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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2024	L\$178.3132/US\$1.00	L\$179.9426/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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Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

NEC dismisses protesting workers

-For gross in subordination

Double taxation strangulates NaFAA revenue generation capacity



Madam Emma Metieh Glassco

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Continental News

Malaria vaccine rolled out in world's worst-affected country

Nigeria, which has more malaria deaths than any other country in the world, has begun rolling out a vaccine against the disease for the first time. The West African

started in two of the worst-affected states - Bayelsa and Kebbi - and the plan is to expand it to the rest of the country by next year.

Happiness Idia-Wilson's 11-

In 2022, Nigeria accounted for 27% of global malaria cases and 31% of malaria deaths, according to the WHO, with children under five and pregnant women being the most vulnerable. Africa overall saw 95% of those deaths, amounting to some 580,000 people. "We are confident that this vaccine, in combination with other preventive measures, will drastically reduce the burden of malaria in Nigeria and help us move closer to achieving the goal of a malaria-free Africa," said Dr Walter Mulombo, WHO representative in Nigeria.

The government estimates that Nigeria loses \$1.1bn (£870m) each year due to lost productivity and health expenditure linked to malaria. R21/Matrix-M, developed by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University, uses three doses administered four weeks apart and a booster dose given after one year. Earlier this year, Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of Congo also began using the vaccine. Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have trialled another malaria vaccine - RTS,S. Nigeria was not included in the subsequent roll-out of the jab by the WHO to 12 African countries. BBC



Mothers came to get their children vaccinated in Bayelsa stat

nation accounts for almost a third of those who die from malaria each year.

The vaccine being introduced - called R21/Matrix-M - is the second to be approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is being given to children between five and 15 months old. Researchers say it is 75% effective but health experts recommend using it alongside other malaria prevention tools, such as mosquito nets and insecticides. The roll-out

month-old son was the first to receive the vaccine at a ceremony in Bayelsa.

She said she was doing it "for the safety of the child, for him to be protected". "I will tell mothers, and I will invite people [to be vaccinated]," the mother added. Bayelsa's commissioner for health, Prof Seiyefa Brisibe, said the state would be carrying out health campaigns to promote the use of the vaccine in all the local languages. Malaria vaccine big advance against major child killer

Tanzania opposition youth leader dumped at beach after abduction

Tanzanian opposition youth leader Abdul Nondo has been found following being dumped at a beach, less than a day after he was reportedly kidnapped in the main city of Dar es Salaam. His party, ACT Wazalendo, says Nondo was severely beaten and injured and has been taken to hospital.

The party's deputy chairperson, Isihaka Mchinjita, said the politician had been blindfolded and repeatedly assaulted while being threatened with death.

The police have issued a statement confirming the incident at Coco Beach late on Sunday night, saying they are investigating the matter.

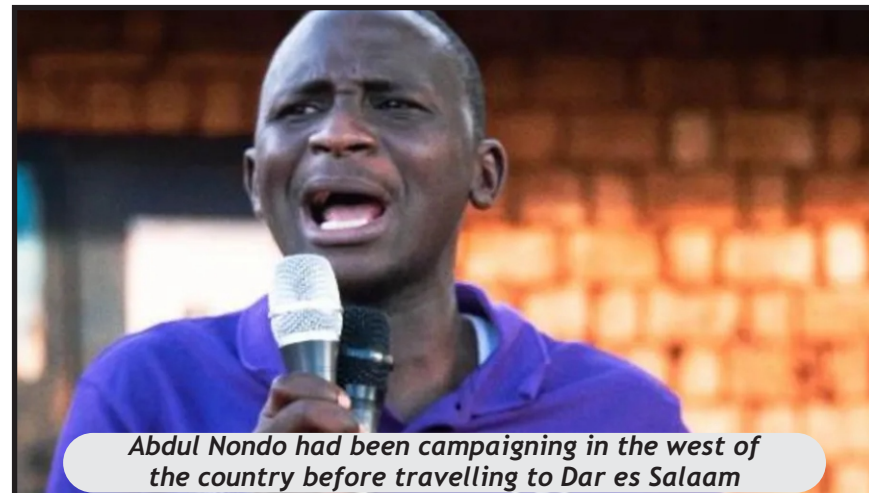
They said he had been abandoned at the beach by his abductors and had sought help from a motorcycle taxi rider, who then took him to the party offices.

"From there, party leaders rushed him to the hospital for treatment. We are

investigating and we will take legal action," police spokesman David Misime said on Monday morning.

After visiting him in hospital, Mchinjita said in an earlier update at 02:00 local time (23:00 GMT), that Nondo had been beaten "for a long time" before being dumped at the beach where the abductors "removed his blindfold and handcuffs". "Nondo said his abductors threatened him, warning him that if they capture him again, they would not spare

his life," he added. The motive behind his abduction is not clear. On Sunday, ACT Wazalendo said Nondo was snatched minutes after he had arrived from the western region of the country where he had been campaigning for the party's candidates in last week's local elections. He had been taken from a bus station in Dar es Salaam in the early hours of Sunday by two individuals travelling in a white four-wheel-drive vehicle.



Abdul Nondo had been campaigning in the west of the country before travelling to Dar es Salaam

Dozens killed in crush at Guinea football match

At least 56 people have been killed in a crush at a football match in Guinea's second-largest city, Nzérékoré, the government says. That death toll is disputed by many in the country, who believe the true number of dead is closer to 100. Some reports indicate that events unravelled following a decision by the referee, who sent off two players from the visiting team, Labé, and awarded a controversial penalty kick.

