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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2024	L\$192.4912/US\$1.00	L\$194.2038/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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P11

Boakai threatens Western Cluster closure!

Pres. Boakai

P11

Pres. Boakai

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Continental News

Migrants hit by high fees to send money home

Jerry Lukendo Mbokani has to make several calculations when he sends money to his elderly mother in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Kampala,

target of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is that by 2030, remittance fees should be less than 3%, and total fees to send and receive money between a pair of countries should be no more

inconsistent regulation.

Within Africa a payment company can't use a single licence across multiple countries, says Nika Naghavi. She is the group head of growth at Onafriq, a digital payment network that extends through more than 40 African countries. A result is that even between neighbouring countries with a robust trade and frequent population movement, money can't always flow freely. For instance, Ms Naghavi says, transfers between Togo and Benin are frequent and straightforward, helped by having a common currency. Yet money can't easily be sent between Togo and another neighbour country, Ghana. "That's why the costs become heavy: a lot of it is in compliance and regulation," says Ms Naghavi. These requirements may not be so applicable to low-value transfers. Sending \$50 to a relative in another country is not very risky, but may still fall under a complicated chain of regulations meant to safeguard against money laundering.

In some countries, "the regulations governing who can act as a remittance provider can be quite stifling," says Ravenna Sohst, a policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute Europe.

"For young companies to enter into this market requires a lot of technical, financial and legal knowhow, which I think is one of the reasons why the field has seen relatively few players for a long time." BBC

than 5%. Some researchers believe that to be truly affordable, the first goal should be even less than 3%. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that reaching this target could generate \$32bn (£26bn), even apart from the direct-cost savings. This is because remittances have such powerful knock-on effects for the economy, and people tend to send more in remittances when fees are lower. Yet the world is far off this target. According to the World Bank, the global average is 6.2%, over double the target. It's especially pricey to send money to sub-Saharan Africa, where the average transaction fee is 7.4%. For particular combinations of countries, fee percentages can climb well into the double digits.

One reason for high fees is



Jerry Mbokani regularly sends money from Uganda to the Democratic Republic of Congo

Uganda, where Mr Mbokani has lived for 16 years, he first has to buy US dollars. To convert approximately \$100 (£80) worth of Ugandan shillings would cost almost \$3, he reports. He also adds the withdrawal fee of \$7, so that his mother doesn't incur a fee when receiving the money.

He sends these remittances through mobile money, usually phone-based digital transfers, rather than through a physical location like a bank, post office, or Western Union-style money transfer company. In real terms 10% of the amount could be eaten up in fees. Mr Mbokani, the chief executive of the Refugee-Led Organization Network (Relon), knows he's far from alone. One

Waking to a 'different world' after Kenya's flood

Kenya's living in areas at risk of flooding or landslides will be asked to evacuate on Wednesday, the country's president has said. William Ruto was speaking in Mai Mahiu, north of Nairobi, where an overflowing reservoir has wiped out a swathe of houses and swept dozens of people to their death. This is "not a time for guesswork" he said, noting the forecast for more heavy rain. "The likelihood of flooding and people losing [their] lives is real", he added. Although no definitive number was given, an evacuation order of this sThe rainy season has been extra punishing this year, and weeks of flooding have killed at least 170 people. But the disaster at Mai Mahiu has been the most catastrophic so far.

The reality is still sinking in for those who had hoped their missing loved ones had survived. "My brother was in his 70s when he died after being

debris, but it did not find evidence of a watery death. Not far from here we met Stephen Kamau, 31, helping a neighbour to sift through what is left of their home. "I'm trying to salvage things that were carried away by water and look for missing people as well," he explained. "I woke up in a different world. Everything had been swept by water... We are in fear. My heart is heavy."

Further downstream, a rescue team found the body of a woman tucked away in logs at the top of a bridge. Onlookers recognised her as someone who had worked at a local 24-hour car wash.

Another woman, who did not identify herself, trekked to the site to see if her three missing sisters had washed up there.

Her brother had searched for them in a nearby hospital, but came back empty-handed, she said. She had stayed awake all night, worried that another tide of water would crash down on her while she was sleeping. The terror of that flash-flood on Sunday night



Nancy Wanjiku sits on what is left of her parents' home

washed away," 62-year-old Nancy Wanjiku told the BBC.

She spoke to us sitting on the wreckage of what was once her parents' home. She will likely target many thousands of people. "My mum and dad are safe but we have lost everything," she added.

Elsewhere, we saw a woman on the side of the road bent over double crying, losing herself in the news that the body of her child had been found. Rescue workers continued the search for more of the dead. We followed them down along the blasted banks of the Ngeya River - mostly members of the National Youth Services in bright yellow vests carrying shovels, rakes and sticks to poke through the branches of uprooted trees.

Some stopped at an enormous heap of broken branches that covered a crushed house. A family of six had lived there and the workers suspected they might be buried under the mound. They called in a bulldozer to clear out the

- triggered when water built up in a gully because a tunnel was blocked - is still vivid. David Karanja has just returned from the morgue to view the body of his 9-year-old son Paul.

He stands with his eyes downcast and his arm in a sling, next to corrugated-iron roof panels lurching over the shell of his still-standing home, while he and his 17-year-old daughter Veronica told their story. Like others that lived in the river valley, they were awakened by the roar of water at 03:00 local time (00:00 GMT) on Monday.

They rushed to switch off the power to avoid electric shock, but when David opened the door, Veronica was swept away. She says she clung to a tree branch until the water subsided. When she made it back to the house, she couldn't find her father right away - until she heard people calling her name. "He was hit by a stone," she told the BBC. "When he was trying to rescue my brother, a stone from the upper side of the wall hit his hand, and he let [Paul] go, and that's why [Paul] drowned."

Mali kills IS commander blamed for US deaths

State TV in Mali says a senior Islamic State commander who had a \$5m (£4m) US bounty on his head has been killed by a force including troops from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Abu Huzeifa had been linked to several high-profile raids in the Sahel region.

This included a 2017 attack which killed four American soldiers and several troops from Niger.

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have all suffered from relentless attacks by jihadist fighters.

All three countries are under military rule and have been developing close links with Russia while cutting ties with Western allies including the US.

They have been welcoming Russian military help while forcing troops from other countries to leave.

Abu Huzeifa, who was also known as Higgs, was described by the report on Mali's state TV as a Moroccan national and a commander in IS's self-styled Sahel Province. It said he was killed on Sunday in an operation in the northern town of Indelimane in the Menaka region, describing it as "a victory against a bane of

evil".

The US government said Hufeiza was wanted in connection to an attack on a US Special Forces team in Niger in 2017 which led to the deaths of four American and four Nigerien soldiers. IS later claimed responsibility for the attack. BBC



The US government released this image of Abu Huzeifa when it called for information on his whereabouts

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

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

Boakai's appointees acting at LTA is unnecessary

The Urgency of Law Enforcement Reforms for a Safeguarded Future: A Case of Liberia

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.

