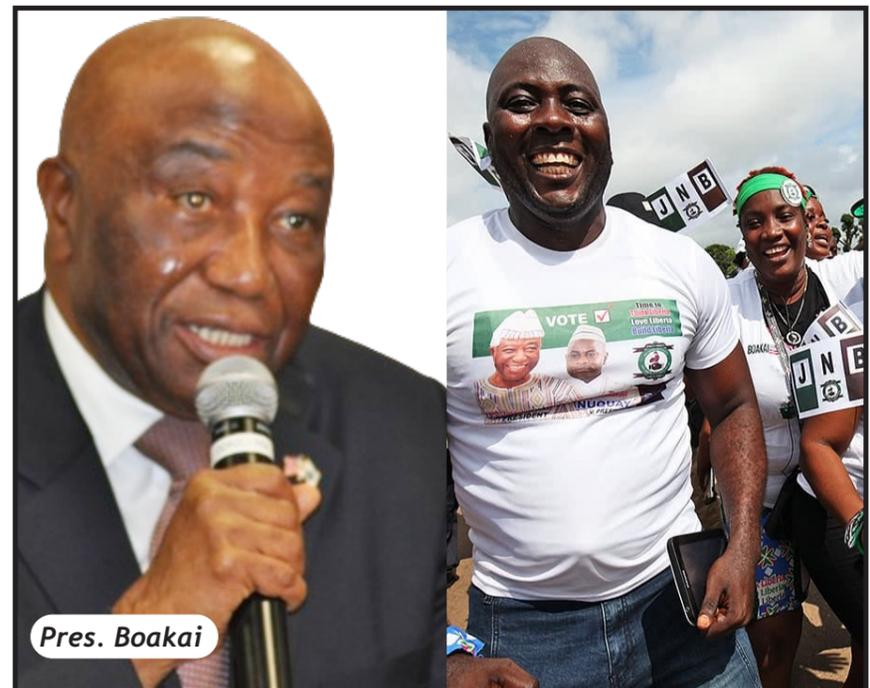
"As such, we expect the Unity Party government to do what is right and stop the continuous violation of human rights," he stated.

The CDC additionally cautioned the UP-led government not to interfere with the peace and stability of the country, which was never maintained by any group or political party but by the people.

Regarding President Boakai's first hundred days' deliverables, Atty. Kowo believed it was unrealistic, urging the president to be truthful to the Liberian people.

He also blasted Executive Protection Service (EPS) Director Sam Gaye for allegedly ill-treating EPS officers.

He described Mr. Gaye's action to retire officers deemed unqualified for the service as irresponsible, reckless, and anti-peace.



Pres. Boakai

brush my farm and plant my rice doesn't necessarily mean we can share my rice equally; no way, no sound man will ever do that," he rejects.

The UP Chair says this is the dilemma the ruling party currently faces in forming its government. He notes that people who assisted the party in winning the election are demanding almost all of the positions in government, something he says is impossible and a serious disappointment that needs to be addressed.

"To be honest, some of our collaborators think they should have more leverage over the party itself, and it can't be that way. You can't come to my farm to help, and then you want to

regarding his first hundred days in office isn't about taking asphalt to Southeast Liberia, as is being wrongly perceived by the citizenry.

When President Boakai spoke about no car sticking in the mud, it is the realization that we all are seeing from the Ministry of Public Works, with grading and rehabilitation of major roads across the country, he explains.

Rev. Tarpeh maintains that the President never promised that he would have taken asphalt or tar to the Southeast within his first hundred days in office, while pleading with Liberians that within the next six months, they will begin to see progress of the government in every sector. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Read the NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

Advertise with us!

Businessman threatens to drag LDEA to court

Businessman threatens to take Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency to court for alleged mal-handling.

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh
 Monrovia, Liberia, April 30, 2024 - The director of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA), Col. Abraham Mamudu S. Dabor, Chief



Businessman Mamudu S. Dabor surrounded by employees

Kromah, might have received a tipoff about illicit drugs and swiftly invited a Liberian businessman, Mamudu S. Dabor, aka "2switt," to a hotel for a meeting, but excessive brutal force used in the operation turned the table around, as the popular businessman is now pursuing legal action against the LDEA boss, claiming that he was mal-

Executive Officer (CEO) of Magic Group of Companies located on 6th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia, has threatened a lawsuit against Director Kromah and his deputy for operations Hassan Fadiga for alleged harassment. He told reporters on Saturday, April 27, 2024, after a video podcast on social, alleging brutal flogging of his

workers by a group of LDEA agents at the Royal Grand Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia.

According to him, he had gone to the hotel to adhere to a call from the LDEA director, Col. AB Kromah, for a meeting, but only to have met excessive force from officers of the Agency on false accusations linking him to illicit drugs.

"AB wanted to kill; he has got a history of killing innocent people. He has accused me of being a drug cartel or linked to drug cartels because I correlated with Sierra Leone. I do not even drink, nor do I smoke, even at my workplace; I've installed values in my employees not to drink and smoke", he said.

Mamudu continued: "What will I do with drugs when I have employees over 124 young Liberians. I feel that AB and Fadiga are not mentally stable for this job", he expressed.

According to him, the authorities at the LDEA don't even know their functions and technical know-how to track and pursue drug cartels, as they just go about maltreating innocent people.

He details that Col. Abraham

▶ CONT'D page 7

RECHARGE & BUMPAY!

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