An inquiry is being launched to find those responsible, Prime Minister Oury Bah said in a statement, calling the events "tragic" and offering his condolences to the bereaved. One doctor, who did not want to be named, told AFP news agency there were "bodies lined up as far as the eye can see in the hospital". "Others are lying on the floor in the hallways. The morgue is full," he added. Local media said police had used tear gas after supporters of the visiting team, Labé, threw stones towards the pitch in anger at the referee.

said. He added that internet access in the region had been restricted, and that police were guarding the entrance to the hospital where the injured were being treated.

"I observed six police pick-ups positioned in front of the three entrances to the hospital. They allowed only the medical staff to access the hospital, while the others were told to go back the way they came," he said. Prime Minister Bah has paid tribute to the dozens of people killed and promised full medical and psychological support to all those injured. Guinea's football body, Feguifoot, has called it a moment of "intense pain" and said that football is meant to "unite hearts and bring minds closer" not cause "tragedy and grief".

"May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace," said the Confederation of African Football (Caf) in a statement from its president, Patrice Motsepe.

Guinea is one of several countries - including Ethiopia, Gambia, Chad, Sierra Leone - that are currently banned from holding international football matches because Caf says its venues do not meet international standards.

That meant that when Guinea took part in recent Africa Cup of Nations



Fans climb over walls in panic after football match

"It all started with a contested decision by the referee. Then fans invaded the pitch," one witness told AFP. Videos and images on social media verified by the BBC show chaotic scenes outside the stadium, with large crowds attempting to climb over walls and numerous bodies on the ground. Some of those lying unresponsive on the ground appear to be children. Paul Sakouvogi, a local journalist in Nzérékoré, told the BBC that the stadium had been "packed to the rafters" with thousands of people.

"There was only one exit... some people climbed over the walls to get out and in the panic, all the spectators headed for the exit, which was very small. Those who couldn't hold on ended up on the floor," Mr Sakouvogi

qualifiers, all their home matches had to be held in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

According to Mr Sakouvogi, the stadium in which Sunday's crush occurred is an unfinished project that was started decades ago. Sunday's match was part of a tournament in honour of President Mamady Doumbouya, who seized power in a coup in September 2021. The opposition says the matches are part of a wider campaign to drum up support for the junta leader ahead of a possible run for the presidency. On Monday, the opposition group National Alliance for Change and Democracy also accused the authorities of having "significant responsibility for these grave events". The government has not responded to this. In recent months there has been increased scrutiny of powerful figures in Guinean football. BBC

EDITORIAL

Giving coins to children is dangerous

Children in homes across Liberia are not safe enough. Not least with newly minted 5 and 10 Liberian Dollar coins in their reach. This is because most kids take these coins as toys and usually placed them in their mouths, and eventually swallow them with health implications.

Children are exposed to coins both in homes, school campuses and outside where the metals are given as change when they go buy bread, juice, candy, biscuit and other snacks during recess.

The situation is scaring, leaving a health practitioner in Monrovia to alarm recently, alerting the public especially, parents. A concerned X-ray technician, Jackson Coleman, revealed that he has handled 28 cases, and 12 of them were children requiring surgery after swallowing coins.

The alarming discovery is sparking growing concern among medical professionals and parents alike, as the ingestion of coins might lead to serious health risks, including choking, internal injury, or damage to the digestive system and other organs of the body.

As a parent, imagine yourself one day returning home from work or from business activity and being confronted with situation involving your little kid swallowing pieces of coins that could lead to unforeseen consequences. Surely this is not an experience you want to have.

The 5 and 10 Liberian dollar coins are part of a new family of currency issued by the Central Bank of Liberia, as part of a currency reform. The coins are made of nickel-plated steel and feature a latent image security feature.

Parents are being advised to be extra vigilant and ensure that these coins, which have become more common in daily transactions, are kept out of reach of children. This means they should not be kept or placed loosely in homes that children can easily access.

The Central Bank of Liberia is yet to comment on the situation, but we think there is a need for public education on radio, in communities and schools about keeping coins from reach of children to minimize risks.

All hands should be brought on deck to advert a potential health problem for our children. Remember, ‘a stitch in time saves nine.’

The coins are necessary to make daily transactions easier especially in market places and when riding taxi or commercial tricycles. But keeping them away from children especially minors, is safer.

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COMMENTARY

By Anne-Marie Slaughter
and Mary-Ann Etiebet

How to End the Scourge of Maternal Mortality

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, DC - No mother should give her own life to give life to another. Unfortunately, preventing maternal mortality remains a persistent global challenge. The third United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commits countries to reduce their maternal mortality rate to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. At the current pace, the world is projected to fall far short of this target, resulting in more than one million additional, overwhelmingly preventable deaths.

Ending preventable maternal deaths is surprisingly difficult. For starters, many different causes can occur at all stages of pregnancy, making it difficult to determine a policy intervention’s success and its ability to effect lasting change. Second, annual maternal deaths number in the hundreds of thousands - not the millions. Given these circumstances, donors and policymakers prefer to invest in other public-health imperatives, where they can have a larger impact and receive more accurate and timely information about outcomes.

But that should not diminish the significance of maternal mortality. The loss of a mother can devastate her family, starting with the other children she may already have. She also likely cared for relatives or elders in her community, or played an important economic role as a farmer or trader. Her death could directly and negatively affect 10-20 people, or more, spanning multiple generations. Research suggests that children with surviving mothers are more likely to live past the age of ten and to stay in school longer.