Swift and decisive intervention measures are crucial to halt the tide of an emerging socio-political crisis in Liberia.

Comparable to Haiti's quagmire, a grim representation of lawlessness, rampant hooliganism, and crippling shackles on a proud black nation, Liberia cannot walk down this path of anarchy.

Leadership at every level, whether it be President Boakai, Vice President Koung, Speaker Koffa, members of the House of Representatives, or President Pro-Tempore Lawrence and Senate members, must unite in their resolve to prevent the Liberian nation's descent into chaos.

Similarly, the weight of this responsibility also graces the shoulders of Chief Justice Youh, Associate Justices and Judiciary members, and every patriotic Liberian. The time is indeed critical, and collective action from all sectors of society is imperative to thwart the undermining forces of dissension, designed to render Liberia ungovernable. The gravity of the situation warrants immediate action targeted specifically against these rogue elements, this yardbird as they are known, striving to unsettle the peace and stability of Liberia.

The potency of their power can only be diluted with the application of direct, cohesive measures that reinforce law and order and guarantee the security of the nation and its citizens. Liberia is not insensitive to the invisible threads that tie its socio-economic progression to external investment. Recognizing this, it becomes pertinent for the government to extend assurance regarding the security of these investments within the country. This safety net for investors, both domestic and international, will serve as an essential tool to steer the economy toward growth and prosperity.

Therefore, the government ought to guarantee that investments made in Liberia are teetering neither on the brink of risk nor uncertainty. Indeed, this venture towards promoting investment security will invariably reroute the nation onto the road to economic recovery. The next stride in safeguarding the nation is empowering the national security

apparatus.

An effectively equipped and motivated defense structure, coupled with an efficient police force, will not leave much room for agents of anarchy to fester.

The provision of adequate resources to these pivotal institutions will undeniably result in a robust national security armature capable of rigorously enforcing the law. A stern reprisal must await anyone or a group seeking to destabilize the tranquility enjoyed by Liberians. During times of rampant criminal activity, Liberia was a harrowing tapestry, its streets taken hostage at the whims of these lawless figures. However, today's Liberia is no echo of that anarchic past.

The Liberian people must trust that a fresh era has dawned, marked by stern, uncompromising law enforcement.

This new era is akin to a vigilant Sheriff (Leadership) taking the reins of a town, transforming it from a den of discord into a citadel of peace. To reiterate, Liberia's survival banks heavily on the imposition and adherence to the rule of law.

The leadership, every Liberian citizen, indeed, the new "Sheriff (new Leadership)" must engage in conscious, consistent efforts to eliminate threats to national peace and security. An ambitious, proactive approach is imperative for reinforcing our institutions and bolstering our national defense.

The collective fight against the encroaching shadows of instability will eventually light the torch of a new beginning for Liberia. The beacon of this torch will assure every Liberian, every prospective investor, and indeed the world, that this proud African nation is ready to march ahead, radiant in its resilience, thriving in its tranquility, and unwavering in its unity.

In essence, Liberia will not only emerge stronger from its trials but will also rise as an epitome of a nation that turned the tide against disorder, firmly rooting itself in the principles of justice, equality, and progress.

OP-ED

By José Antonio Ocampo

Finishing the Job of Global Tax Cooperation

BOGOTÁ - This year's Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the follow-up United Nations Forum on Financing for Development, have put international tax cooperation high on the global agenda once again. Brazil has declared that it will use its G20 presidency to advance the issue (whereas last year's New Delhi G20 summit made no mention of it), and the second phase of UN negotiations toward a global tax convention is now underway.

The earlier OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework helped advance this issue in two ways: it stipulated that very large multinational corporations should pay taxes in all the places where they operate (Pillar One of the agreement); and it held there should be a minimum 15% global corporate-income-tax rate (Pillar Two). But implementation has been slow, and even if most parties to the agreement sign the multilateral treaty necessary for Pillar One, the United States is unlikely to secure the two-thirds Senate majority required for ratification. Given that many of the world's largest tech firms are headquartered in the US, the deal would be written in water, and the global digital economy would remain under-taxed.

Moreover, the benefits of the Inclusive Framework are expected to accrue mainly to developed countries, which is why the African Union subsequently pushed for negotiations toward a global tax convention at the UN General Assembly. The UNGA resolution was adopted last November, albeit along a sharp North-South divide, with most developed countries voting against it (Norway and Iceland abstained) and almost all developing countries voting in favor.

Now that UN negotiations are proceeding, they should focus first on improving the Inclusive Framework. The best way to achieve Pillar One is to create a broadly applicable rule based on the principle of "significant economic presence," whereby multinationals would be obliged to pay all taxes, including sales and income taxes, on the profits they make from their activities in all countries. This rule should be supported by a mechanism to apportion multinationals' global profits between countries, as several federal countries already do within their own borders. Equally important, the minimum tax rate should be higher - rising at least to 21%, as the US proposed in the OECD negotiations, or preferably to 25% (the average rate across richer countries). Finally, there should be as few exceptions as possible (preferably none) to the minimum rate.

This year's spring meetings also featured debates over a proposal to levy a 2% annual wealth tax on the world's super-rich. Having been backed by Brazil, this proposal most likely will be on the G20 agenda, too. Considering that the super-rich generally pay very low taxes, the case for it is strong. A recent study by the EU Tax Observatory, led by Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley, shows that a 2% global wealth tax on the world's billionaires (roughly 3,000 people) would raise \$250 billion annually.

If anything, the UN negotiations should aim for an even broader minimum tax on the richest people in all countries, with an additional wealth tax complementing income taxes. This is necessary because wealth is more concentrated than income, and it benefits from many exemptions and exceptions, such as the lower rate on capital gains in the US and other countries.

During my recent stint as Colombia's minister of finance, lawmakers approved the government's proposal to introduce a wealth tax on top of the country's income tax, demonstrating that such measures are politically achievable at the national level. But it will take greater international cooperation - a coordinated minimum tax, taxes on people and firms that have moved their residence abroad, and more exchanges of information between tax authorities - to ensure that the richest people everywhere pay their fair share.

In fact, the agenda of the UN tax convention should be broader. The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), on which I serve, has also called for common principles and minimum standards for taxing income and wealth; international coordination on windfall or excess profits; measures to strengthen anti-avoidance instruments; new mechanisms for coordinated digital service taxes; and public country-by-country reporting of taxes paid by multinationals. One might also add a standard minimum tax on the exploitation of natural resources, as several developing countries are giving foreign companies tax incentives for that purpose (a truly irrational policy decision).

Another ICRICT proposal would provide greater transparency of wealth ownership by creating a global asset registry that lists final beneficial owners (based on the information that national tax authorities and other public-sector agencies hold). Such transparency is crucial for effectively implementing any of the other tax proposals for capital income and wealth.

Finally, the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax

OPINION

By Li Shuo, Lauri Myllyvirta

Is Climate Action China's Trump Card?

WASHINGTON, DC/HELSINKI - If former US President Donald Trump returns to the White House in 2025, China needs to step up to assume the mantle of global climate leadership - an outcome that many have considered impossible. After all, China has been the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases for nearly two decades, currently accounting for 35% of global carbon dioxide emissions. But geopolitical dynamics can shift quickly in the face of conflict, economic strife, and crucial elections, meaning that China could soon be seen in a new light.

In 2023, China's long-time (and recently retired) climate envoy, Xie Zhenhua, kept his cards close to his chest - the country was clearly not in the mood to make any major commitments. Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, the United States and China reached a headline-grabbing agreement to cooperate on climate change, but it included no binding targets. And while China agreed to launch a "transition away from fossil fuels" as part of the final COP28 deal, it is still hesitant to reduce its coal consumption.

But this may be the year that Chinese leadership plays its hand. By early 2025, countries must submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris climate agreement, including emissions-reduction targets for 2035. Recent Chinese statements and policies suggest that internal debates about the new targets are underway. China faces notable challenges in setting ambitious climate goals, but doing so is in the country's economic and political interests. This would not be the first time that Chinese President Xi Jinping injected significant momentum into global climate action. In 2014, Xi and then-US President Barack Obama jointly announced their initial carbon-reduction commitments ahead of the historic 2015 Paris climate conference. And in 2020, Xi pledged that China would reach peak emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

The increasingly volatile global environment and China's current economic weakness pose significant challenges. After an upswing in emissions during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has fallen short of its carbon-intensity target - a measure of emissions per unit of GDP - for 2025, and will have to cut emissions in absolute terms to meet it. Until recently, policymakers had assumed that emissions would increase until around 2028. Further complicating the NDC development process is China's continued reliance on coal: in recent years, the government has approved a host of new coal-fired power plants to increase energy security.

Geopolitical considerations will surely shape China's decision, too. Chinese policymakers will patiently weigh their options until the US election in November. A Trump victory might mean less climate pressure on Beijing from the US. But China should act more proactively in filling the global leadership gap left by the US. There are good reasons for Beijing to step up the climate game. China's massive investment in clean-energy manufacturing has started to drive growth. By establishing itself as the world's main supplier of solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles, and other green technologies, China has aligned its decarbonization agenda with its economic interests, presenting a strategic opportunity for the country to position itself at the forefront of sustainable modernization.

This clean-energy blitz could facilitate China's CO2 emissions reduction in 2024, raising the possibility of emissions peaking long before 2030. And if China can hit this target before 2025, it could achieve substantial emissions reductions by 2035, the same year that it aims to become a moderately developed country. In fact, as China is already well on its way to this status, it should specify an absolute emissions-reduction target for 2035 - a goal that only a few developing countries have set so far.

Chinese policymakers face difficult choices in setting climate goals. Some appear technical but have significant implications for environmental outcomes. One example is the selection of a base year for emissions measurements. Setting a percentage target for reducing emissions from a still-undefined peak to 2035 might seem rational, but it could create a perverse incentive for industries close to meeting their targets to delay peak emissions. Such an approach would also create uncertainty about China's emissions in 2035, as the peak from which emissions will be reduced may not be immediately clear.

Using a historical base year, such as 2020 or 2015, would be much more straightforward but could lead to an unnecessarily conservative target, given China's large-scale investment in coal and the lack of clarity about its emissions trajectory. For example, if the country's recent economic slowdown causes its emissions to plateau, such a target would require minimal climate action after 2030. But the world needs a more ambitious approach from China. Turning China's commitment to reduce coal consumption from 2026 onward into a measurable coal-reduction target for 2030 would effectively limit emissions increases.

Over the coming year, all eyes will be on China to see how it negotiates the complexities of setting new NDC commitments. If the authorities decide to pursue an ambitious strategy, they could end up accelerating the domestic energy transition, which is already providing a much-needed economic boost, while taking a leading role in the global fight against climate change.

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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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.
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Application MUST include:

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- ❖ Academic diplomas/certificates
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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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Election group extols NEC, and LNP for adequate handling of by-elections

EISA has applauded all registered voters in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties who exercised their democratic rights to vote in a peaceful and disciplined manner during the just-ended legislative by-elections.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 30, 2024: The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in

participation of voters during the by-elections.

“Despite the noticeable low turnout on by-election day, EISA acknowledges

senatorial and representative by-elections were a reaffirmation of the strength of democratic institutions in Liberia and a test of the commitment of Liberians to competitive, peaceful, and transparent electoral events. Furthermore, EISA applauded all registered voters in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Electoral District #1 who took part in exercising their democratic rights to vote in a peaceful and disciplined manner.

EISA is a continental not-for-profit organization located in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire with field offices in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, Liberia Chad, and Sudan.

EISA has continental and sub-regional programs in the field of elections and democracy throughout Africa. EISA strives for excellence in the promotion of credible elections, domestic participation, and the strengthening of political institutions for sustainable democracy in Africa.

The USAID-funded EISA-IEOM Activity seeks to enhance the integrity of the 2023 Liberia Presidential and Legislative elections through the

constructive efforts made collectively by the relevant national electoral stakeholders in preparation for the by-elections,” the group said.

“EISA hails the commitment to democratic consolidation marked by adequate preparations by NEC and LNP, respect and tolerance among competing political parties, and continuous monitoring and support from domestic and international observer groups, alongside the diplomatic community,” it continued.

Accordingly, the report further said that the 2024



Africa-International Elections Observation Mission (EISA-IEOM) has released its elections findings and report on the just-ended by-elections in Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties.

EISA-IEOM in its election report released Monday, April 29, 2024, expressed thanks and appreciation to the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Liberia National Police (LNP) for their collaboration consolidation, and preparation for the conduct of the by-elections. But EISA-IEOM decried the low turnout and

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Police shock Justice Scott's family

The family of former Chief Justice Gloria Scott expressed surprise over Police charging intruders caught in the former justice's residence without consulting them.

Monrovia, Liberia, May 1, 2024 - The family of jailed former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott has expressed shock over the dramatic action of police investigators to charge intruders arrested at Cllr. Scott's residence has no contact with or reference to them.

On February 15, 2024, several individuals (intruders) were arrested at Justice Scott's Virginia home after community residents alerted the police, making it the fourth time such an intrusion has happened.

The suspects were taken into police custody, supposedly investigated, and charged without any reference to the owner(s) of the property they are accused of breaking into.

To the family's dismay, investigators charged the suspects with burglary, among other crimes, and attached US\$4000 as the supposed cost of either the stolen items or the extent of damage done to the property (house) without the involvement of the property owner or any member of the family.