Activists, practitioners, and policymakers have made remarkable progress combating maternal mortality in countries like Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. To help other countries replicate this performance, we recently co-chaired “Room 17”- a working group linked to the SDG 17 for revitalizing partnerships - as part of the 17 Rooms Initiative. We convened leading maternal-health practitioners and experts at the forefront of redesigning global institutions to discuss an “impact hub” approach to the problem.

An impact hub is an organization that connects governmental and non-governmental actors to pursue a singular, measurable mission, with a focus on scaling up effective solutions, rather than starting from scratch. In the case of maternal health, several regional and global organizations, including the Global Financing Facility, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, and AlignMNH, already perform some of these functions.

To complement existing efforts, the working group proposes a global impact hub focused on the goal of zero maternal deaths by 2030. To measure progress toward this goal, the hub would convene maternal-health practitioners to develop a reliable clinic-level metric such as “death-free days.” Instead of focusing on the number of deaths, this approach - which has been trialed in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone - emphasizes life, with clinicians and families celebrating a

healthy birth for baby and mom.

Using a pay-for-performance scheme tied to this common metric would enable the impact hub to coordinate efforts across multiple partners and donors. It could also provide capacity-building programs and training on tools and interventions that can holistically support maternal health. For example, policymakers could provide targeted digital cash transfers to overcome the financial barriers to delivery care, while implementing strategies to improve prenatal and postnatal care and investing in a comprehensive maternal health-care workforce.

Of course, such efforts must be adapted to local contexts. Communities vary greatly in terms of political and economic fragility, health-system resilience, cultural needs, and maternal-care priorities. Digital cash transfers may have a greater impact in economically fragile contexts, whereas training programs that improve early detection of high-risk pregnancies are most effective in regions with resilient health systems. By linking funding to outcomes rather than prescribed approaches, the impact hub would be able to support a range of solutions.

Moreover, this global organization would not only pool funding and other resources. It could also spawn a network of national and local impact hubs unified by their commitment to achieving zero maternal deaths by 2030 (and by their willingness to use the same measurement criteria). This would make it easier for development practitioners and funders to navigate the tension between giving communities the autonomy to develop strategies calibrated to local conditions and maintaining the global connectivity required for sharing knowledge, resources, and goals.

In addition to scaling up proven solutions, these hubs will also incentivize bottom-up innovation and investment in new approaches. But the global alliance must consider potential problems, such as a health-care “brain drain,” whereby wealthier or more innovative communities attract midwives and other maternal-care professionals from poorer ones, as well as the challenges of integrating digital cash transfers into existing health-system infrastructure.

The proposed impact hub could foster a genuine global partnership, stretching from local providers to national health systems to international organizations, all committed to ending the scourge of maternal mortality. By connecting the community-oriented work that extraordinary people are doing on the ground to an overarching mission with targeted support and measurable milestones, we may finally be able to embrace the joy of new life without the shadow of death.

Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former director of policy planning in the US State Department, is CEO of the think tank New America, Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, and the author of *Renewal: From Crisis to Transformation in Our Lives, Work, and Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2021). Mary-Ann Etiebet is President and CEO of Vital Strategies.

OP-ED

By Bartosz M. Rydliński

Democracy Needs Workers

WARSAW - Donald Trump shocked the world in 2016 when he was elected US president, winning swing states in America’s Rust Belt, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, that have traditionally backed Democrats. Much the same story played out in November. The country’s former industrial heartland overwhelmingly voted for Trump and his promised to “make America great again.” According to exit polls, a majority of working-class people in key states - those who did not attend college and earn between \$30,000 and \$99,999 per year - backed Trump. That was true of white, Latino, and Black voters.

This trend is not confined to the United States. In June, 57% of workers voted for the far-right National Rally (Rassemblement National) in the first round of the French parliamentary election. And in September, 50% of workers supported the populist Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) in the country’s general election, while the Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 46% of workers’ votes in the Brandenburg state election.

Poland’s right-wing party, Law and Justice (PiS), which governed between 2015 and 2023, offers a useful case study of why populist and authoritarian parties are increasingly attractive to workers in Europe and the US, and how the center left can win them back. PiS had a string of legislative wins, including lowering the retirement age, sharply increasing the minimum wage, and providing direct cash transfers to parents with children under the age of 18. By embracing the causes normally championed by social democrats, PiS promoted the economic interests of Polish workers. As a result, nearly half of this group voted for PiS during last year’s parliamentary election (in the end, a coalition of opposition parties won enough seats to form a majority government).

My research on the less-educated and lower-income voters in Poland’s small towns and rural areas, conducted on behalf of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, found an almost total disconnect between this group and the center left. Working-class participants in my focus groups associated social-democratic parties with the LGBTQ+ agenda, the sexualization of children, openness to migrants, and efforts to undermine state sovereignty. Instead of consuming traditional media, they get their news from niche groups on social-media platforms. These voters are proud of their anti-establishment stance, and see themselves as engaged in a fight for their livelihoods and access to “objective” information.

These findings match those of a systematic review of 51 studies examining declining support for center-left parties in the West. The Democratic Party in the US, social democrats in Western Europe, and progressive forces in post-communist countries have all lost traction with the working class. To reverse this trend, they must implement worker-friendly policies and change the way they communicate with this crucial segment of voters.