The police charge sheet does not mention any contact with the property owner, nor does it mention the name of the complainant the police interviewed to determine what was stolen or the extent of damage done to the property.

The family described this as strange and worrisome. It could be a deliberate attempt to complicate the case and eventually let the suspects go free without any deeper investigation as to how they gained access to the house that should be under police

protection as mandated by Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie of Criminal Court 'A.'

The spokesman for the family, Mr. Nathaniel Toe, has been alarmed that how the matter is being handled appears to be a calculated plan to intentionally confuse the matter and lose the case so the suspects could be set free because a thorough and proper investigation that involves the family could unearth some interesting revelations, including how the suspects entered the premises, who they really are, what they did, and the value of what was stolen and the extent of damage done.

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former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott

Liberia diaspora investment dialogue to help attract investments for economic transformation

MONROVIA, April 30, 2024 - In support of the Liberian Administration's ambitions to deepen engagement with the Liberian diaspora, the World Bank Group (WBG) together with the European Union recently hosted a Liberia Diaspora Investment Dialogue on the margins of the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings in Washington DC, USA. The dialogue provided a platform for the Government to engage with Liberian Diaspora on the government's vision to amplify financing for Liberia's growth and development. It was an important step in pursuing President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's vision to attract diaspora investments in sectors vital to the country's economic transformation.

The Dialogue, which brought together 112 participants comprising senior officials of the Liberian Government, the World Bank Group, the Liberian

community on the Liberia Diaspora Exchange platform. The critical role that the diaspora plays in the economy and the opportunity to leverage diaspora income for investment in Liberia was the focus of the discussion. “The agenda of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is to rebuild a dynamic institution aimed at creating an enabling environment for competitive private sector-led growth and driving President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's overall ARREST agenda for inclusive and socioeconomic development,” said Commerce and Industry Minister of Liberia Hon. Amin Modad.

At the end of the Dialogue, it was noted that the Liberia Investment Finance and Trade (LIFT) Project funded by the World Bank is supporting the Government's efforts to tackle constraints in Liberia's business environment; enhance the investment climate - including reforms in trade, business registration and investment; and support the capacity of Liberian-owned businesses. As a next step,



diaspora from the United States, EU and Africa, private sector, civil society and academia, provided a platform for the diaspora to share their views and expectations as current and prospective investors when considering Liberia as an investment destination. The event also exposed participants to lessons and models from countries that have been successful in attracting diaspora investment, ranging from Chile to Somalia.

The event featured three interactive sessions including panel discussions with senior government officials overseeing investment, business climate reforms, and economic growth; representatives from the World Bank Group and Liberian and African diaspora organizations; and representatives from the domestic and diaspora private sector. There was also an engagement with the diaspora

the World Bank, with support from the EU, will undertake a scoping study to better understand the profile of the Liberian diaspora community, their current investment trends, and appetite for future investment in Liberia with targeted completion date in June 2024.

“Liberia has the potential to deepen diaspora engagement to better harness opportunities in relation to remittances, investments, trade, and transfer of skills and knowledge. The Diaspora Dialogue looks beyond remittances to the potential for diaspora investment to make a positive difference while also boosting productivity and profit for investors,” said World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone Robert Taliencio. He strongly affirmed the relevance of the diaspora investment agenda for Liberia and encouraged participants to be pragmatic and ambitious - considering actions that can be taken in the short, medium,

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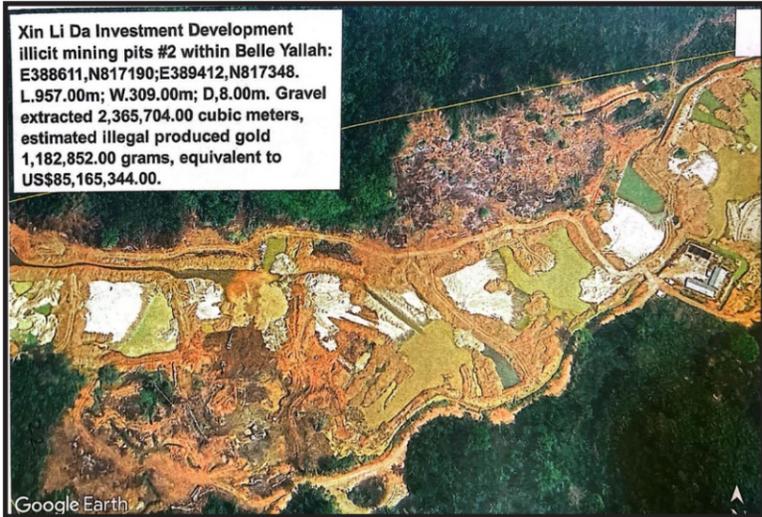
MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate poised to investigate Gao Feng's mining activities

Before Senator Amara Konneh's complaint against the Chinese national, a recent media investigation unveiled troubling pieces of evidence regarding manipulations and clandestine activities within the mining sector.

Monrovia, May 1, has already placed Gao on the radar of the Senate, calling on Chinese national, his colleagues to launch an



dubbed, the "Real Minister," investigation into the activities of the Chinese national. Konneh's Gbarpolu is reportedly the worst victim of the "Real Minister" clandestine mining activities in the country.

Gao, also known popularly as Barry, has gained notoriety as a prominent foreign player in the mining sector country. His moniker, "the Real Minister," reflects the significant level of power and control he wields within the Mines and Energy Ministry, especially during the immediate past regime.

However, some top sources up Capitol Hill say it is now time to put an end to Gao's alleged clandestine activities within the sector. Gbarpolu County Senator Amara Konneh

in Belle Yalla, Henry Town, Monakorlleh, and parts of Gbarma Diatrick using at least 20 excavators and 12 washing plants for gold and diamonds, destroying the environment, polluting water sources, and probably evading taxes. Gbarpolu did not benefit from the reported growth in mining. "On the Senate floor, we argued our (Senator Botoe Kanneh and I) communication to our colleagues to launch an immediate investigation into these allegations. Stay tuned!" Senator Konneh said.

Before the Gbarpolu Senator's complaint, a recent media investigation unveiled troubling pieces of evidence regarding manipulations and clandestine activities at MME. The investigation reveals a Chinese national known as "Barry" or "the Real Minister" operating within the MME and allegedly engaging in bribery, illegal license issuance, and a complete disregard for mining regulations. Gao Feng is said to have collaborated with former ministers to further his interests and those of his companies. These companies include Urban & Rural Services Inc., Xin Li Da Investment Development Ltd., and Scott Investment Incorporation. Among the alleged offenses, Gao Feng reportedly paid former ministers a substantial sum of US\$350,000 to secure two Prospecting Licenses for Urban & Rural Services Inc., despite overlapping with the active Exploration License of NEO Global Mines & Minerals

Along with fellow Senator Botoe Kanneh, Konneh has written the Senate to subject Barry to an investigation. "Our county, Gbarpolu, is mineral-rich, but its resources are being mortgaged to one Chinese national Mr. Gao Feng (aka Barry) also commonly referred to as "the Minister of Mines and Energy," Konneh wrote on his Facebook page recently. "He is allegedly using Liberian proxies to operate his illicit mining empire in Gbarpolu County specifically

LNRCS laments impact of Climate Change

Red Cross outlines impediments of Climate Change on workers' safety and health.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, May 1, 2024 - The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) business manager, Marcus D. Washington, has noted that Climate Change disrupts weather patterns, posing significant global risks to workers' safety and health. He named some of the effects of Climate Change as heat stress, increased UV radiation, worsened air pollution, extreme weather events, industrial accidents, vector-borne diseases, and chemical exposure. Speaking on Monday, April 29, 2024, at the celebration of World Day for Safety & Health at Work 2024 in Monrovia, Mr. Washington said the purpose of World Safety Day, also known as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, is an annual international event observed on

April 28th each year. He said the day aims to encourage governments, employers, employees, and stakeholders to collaborate and take action to reduce workplace accidents, injuries, and occupational diseases under the theme, World Day for Safety and Health at Work, to explore the impacts of Climate Change on Occupational Safety and

Health. Mr. Washington noted that Climate Change isn't just harming the world's planet and its wellbeing, but also making work more dangerous, adding that workers are often on the frontlines of these changes, experiencing them for longer and more intensely than most.



Liberia loses US\$966m

Starts from back page

can Liberia tolerate exploitation and greed at the expense of its prosperity.

He reminded participants not to forget that the fight against illicit financial flows is not merely a battle waged in the halls of power.

Instead, he said it is a grassroots movement fuelled by the passion and resilience of ordinary citizens determined to reclaim what is rightfully theirs.

Together, he pleaded, Liberians must hold their leaders accountable, advocate for systemic reforms, and build a future where justice and equity

reign supreme.

"Together, let us stand united in our pursuit of a brighter tomorrow, where the wealth of Liberia enriches the lives of all its people," Aidoo noted.

According to him, the topic for the straining held at I-Lab, Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), strikes at the core of economic justice and national sovereignty.

"Today, we gather not just as individuals but as stewards of our collective future, tasked with confronting a grave injustice that has plagued our nation for far too long," he said.

Liberia diaspora investment dialogue

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and long term.

Approximately 500,000 Liberians now live outside of their country, according to the International Organization of Migration. The most recent data on remittances published by Central Bank of Liberia point to the integral role of Liberia's diaspora in the country's economic performance and its

prospects. Remittances have been increasing over the past five years. From 2019 to 2023 total net remittance inflow from the diaspora is US\$1.17 billion. In 2023, total remittance inflow was just under US\$400 million - that is equivalent to more than half of the national budget for 2023.-Press release

Election group extols NEC, and LNP

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deployment of an independent international Election

Observer Mission (EOM) to monitor, assess, and report on all phases of the electoral process by international and regional benchmarks. The IEOM is implemented in close coordination with the financial support of USAID/Liberia and will complement the efforts of other electoral stakeholders.

Providing recommendations

Based on its observations and consultations with electoral stakeholders, EISA offers the following recommendations to improve future elections in Liberia.

EISA-IEOM also urged NEC to provide customized training to female candidates that encompasses media preparation and guidance on addressing public perceptions and image management.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. OUSMAN F. FEIKA ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF MARCUS W. KINNIE, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "MARCUS W. KOENIG."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME - 00012537

The Petitioner by and thru his legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Marcus W. Kinnie to Marcus W. Koenig.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on November 4, 1988, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Ms. Kebbeh and Mr. James W. Koenig, all of the Republic of Liberia, and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Marcus W. Kinnie be changed to Marcus W. Koenig, beginning this 8th Day of April, A.D. 2024. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT SEAL:



GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2024

HIS HONOR OUSMAN F. FEIKA ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 04-024 PAGE(S) 00012537 REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L. 2024 2:00

Français

Le CDC met en garde le gouvernement libérien

Le CDC, principal parti d'opposition du Liberia, a averti le gouvernement contre ses agissements qui risquent

Générale de Vérification (GAC) pour auditer l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Liberia (LTA) serait contraire à la loi régissant la GAC.

gouvernement pour avoir semblé ignorer la décision de la Cour suprême ordonnant le retrait des nominations effectuées à des postes permanents. Les responsables suspendus de la LTA qui ont dû faire face à des audits figuraient parmi ceux qui avaient remporté le procès devant la Cour suprême après avoir contesté la nomination par le président Boakai de responsables à des postes permanents déjà occupés.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir a exhorté le gouvernement dirigé par le Unity Party (UP) à s'abstenir de créer des situations propices à l'instabilité et au chaos dans tout le pays.

"Le gouvernement que vous avez hérité n'était pas le résultat d'un coup d'État militaire, mais d'un transfert démocratique du pouvoir", a-t-il poursuivi. "À ce titre, nous attendons du gouvernement du Unity Party qu'il fasse ce qui est juste et qu'il mette fin aux violations continues des droits humains", a-t-il déclaré.

Le CDC a également mis en garde le gouvernement dirigé



d'engendrer l'instabilité et le chaos dans le pays.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue à Monrovia le lundi 29 avril 2024, le président du CDC, Atty. Janga Kowo, a déclaré que le mandat donné par le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à la Commission

M. Kowo a allégué que la GAC n'a pas besoin d'un mandat pour mener un audit. "Nous appelons tous nos partenaires internationaux à prendre dûment note de toutes les violations perpétrées contre l'État et son peuple", a déclaré Atty. Kowo.

Il a également critiqué le

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Le UP tire la sonnette d'alarme face à l'urgence nationale - ruée vers les emplois

Le parti au pouvoir, débordé par la course aux emplois, qualifie la situation d'urgence nationale.

Monrovia, Liberia, 30 avril 2024 - À quelques jours de la fin de ses cent premiers jours au pouvoir, le Unity Party (UP) au pouvoir déclare que la course aux emplois parmi ses partisans et ses collaborateurs politiques est devenue une urgence nationale qui doit être réglée rapidement.

"Au sein du Unity Party, nous sommes satisfaits des personnes nommées par le Président ; ce sont toutes des personnes instruites, mais ma déception est la course aux emplois de ceux qui nous ont aidés à prendre le pouvoir", a déclaré le président national, le révérend Luther Tarpeh.

Le révérend Tarpeh a révélé cela lundi 29 avril 2024, lors de son passage sur Prime FM à Monrovia.

Le révérend Tarpeh souligne qu'il est totalement injuste que les institutions et les individus qui ont collaboré avec l'UP lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023 exigent près de la

moitié des postes gouvernementaux.