Progressives on both sides of the Atlantic have campaigned for years on increasing support for working families, including by spending more on public services, health care, education, and infrastructure. This has even helped them win elections (although often against unpopular conservative governments). Consider the 2008 and 2020 US presidential elections, when Democrats Barack Obama and Joe Biden, respectively, won, as well as the Labour Party’s resounding victory over the Tories in the United Kingdom’s general election earlier this year.

Once in office, however, these parties often fail to deliver on their campaign promises. Talking about creating good jobs in the industries of the future is not the same as actually doing it. Workers want bold, effective leaders who will take concrete action.

The center left must accept that it cannot communicate with blue-collar voters in the same way that it does with wealthy urban elites. Instead of dismissing workers’ concerns about migration, globalization, and the green transition, the Democrats in the US and social-democratic parties in Europe should address these fears on the channels and platforms that this segment of the population already uses. In that sense, they could learn a thing or two from the far right, which has become a dominant force on TikTok and X. Creating videos that put a more positive and pro-democratic spin on populism is less a matter of taste than of necessity.

The working class has played an essential role in building liberal democracies over the past two centuries, pushing for universal voting rights, the creation of social programs, and other policies expanding economic well-being and underpinning political stability. In times of turmoil, like now, center-left parties must ensure that blue-collar voters can find a home under their tent. That means making a concerted effort to court them, which starts by taking their concerns seriously and meeting them where they are. If they fail, the far right will continue to exploit workers’ anger to fuel their anti-democratic agenda.

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OPINION

By Kenneth Rogoff

Europe’s Economy Is Stalling Out

CAMBRIDGE - As Europe prepares for a potential trade war after US President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January, its two largest economies are struggling. While Germany is heading into its second consecutive year of zero growth, France is expected to grow by less than 1% in 2025.

Is Europe’s economic stagnation the result of insufficient Keynesian stimulus, or are its bloated and sclerotic welfare states to blame? Either way, it is clear that those who believe simple measures like higher budget deficits or lower interest rates can solve Europe’s problems are detached from reality.

For example, France’s aggressive stimulus policies have already pushed its budget deficit to 6% of GDP, while its debt-to-GDP ratio has surged to 112%, up from 95% in 2015. In 2023, President Emmanuel Macron faced widespread protests over his decision to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 - a move that, while meaningful, barely scratches the surface of the country’s fiscal challenges. As European Central Bank President Christine Lagarderecently warned, France’s fiscal trajectory is unsustainable without far-reaching reforms.

Many American and British progressives admire France’s model of big government and wish their own countries would adopt similar policies. But debt markets have recently woken up to the risks posed by France’s ballooning debt. Remarkably, the French government now pays a higher risk premium than Spain.

With real interest rates on advanced-economy government debt expected to remain elevated - barring a recession - France cannot simply grow its way out of its debt and pension problems. Instead, its heavy debt burden will almost certainly weigh on its long-term economic prospects. In 2010 and 2012, Carmen M. Reinhart and I published twopapers arguing that excessive debt is detrimental to economic growth. The sluggish, indebted economies of Europe and Japan are prime examples of this dynamic, as subsequent academic research has shown.

Heavy debt burdens impede GDP growth by limiting governments’ ability to respond to slowdowns and recessions. With a debt-to-GDP ratio of just 63%, Germany has ample room to revitalize its crumbling infrastructure and improve its underperforming education system. If implemented effectively, such investments could generate enough long-term growth to offset their costs. But fiscal space is valuable only when used wisely: in reality, Germany’s “debt brake” - which caps annual deficits at 0.35% of GDP - has proven too inflexible, and the next government must find a way to work around it.

Moreover, increased public spending will not deliver sustained growth without significant reforms. Specifically, Germany must reinstate key elements of the Hartz reforms introduced by former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in the early 2000s. These measures, which made the German labor market significantly more flexible than France’s, were instrumental in transforming Germany from the “sick man of Europe” into a dynamic economy. But a leftward shift in economic policy has effectively reversed much of this progress, severely undermining Germany’s vaunted efficiency. Its ability to produce much-needed infrastructure has visibly suffered; a glaring example is Berlin’s Brandenburg Airport, which finally opened in 2020 - ten years behind schedule and at three times the projected cost.

Germany will eventually overcome its current malaise, but the key question is how long that will take. Earlier this month, Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner, leading to the collapse of his fragile coalition government. With elections scheduled for February 23, the uncharismatic Scholz must now step aside and let another Social Democrat lead or risk his party’s implosion.

Scholz has so far resisted calls to abandon his re-election bid,

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COMMENTARYBy: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Platonic not Satanic

The passing away of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, the Celebration of the Tubman Holiday and the 80th Birthday of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai are not a coincidence but are God-determined because God gives and God takes back what God has given us. It is through the Will of God that we celebrated the lives of all of these national leaders of Liberia over the past weekend. We celebrated their lives because of the Platonic relationship rather the Satanic relationship that we have with them. This example of a Platonic relationship is given to all of us by God, as seen in his giving his only Child to perform the ultimate sacrifice, dying to save us from our sins, in order to demonstrate the Love of God for all. Clearly, what is Platonic is good but what is Satanic is bad.

Following the example of the Love of God, we can move forward for the better in all of our celebrations. Let us look at some examples. Your humble servant took an exam for a foreign scholarship to pursue undergraduate studies in the United States of America (USA). When the exam results were published, the name of your humble servant did not appear among the eight persons who passed the exam out of the 200 plus persons who took the exam. A Colleague of my Father, who worked at the City Bank in Monrovia, congratulated my Father because he said that he served as one of the Examiners and he knew that I had passed the exam. But my father told him that my name was not published.