"Ce n'est pas parce que vous m'avez aidé à débroussailler mon champ et à planter mon riz que nous devons nécessairement partager mon riz à parts égales ; aucun homme sensé ne ferait cela", a-t-il rejeté.

Le président de l'UP explique que c'est le dilemme auquel le parti au pouvoir est actuellement confronté pour former son gouvernement. Il note que les personnes qui ont aidé le parti à

remporter les élections réclament la quasi-totalité des postes au gouvernement, ce qui est, selon lui, impossible et une sérieuse déception qui doit être corrigée.

"Pour être honnête, certains de nos collaborateurs pensent qu'ils devraient avoir plus d'influence sur le parti lui-même, et ce n'est pas possible. Vous ne pouvez pas venir m'aider dans ma ferme,

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Pres. Boakai



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.

Français

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Le CDC met en garde le

par l'UP contre toute interférence avec la paix et la stabilité du pays, qui n'ont jamais été maintenues par un groupe ou un parti politique, mais par le peuple.

En ce qui concerne les promesses du président Boakai pour ses cent premiers jours, Atty. Kowo estime qu'elles ne sont pas réalistes et exhorte le président à être honnête envers le peuple libérien.

Il a également critiqué le directeur du Service de protection exécutive (EPS), Sam Gaye, pour avoir maltraité les agents de l'EPS. Il a qualifié l'action de M. Gaye de mettre à la retraite des agents jugés non qualifiés pour le service d'irresponsable, d'imprudente et d'anti-paix.

M. Kowo a suggéré que quiconque souhaite protéger le bureau du président ne s'impliquera pas dans la mise en cause de la paix au Liberia en s'attaquant à des citoyens qui ont déjà servi la force. Selon lui, tous les agents de l'EPS hérités du gouvernement dirigé par le CDC ont été maintenus, et le CDC n'a jamais tenté de licencier aucun d'entre eux.

Atty. Kowo a en outre accusé l'inspecteur général de la police nationale du Liberia (LNP), le colonel Gregory Coleman, d'avoir commis un "abus de pouvoir classique" suite aux tirs à balles réelles effectués par des agents de la LNP contre des manifestants à

Kinjor, dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount.

Parallèlement, M. Kowo a désapprouvé les mesures de sécurité publique du gouvernement qui interdisent aux motocyclistes commerciaux d'emprunter les principaux axes routiers considérés comme des zones interdites. Le président du CDC a soutenu que les motocyclistes et les conducteurs de tricycles font partie de la société et que, par conséquent, la restriction irait à l'encontre de leurs "droits" en tant que citoyens.

"On ne peut pas utiliser des réglementations pour intimider ou empêcher la survie des citoyens du pays", a-t-il affirmé. Il a déclaré qu'il s'agissait d'une politique délibérée de l'administration Weah de ne harceler aucun motocycliste ou conducteur de tricycle.

À peine cinq mois après l'arrivée au pouvoir du régime dirigé par l'UP, M. Kowo a déploré qu'il soit inacceptable que le gouvernement s'en prenne aux motocyclistes.

"Nous voulons encourager nos cyclistes, cireurs de chaussures, petits commerçants, nous défendons vos droits à tout moment", a-t-il souligné. "Au gouvernement, nous pensons qu'il y a des problèmes plus urgents à régler plutôt que de s'en prendre à des citoyens qui conduisent des motos

Le UP tire la sonnette d'alarme face à

Starts from page 8

puis vouloir tout prendre ; pas question!", a-t-il déclaré.

Il qualifie les actions des collaborateurs d'avidés, affirmant que certains d'entre eux sont plus cupides que nous, simplement parce qu'ils pensent faire partie de cette opération de sauvetage.

Révérend Tarpeh : "Le Unity Party est le véhicule politique qui a porté le président Boakai au pouvoir, mais leurs actions mettent le président sous une immense pression, et pour moi, c'est frustrant."

Cependant, il reconnaît que l'UP n'a pas obtenu le pouvoir de l'État à lui seul, puisqu'il a recherché la collaboration d'autres partis politiques, qui ont joué un rôle important dans son ascension à la présidence.

"C'est pourquoi, en tant que président, je reste engagé auprès du Président pour discuter des questions qui affectent le parti", ajoute-t-il.

Le président Tarpeh rappelle aux dirigeants du Unity Party qu'une fois le

président engagé auprès du pays, chaque dirigeant du parti a le devoir de soutenir sa vision au lieu de s'y opposer.

Par ailleurs, il précise que la déclaration du président Boakai concernant ses cent premiers jours au pouvoir ne porte pas sur l'apport d'asphalte dans le sud-est du Liberia, comme cela est mal perçu par la population.

Lorsque le président Boakai a parlé de "pas de voiture coincée dans la boue", c'est la réalisation que nous voyons tous du ministère des travaux publics, avec le nivellement et la réhabilitation des routes principales à travers le pays, explique-t-il.

Le révérend Tarpeh maintient que le Président n'a jamais promis de faire venir de l'asphalte ou du goudron dans le sud-est du pays dans les cent premiers jours de son mandat, tout en demandant aux Libériens qu'au cours des six prochains mois, ils commenceront à voir des progrès du gouvernement dans tous les secteurs.

Un homme d'affaires menace de poursuivre la LDEA en justice



Chief Col. Abraham Kromah

Un homme d'affaires populaire, Mamudu S. Dabor, PDG de Magic Group of Companies, menace de porter plainte contre le directeur de la Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA), le colonel Abraham Kromah, et son adjoint aux opérations, Hassan Fadiga, pour harcèlement présumé.

Dabor affirme avoir été malmené, battu et aspergé de gaz poivreux sans merci par des agents de la LDEA à la suite d'une convocation à l'hôtel Royal Grand de Sinkor, à Monrovia. Il nie catégoriquement tout lien avec le trafic de drogue.

Selon Dabor, il s'est rendu à l'hôtel à la demande du colonel Kromah pour une réunion, mais il s'est retrouvé face à un usage excessif de la force de la part des agents de l'agence sur la base de fausses accusations le liant aux drogues illicites.

Il nie fermement consommer de l'alcool ou du tabac et assure en avoir inculqué l'interdiction à ses employés. Il remet également en question la capacité mentale de Kromah et de Fadiga à occuper leur poste, affirmant qu'ils maltraitent des innocents au lieu de poursuivre les véritables cartels de drogue.

M. Dabor, qui se décrit comme un citoyen libérien ayant des

liens en Sierra Leone, emploie plus d'une centaine de Libériens. Il précise que son entreprise travaille dans la publicité : "Nous faisons de l'affichage publicitaire. Nous travaillons avec Orange GSM et Lone Star Cell MTN et installons la plupart des panneaux d'affichage que vous voyez dans tout le pays. Nous n'avons rien à voir avec la drogue", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a également dénoncé le comportement non professionnel du chef de la LDEA et de son adjoint aux opérations, Fadiga, les accusant d'avoir utilisé une force excessive contre des Libériens innocents.

Joint par téléphone, le colonel Abraham Kromah, chef de la LDEA, a brièvement précisé que la réunion à l'hôtel Royal Grand n'était pas liée à la LDEA. Il a expliqué qu'en arrivant à l'hôtel, il avait vu M. Mamudu Darbo, PDG de Magic Group of Companies, accompagné d'un grand nombre d'hommes, ce qui l'avait intimidé, lui et son adjoint Fadiga. Ils auraient alors appelé des agents de la LDEA pour assurer leur protection.

Selon le colonel Kromah, c'est en raison du comportement agité du groupe accompagnant M. Dabor que les agents de la LDEA ont utilisé du gaz poivreux. Il a refusé de commenter plus avant l'affaire, indiquant que son chef des opérations, Hassan Fadiga, s'adresserait aux médias.

La Société Nationale des Droits de l'Homme dénonce la situation critique des Libériens au Ghana

La Société Nationale des Droits de l'Homme appelle le gouvernement libérien à prendre des mesures concrètes pour venir en aide aux Libériens vivant dans l'ancien camp de réfugiés de Buduburam au Ghana.

Lors d'une conférence de presse conjointe tenue à l'église New Water in the Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentothal Church International, le président du groupe, l'archevêque Thomas Paul Schirmacker, a qualifié de terrible la situation des Libériens du camp de réfugiés de Buduburam.

Selon lui, les toitures des bâtiments d'église où se sont réfugiés des Libériens chassés de Buduburam sont en train d'être enlevées par le gouvernement ghanéen, au motif qu'ils n'auront plus d'endroit pour dormir.

« Ce que nous avons vu lors de notre visite au camp de réfugiés de Buduburam au Ghana la semaine dernière est très frustrant et nécessite une attention urgente de la part du gouvernement libérien », a déclaré l'archevêque Schirmacker.

Lors de la conférence de presse, le secrétaire général de la Société Nationale des Droits de l'Homme, Matthias Bohning, a également appelé le footballeur international canadien Alphonso Davies, né au camp de réfugiés de Buduburam, à venir en aide à ses compatriotes libériens.

Alphonso Davies est né le 2 novembre 2000 et joue en tant qu'arrière gauche ou ailier pour le Bayern Munich en Bundesliga et pour l'équipe nationale du Canada. Il est largement considéré comme l'un des meilleurs arrières latéraux du monde et l'un des meilleurs joueurs nord-américains de tous les temps.

Pour sa part, l'évêque de la New Water in the



Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentothal Church International, le Dr Kortu Brown, exhorte l'administration Boakai à prendre des mesures immédiates pour venir en aide aux Libériens de l'ancien camp de réfugiés de Buduburam au Ghana.

Selon le groupe, qui opère actuellement dans 37 pays à travers le monde, la situation des Libériens depuis que le gouvernement ghanéen a commencé la démolition du camp de réfugiés de Buduburam, situé à environ 65 kilomètres d'Accra, est terrible.

Ils affirment que d'après leurs visites, leurs conclusions et leurs entretiens avec les habitants du camp, des engins de chantier se sont approchés des Libériens dès 4 heures du matin, alors qu'ils dormaient encore, et ont démolis leurs abris, les forçant à quitter les lieux.

Bien que les Nations Unies aient jugé en 2006 qu'il était sûr pour les réfugiés de rentrer chez eux, beaucoup, traumatisés et sans attaches, sont restés dans le "camp du Liberia" à Buduburam, à environ 45 km à l'ouest de la capitale du Ghana, Accra.

Mais la semaine dernière, sous les ordres des autorités traditionnelles propriétaires du terrain, la démolition du camp a commencé.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Beyond The Resolution Standing up Liberia's War Crimes Court

By : P. Alphonsus Zeon

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

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

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

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

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

Value of War Crimes Court

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Court Statute

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

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

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

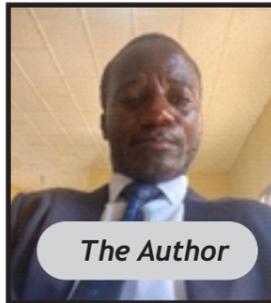
Security The other questions are about the security. Whether Liberia would exclusively depend on the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to provide security in case supporters of indictees get rowdy. And whether it would be the Liberia National Police (LNP) that will carry out arrests? Does Liberia need a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

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

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

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

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



The Author

Boakai threatens Western Cluster closure!

President Boakai has vowed not to sit and watch people take the country's resources and leave nothing for the people's benefit.

Monrovia, May 1, 2024: President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has threatened to cancel Western Cluster Mining bridges; we will lose those bridges, and it's going to be disastrous for this country," said Mr. Boakai. "By the way, I am just



Company's deal because it extracts the nation's resources, damages the roads, and leaves no benefits for the people.

Mr. Boakai announced his plan at Suehn Mecca District in Bomi County on Tuesday, 30 April 2024, during a chat with Public Works Minister Roland Giddings while embarking on an inspection of roads across Liberia.

"Minister, let me tell you, [if] we don't close Western Cluster down, we'll lose the

telling you that I met with the lawyer for Western Cluster this morning and told him we are going to close them down," President Boakai announced.

As part of his 100-day plan to ensure that no car gets stuck on bad roads, some reporters covering the presidency indicated in a live broadcast that the route leading to Suehn Mecca District has been reconditioning.

The Minister of Public Works could be heard telling

the president that the reconditioned road, which is not asphalt, could be pliable for three years.

President Boakai said during the election that the road was terrible when he visited the area. He told Minister Giddings that Western Cluster is just taking the country's resources, "and we get no reward for it."

"I told him emphatically this morning that we're going to close them down, and I am telling you seriously," he continued.

President Boakai noted that he was not going to sit here and let people take the country's resources and leave nothing for the country's benefit.

If Western Cluster wants to invest further, President Boakai has urged the company to build a railway instead of damaging the roads and leaving Liberians stranded.

In 2010, Western Cluster obtained its Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), but low iron ore prices and the outbreak of Ebola were said to have stalled the commencement of its operations at the time.

However, it is reported to have broken grounds in 2022 and it has since been operating here.

However, there have been concerns that it allegedly contributes massively to destroying the roads in its host counties.

Mr. Toe wondered how the investigators arrived at or derived the US\$4000 mentioned in the charge sheet since they didn't talk to the property owner or any family member.

Toe further wondered how the police and state lawyers intend to properly and successfully prosecute the suspects who were arrested in a private home if the owner of the home is not contacted to give inventory information as to what was stolen or the extent of damage done to

residence was a major factor during the trial, after investigators of the Liberia National Police ruled out any possibility that anybody could intrude into the house, a conclusion that defense lawyers resisted through evidence, including expert testimonies, insisting that there were many possibilities of intrusion and that the murder was committed by an intruder on the night of February 22, 2023. Editing by Jonathan Browne

He also drew attention to the fact that the suspects were arrested with keys, which they used to open the gates and doors to the property, a chilling reminder of the attacker of the late Charloe, who was heard aggressively demanding keys from her on the night of her murder.