Let us look at an example of a Platonic relationship rather than a satanic relationship. When I found out about this injustice to me, I made my first protest by sitting on the sidewalk at the entrance to the Executive Mansion, where the late President Tubman worked and lived. His Wife, Mrs. Antoinette Tubman, saw me sitting on the sidewalk and asked me about my sitting there. I told her about the injustice faced by me. She told me to go home and return on the following day.

I returned on the following day to find out that my name was placed on the list of the eight persons who passed the exam, through the intervention of Mrs. Tubman. The Secretary of Education had placed the name of his son on the list of eight and removed my name. No wonder the daughter of Mrs Tubman, Coocoo, walks around Liberia and abroad without boasting about the fact that her Father was President of Liberia. Coocoo walks simply and does not place any high things on her shoulders. Platonic Not Satanic!

Take the example of the late Husband of Coocoo Tubman, Mr. Gabriel Tucker. He attended high school at the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) in Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia. BWI remains a great unifying institution in Liberia because the Tuckers, the Coopers, the Kollies and the Garswas went there for schooling. Now, a Woman. Dr. Nancy Freeman is the first female head of BWI. soon to be transformed into an institution of higher learning. Unifying Not Dividing! What a great local and global example.

How did this great example come about? It came about from the teaching of Liberian Elders, Grandparents and Parents. From the Elders, Grandparents and Parents, your humble servant learned honesty, justice, humility and hard work. So when my leg got broken playing football at the College of West Africa (CWA), I went to the Tennis Court at the Sports Commission on Broad Street, Monrovia to pick up tennis balls and give them to the players, who paid me some money that I used to help me go to school. So when people find out that I earned my PhD degree at 27 years of age, they should bear in mind that I finished school quickly because of the knowledge from the old people and from the academic and athletic scholarships I received and the hard jobs that I did. I retired as undefeated Tennis Champion of Liberia during the years 1964 to 1994.

There is the meaningful Liberian expression which says: To sit on the new mat, you need to sit on the old mat. Through the sitting on the old mat this Commentary has come out to join the people who love Liberia, people who do the Platonic rather than the Satanic, to transform the Unfair prevailing electoral system into the Fair enduring electoral system. It is only through this transformation, within the Rule of Law, that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country.

PLATONIC NOT SATANIC!

ARTICLEBy Seltue Karweaye

Prince Johnson's death should not stop the War and Economic Crime Court's obligation to end Impunity

Prince Yomie Johnson, a prominent figure in Liberia's tumultuous history known for his role as a former warlord and senator, has passed away at the age of 72. His controversial and often brutal tactics during the Civil War left a significant mark on the nation and garnered international condemnation.

Johnson died on Thursday at a local hospital in Paynesville, a suburb of the capital city, Monrovia. This information was confirmed by Siafa Jallah, the deputy director of press relations at the Liberian Senate. Johnson's death marks the end of an era for a man who was both feared and influential in Liberia's political landscape. Johnson, who infamously videotaped himself drinking Budweiser as his men cut off the ears of the nation's former president Samuel Doe, remained active in politics after the Civil War ended and was elected senator in 2006.

Liberia's civil wars, occurring from 1989 to 2003, were devastating conflicts that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 250,000 individuals. These wars were characterized by widespread atrocities, including mass killings, severe torture, and systematic sexual violence against civilians. The impact of these conflicts was profound and left deep scars on the nation's population and infrastructure.

In the aftermath of the war, the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) identified Prince Yomie Johnson as one of the "most notorious perpetrators" of these heinous acts. The Commission's investigations revealed numerous grave accusations against him, including involvement in killings, extortion of civilians, orchestrating massacres, and engaging in acts of both torture and rape. These charges underscore the gravity of his actions during a tumultuous period in Liberia's history, reflecting the broader patterns of violence and human rights violations that plagued the nation throughout the civil wars.


Neither Johnson nor the other seven individuals designated by the TRC as leaders of warring factions faced justice in Liberia. Yet, a few were held accountable overseas. Charles Taylor, a former president, is currently serving a 50-year sentence in the United Kingdom for his crimes. Additionally, Mohammed Jabbateh, a notorious rebel commander infamous for his brutal acts—including the horrific murder of a pregnant woman and the systematic rape of young girls—was sentenced to 30 years in the United States.

Earlier this year, President Joseph Boakai took a significant step towards addressing the grievances of civil war victims by signing an executive order to establish a long-awaited war and economics crimes court. This court is intended to provide a platform for justice and accountability for those affected by the atrocities committed during the civil wars. Despite the hopeful announcement and the critical importance of this initiative, the court has not yet commenced its operations, leaving many victims and their families still waiting for justice and closure.

The recent death of Prince Yomie Johnson should not deter the newly established Office of a War and Economic Crimes Court from carrying out its essential duty of combating impunity in Liberia. This court is pivotal for addressing and prosecuting some of the most horrific crimes committed during the civil wars that ravaged our nation, and Johnson's passing removes a critical opportunity for justice for the hundreds of victims who suffered during those tumultuous times.

Prince Johnson, who was the former leader of the armed opposition group known as the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), was named by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as a principal figure responsible for egregious acts during the conflict. The TRC specifically called for his prosecution for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and various severe violations of international humanitarian law. Despite these significant accusations and the weight of evidence presented against him, he was never brought to trial, leaving many victims feeling hopeless about ever seeing justice served.

In this context, the Boakai-led administration must take urgent and meaningful steps to fulfill its commitment to justice. This entails not only pursuing those individuals accused of serious breaches of humanitarian law but also ensuring that the judicial processes are transparent, fair, and thorough. The administration must actively cooperate with the Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court, providing it with the necessary resources, political will, and public support to effectively investigate and prosecute those responsible for war-related crimes. The path to national healing and reconciliation hinges on our collective determination to confront the past and hold perpetrators accountable. Only then can we move forward as a united nation, guided by the principles of justice and accountability for all. I rest my pen.



General Auditing Commission
Est. 1972
Promoting Accountability of Public Resources

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

November 26, 202

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) announces the commencement of the second phase of the Government of Liberia DOMESTIC DEBT audit covering all fifteen counties. The Audit period runs from January 1, 1980, to December 31, 2024.

CLAIMANTS from 1980 to 2024 are asked to report them to the Office of the Auditor General, Old Executive Mansion, Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia from Monday to Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with all relevant supporting documents.

All claims that were not submitted during the first phase of the validation period are required to be submitted to the GAC.

Additionally, claims that were deemed inadequate and not accepted for validation during the first phase of the validation period can be re-submitted with all relevant documents consistent with the qualifying criteria stated below:

Documents to be submitted are:

1. Goods & Services, Works and Professional Services
 - Original copies of Local Purchase Orders (LPOs), Invoices, Delivery Notes, Certificates of completion, contracts, business registration, tax clearance, etc.
2. Rental & Leases
 - Original copies of Contracts/Lease Agreements, Title Deeds/Letters of Administration, and evidence of Real Estate Tax Payment etc.
3. Instruments
 - Permanent Claims Commission/ Promissory note, confirmation letters from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and confirmation letters from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).

Designated sites for the submission of clams in the counties will be made public shortly in the various county capitals where GAC auditors will be conducting the audits.

No excuse will be accepted, this time around, as the exercise will be done only within the specified time frame of December 1, 2024, to February 3, 2025.

For any/all information regarding the Independent Audit of the Government of Liberia DOMESTIC DEBT AUDIT,
Or email the GAC @ domesticdebitaudit@gac.gov.lr.

Signed: THE MANAGEMENT
General Auditing Commission

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

“Liberia Ready to Host FCWC 15TH Ministerial Conference”

Plans are said to be far advance ahead of 15th Ministerial Conference of Fisheries Committee for West and Central Gulf of Guinea.Liberia’s Fisheries DG Making Disclosure of the Country’s Readiness to Host FCWC Conference in Monrovia

Monrovia, Liberia, December 3, 2024-The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority of Liberia, Madam Emma Metieh Glassco, has officially disclosed Liberia’s readiness to host the 15th Ministerial Conference of the Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) in Monrovia from 11-13, December 2024. “Liberia is ready to host the 15th Ministerial Conference of the Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) in Monrovia from 11-13, December 2024”. Disclosing on State Radio, ELBC Monday, December 2, 2024, during a simulcast on several local radio and online Television Stations, Madam Glassco stated that currently, the Liberian Fisheries Authority is now following clear instruction from the office of president Joseph Boakai, ‘to go ahead with preparations leading to

be two -days of technical working sessions at the Mamba Point Hotel in Monrovia from December 11-12, 2024, and a one-day concluding session at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town. “The conference marks a historic occasion for the Liberian fisheries sector, as Liberia through the fisheries authority will assume the Chairmanship position from Ghana as the main driver of fisheries policies and good governance within the subregion. Moreover, Madam Glassco noted that another cardinal thing that would come out of the three-day International Fisheries Conference is the “Monrovia Declaration” to honor the host country. “As part of the Monrovia Declaration, member states would carry out joint fisheries patrols and operate a joint closed fisheries season” Meanwhile, the Liberian Fisheries DG further mentioned during the simulcast that the Government of Liberia through the National Fisheries



the hosting of a successful international fisheries conference in Monrovia’. “During the conference, Liberia will play host to several international fisheries delegates including the Fisheries Ministers of Benin, Togo, Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, along with their technicians”. Furthermore, Madam Glassco noted that others expected to arrive in Liberia for the three-day international conference include Heads of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations / Bodies, International Fisheries-related Institutions, and International Observers. She also mentioned among other things, that at the three-day Ministerial Conference, there will

and Aquaculture Authority, NaFAA is honored to host this auspicious International Fisheries Conference which has the potential to expose the fisheries sector to investment opportunities. The Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) is a regional fisheries organization with a membership of six West African countries: Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo. The Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was established in 2007. This is to facilitate cooperation in fisheries management among member countries. The countries have several shared fish stocks and identify a need for cooperation and shared management of these resources.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Supreme Court comes down hard on magistrates

Liberia's Chief Justice of the Supreme Courts sounds caveat to magistrates nationwide to operate within their limits.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Ganta, Liberia, December 3, 2024 - The Supreme Court of Liberia issues a caveat here, it unacceptable for cases to linger before magisterial courts for a period longer than prescribed by law. According to her, Rule 9 of the



mandating all magistrates across the country to properly dispose of persistent non-support cases within two days while terming an unjustifiable travesty of justice and ultra-virus magistrates who exceed their magisterial jurisdiction and time limit in the determinant of cases.

Making a special remark over the weekend in Nimba County at the Liberian National Bar Association 2024 Convention, Liberia's Chief Justice, Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, said the Supreme Court finds

Rules and Regulations for Governance of Magisterial and Circuit Courts states: "No civil case shall be postponed and continue for more than two weeks, except for good reason in the discretion of the magistrate; neither shall a civil case be continued from month to month without speedy determination."