The question of a possibility of intrusion into the former Chief Justice's

said property.

Boakai introduces presidential transition & tourism bills

When enacted, the bills will govern all presidential transitional activities of the Liberian government, establish a Local Government Ministry to replace the Ministry of Internal Affairs and detach Tourism from the Ministry of Information.

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia, May 1, 2024: President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has submitted to the Legislature for passage of three important bills, which include a presidential transition, tourism, and Ministry of Local Government Acts.

In his submission, President Boakai requested the House of Representatives enact bills to amend Title 12, Chapter 1, Part 1 of the Executive Law, Liberian Codes of Law Revised by creating a new sub-Chapter "E" to be known as the Presidential Transition Act.

President Boakai told lawmakers that the nation is rapidly cultivating democratic values for healthy democratization, peaceful advancement, and enduring permanency.

He said the transfer of political power from one democratically elected President to another democratically elected President in recent history is a testament to this significant democratic progress.

"However, the non-existence

Tourism and make Tourism, which seems to be almost dormant, an independent entity that will enhance and improve the country's tourism sector.

"The Tourism Sector, when properly managed, will be an engine of investment, employment, growth, national development, international integration, and reconciliation," he said.

Additionally, President Boakai submitted a bill to repeal Chapter 25 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Title 12 Executive Law of 1972, Liberian Codes of Law Revised, and establish a new Chapter 25 to be known as the Ministry of Local Government.

The objective of this bill is to amend the Act establishing the Ministry of Internal Affairs and to create in its stead the Ministry of Local Government consistent with the Local Government Act of 2018.

President Boakai added that when this bill is enacted into law, the Ministry of Local Government shall be responsible for providing executive oversight to, mentoring, and guiding all local



Pres. Boakai

of a legal mechanism/protocol for the organization and smooth transition has been a national issue sometimes creating inefficacy in the process," he noted.

President Boakai continued that the bills, when enacted, shall apply to and govern all transitional activities of the

Government of Liberia following the holding of General and Presidential elections culminating in the transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another.

He also submitted a bill to amend Title 30 of the Public Authorities Law, Liberia Codes of Law Revised to establish the Liberia National Tourism Authority Act.

He said the objective and purpose of this bill is to detach "Tourism" from the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and

governments, specifically in managing balanced, socio-economic development programs.

"These include communal farming, research, boundary harmonization; empowerment of local communities, strengthening of the delivery of social services, cultural and traditional practices."

"The Ministry will also enhance the promotion of peace and reconciliation and delivery of good governance, including popular participation, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, and access to justice at local levels, consistent with the Local Government Act of 2018 and all laws, policies, strategies, and regulations relating to local governance and peacebuilding."

Starts from page 6

Police shock Justice Scott's family

Mr. Toe wondered how the investigators arrived at or derived the US\$4000 mentioned in the charge sheet since they didn't talk to the property owner or any family member.

Toe further wondered how the police and state lawyers intend to properly and successfully prosecute the suspects who were arrested in a private home if the owner of the home is not contacted to give inventory information as to what was stolen or the extent of damage done to

residence was a major factor during the trial, after investigators of the Liberia National Police ruled out any possibility that anybody could intrude into the house, a conclusion that defense lawyers resisted through evidence, including expert testimonies, insisting that there were many possibilities of intrusion and that the murder was committed by an intruder on the night of February 22, 2023. Editing by Jonathan Browne

He also drew attention to the fact that the suspects were arrested with keys, which they used to open the gates and doors to the property, a chilling reminder of the attacker of the late Charloe, who was heard aggressively demanding keys from her on the night of her murder.

The question of a possibility of intrusion into the former Chief Justice's

said property.

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Senate poised to investigate

Inc. Reported illicit mining spots for Barry within Gbarpolu County:

Belle Yallah Town, Belle District, Gbarpolu County. Barry allegedly used Scott Investment Incorporation; Urban & Rural Services Inc. and Xin Li Da Investment Development Ltd. to conduct illicit massive mining with Twelve (12) excavators and Eight (8) washing plants since March 2023, without any proper mining licenses, and encroaching NEO Global Mineral & Mines Inc. Exploration license granted area. the production for this illicit mining produced a

minimum of 8,000.00 grams of gold per day, equivalent to US\$584,000.00 per day.

Monakorlleh Town, Zalakai Mining District, Gbarpolu County. Gao Feng a.k.a Barry used Scott Investment Incorporation to conduct illicit massive mining with Six (6) excavators and Four (4) washing plants since March 2023, without any proper mining licenses, and encroaching Petronotre Liberia Inc. Exploration License granted area. The production for this illicit

minimum of 5,000.00 grams of gold per day, equivalent to US\$365,000.00 per day. Gblita, Henry Town, Gbarpolu County. Gao Feng a.k.a Barry conducting illicit mining with four (4) excavators and two (2) washing plants since November 2023, without any proper mining licenses, the production for this illicit mining is unknown and needs further investigation.

Liberia loses US\$966m to illicit financial flows

-IWL reveals
The group has lamented that companies operating within the Liberian borders have shamefully failed to pay corporate income tax for over 15 years.

By Lewis S. Teh
Monrovia, May 1, 2024: Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) has revealed that Liberia lost about US\$966 million due to

nation's huge financial loss in a single sector at a one-day training for civil society organizations (CSOs) on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation at I-campus on Carey Street in



IWL Executive Director Mr. Harold Aidoo

huge illicit financial flows. "The Global Financial Integrity report on Liberia shows that Liberia loses a staggering \$966 million annually due to illicit financial flows," IWL said Tuesday, 30 April 2024. IWL Executive Director Mr. Harold Aidoo revealed the

central Monrovia. Aidoo said the figure mentioned is not merely a statistic but represents the lifeblood of the nation's [finances] siphoned away by companies operating here. He lamented that they are robbing the people of vital resources desperately needed

for education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development. According to Mr. Aidoo, one particularly egregious aspect of this crisis is the flagrant disregard for corporate responsibility within Liberia's extractive sector. He said that for over 15 years, companies operating within Liberian borders have shamefully evaded their duties to contribute fairly to the nation's coffers by failing to pay corporate income tax. "This betrayal not only undermines our fiscal stability but also perpetuates a cycle of poverty and inequality that shackle our people," Aidoo suggested. "Therefore, I stand here today to issue a resounding call to action. It is time for our government to rise to the challenge and exert its authority in renegotiating the fiscal terms of all extractive contracts." Aidoo demanded transparency, accountability, and fairness from multinational corporations profiting from Liberia's natural resources. He indicated that no longer

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