Chief Justice Yuoh explains that the rules provide that no criminal case in magisterial courts or traffic court should remain pending and not be disposed of for more than thirty days after arrest.

She underscores that magistrates are reminded that they are a month-to-month court and have limited territorial and subject matter jurisdiction. Therefore, it's mandatory that they expeditiously dispose of cases because the legislative intent for the establishment of magisterial courts is to keep the peace within their respective magisterial jurisdiction.

The Liberian Chief Justice reveals that the Supreme Court has embarked on a straight implementation monitoring mechanism to ensure that magisterial courts adhere to prescribed time limits for cases, particularly against frequent deferral or granting of continuance in cases of persistent non-support.

"Any practicing lawyer will recognize that such actions by magistrates are not only unjustifiable but ultra-virus. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has mandated that magistrates resolve cases of persistent non-support within two days. The Supreme Court also notes instances where a magistrate grants a continuance for up to six months to allow a defendant to obtain their deed in the action of summary proceeding to recover possession of the real property. This is a travesty of justice," she points out.

She continues that any

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Grand Kru citizens warn politicians

Politicians from Grand Kru County, southeast Liberia have been accused of promoting division among citizens during elections.

By Naneka A. Hoffman
New Kru Town, Liberia, December 3, 2024 - The Grand Kru County Chapter Chairperson of the Unity Party Nelson Torbor, accuses politicians from the county of instigation confusion among citizens during elections.

Speaking at Bolloh Community reunion program in the Borough of New Kru Town on November 29, 2024, Mr. Torbor said politicians based in Montserrado County often visit home during elections but leave without resolving those issues they create, leaving the people divided.

He expresses disappointment over poor living conditions of people of Bolloh Community, despite its rich mineral resources, especially gold, extracted from the area.

According ti him, gold mined

monthly in the area could generate about US\$1.5 million yet, the locals still suffer from extreme poverty, drinking from creeks and rivers.

"I traveled across the county during the 2023 presidential and legislative elections and witnessed the deplorable living conditions of the people of Bolloh Community and the

whole of Grand Kru County. I am speaking from firsthand experience," Torbor remarks.

He urges both locals and people from Grand Kru living abroad to unite for the betterment of their county.

Also speaking, the Chairman of Bolloh Community in Montserrado County, Mr. Jarbo Wreh, recounts the history of the community, highlighting their contributions and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



United Methodists discuss prospects of Regionalization

By Lincoln G. Peters

The United Methodist Church (UMC) Human Rights Monitor welcomes the transformative potential of Regionalization in the United Methodist Church, but rejects same-sex marriage.

In a bold step towards enhancing governance, inclusivity, and spiritual growth, the Liberia Annual Conference has held a two-day Regionalization Ratification Workshop.

The two-day workshop was held at First United Methodist Church in Grand Bassa County from November 29-30, 2024, bringing together church leaders, district superintendents, lay-leaders, and representatives from across the country. Several banners at the event displayed messages affirming the church's traditional beliefs, including: "The United Methodist Church of Liberia believes in the Bible and holds to traditional practices. "The United Methodist Church is not a gay church, and we reject same-sex marriage."

Delegates came from key districts within the United Methodist Church including Kakata_Farmington, Grand Bassa, St. John, River Cess,

biblical perspectives, empowering participants to align their faith with practical solutions for challenges facing the church and society at large.

In opening remarks, Mr. Jefferson B. Knight, facilitator of the UMC/LAC Taskforce, and Director of the UMC Human Rights Monitor, emphasized the transformative potential of regionalization.

"This process isn't just about policy adjustments; it's about empowering our districts, counties and regions, celebrating our diversity, and strengthening our collective mission to serve God and our communities," he said. Director Knight continues, "This regionalization ratification dialogue is very educative and will provide a foundation for regionalized worship, according to our tradition, culture, and constitution. We reject same-sex marriage, and the UMC is not a gay church."

According to him, regionalization will help to the church to remain as United Methodists, and has nothing to do about gay marriage.

For his part, Rev. Dr. Samuel K. Karyeah, Research Officer at the Bishop's Office, delved into legal and spiritual implications of the church's stance, encouraging participants to embrace



and Morweh, representing a cross-section of members such as youth, women, men, clergies, young adults and district superintendents respectively.

Their participation underscored the UMC's commitment to fostering inclusivity and ensuring that voices from all corners of its congregation are heard.

The dialogue focused on vital topics such as the General Conference 2024, the church's position on regionalization, and Liberia's legal and spiritual stance on pressing issues like same-sex marriage. Discussions were enriched by

opportunities that regionalization offers.

"Our discussions here today will shape the future of our church and inspire a new era of accountability and unity," Dr. Karyeah said.

"Our decision will help save the UMC and help us remain UMC; lets support regionalization", urged Rev. Calab Dormah, Taskforce Chairman on Regionalization Ratification Committee.

The dialogue featured interactive group discussions with delegates sharing their unique district perspectives on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Le ministre de la Justice alerte sur la méfiance et l'anarchie dans le système judiciaire libérien

Le ministre de la Justice du Libéria, Cllr. Natu Oswald Tweh, a exprimé son inquiétude face à l'érosion de la confiance dans le système judiciaire, marquée par une montée de l'anarchie et de la méfiance généralisée. S'exprimant

cette méfiance ? » a-t-il lancé. Rétablir l'autorité de la justice

Le ministre a exhorté les avocats à empêcher la justice privée, rappelant que le système judiciaire doit demeurer le pilier de la justice et de l'équité au Libéria.

comportement influe directement sur la confiance publique dans le système judiciaire. Il a exhorté les membres du Barreau à examiner leurs pratiques, à corriger les comportements susceptibles d'éroder cette confiance et à s'assurer qu'ils



lors de la Convention nationale 2024 de l'Association nationale du Barreau du Libéria (LNBA), tenue ce week-end à Gompa City, dans le comté de Nimba, Cllr. Tweh a invité les avocats et les acteurs judiciaires à réfléchir sur leur rôle dans cette crise.

« Alors que nous sommes réunis, interrogeons-nous : comment, à titre individuel, avons-nous contribué à

« La justice exige de nous des normes professionnelles irréprochables. La vie, la liberté, la quête du bonheur et la protection des biens reposent sur des processus juridiques solides et justes », a-t-il souligné.

L'exemplarité au cœur du système judiciaire

Cllr. Tweh a insisté sur la nécessité d'une conduite irréprochable de la part des juges, magistrats et avocats, soulignant que leur

remplissent leurs devoirs envers les tribunaux et le pays avec intégrité. Promouvoir l'État de droit

Selon le ministre, le respect de l'État de droit commence par l'exemplarité des professionnels du droit. En appliquant la loi de manière rigoureuse et éthique, ils contribuent à créer un climat

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

Les diplômés de Starz invités à transformer leur vie et le Libéria

ors de la cérémonie de remise des diplômes de la L7 promotion de licence et de la 1^{ère} promotion de master, l'Ambassadeur Latim Da-Thong, fondateur et président du conseil d'administration de l'Université Starz, a encouragé les diplômés à utiliser leur créativité, leur excellence et leurs réussites académiques pour transformer positivement leur avenir et celui du Libéria.

La cérémonie, qui s'est tenue le 26 novembre 2024 à Monrovia, a vu la remise des diplômes à 183 licenciés et 17 diplômés du programme de master. M. Da-Thong a insisté sur le rôle crucial des diplômés dans le progrès du Libéria, les incitant à ne pas se concentrer uniquement sur leurs succès personnels, mais également sur l'impact positif qu'ils peuvent avoir sur leur communauté et leur

pays.

Un appel à l'action pour l'avenir du Libéria

« Le Libéria a besoin de vous pour accélérer son développement. À mesure que vous avancez, n'oubliez pas que le succès ne réside pas seulement dans les accomplissements individuels, mais dans la différence que vous

apportez dans la vie des autres », a-t-il déclaré, soulignant que le pays compte sur les talents et les compétences des jeunes diplômés pour façonner son avenir.

L'ancien vice-ministre de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

Le courage du Président Koffa, un exemple à saluer

Par Jayati Ghosh

Dans le tumulte de la crise de leadership qui secoue actuellement la Chambre des représentants, le Président Jonathan Fonati Koffa s'affirme comme un défenseur résolu de l'État de droit. Son nom pourrait bien rester dans les annales de l'histoire parlementaire comme celui d'un homme ayant choisi la voie de la légalité face à des adversités politiques sans précédent.

Déclaré destitué par une majorité de ses collègues et remplacé dans des conditions controversées, M. Koffa a saisi la Cour suprême d'un recours en mandamus, arguant qu'il demeure le président légitime de la 55^{ème} législature. Il conteste les actions du bloc majoritaire et demande à la Haute Cour de restaurer ses droits constitutionnels.

En réponse, la Cour suprême a pris une décision remarquable : ordonner le retour au statu quo ante jusqu'à ce qu'une audience devant le banc complet puisse avoir lieu. Ce jugement temporaire est inédit, notamment dans un contexte où deux précédents présidents de la Chambre avaient été destitués sans un tel recours à la justice.

Malgré les pressions, M. Koffa a exprimé sa disposition à quitter son poste, mais uniquement si cette démarche respecte les procédures établies. Une condition que le bloc majoritaire, en privilégiant des manœuvres politiques au détriment des principes juridiques, n'a pas su garantir.

L'attitude de M. Koffa illustre une rare détermination à défendre l'intégrité institutionnelle. Il rappelle que la gouvernance ne peut être subordonnée à des rivalités personnelles ou à des stratégies partisans. Aucun groupe ne devrait pouvoir, sans recours légitime, renverser un dirigeant simplement par désaccord ou convenance politique.

La Constitution, pilier de notre démocratie, offre des mécanismes clairs pour résoudre les différends. Ignorer ces cadres légaux affaiblit les institutions et envoie un signal négatif, non seulement à la génération actuelle, mais également à celles qui suivront.

En contestant les actions du bloc majoritaire, M. Koffa s'efforce de corriger une dérive préoccupante. Même si son départ devait être confirmé, il insiste pour que cette décision s'inscrive dans le respect des règles de droit, garantissant ainsi la crédibilité et la stabilité de nos institutions.

La Cour suprême, après avoir entendu les deux parties, devrait rendre son verdict cette semaine. Peu importe l'issue, il est impératif que celle-ci reste dans les limites du droit, renforçant ainsi la primauté des institutions sur les intérêts partisans.

Le courage et la résilience du Président Jonathan Fonati Koffa face à cette crise offrent une leçon de leadership et de respect des principes démocratiques. Ce geste mérite d'être salué par tous ceux qui aspirent à une société fondée sur la justice et l'équité.

Français

Le ministre de la Justice

de confiance où tous les citoyens se sentent en sécurité pour faire valoir leurs droits devant les tribunaux. « Nous avons la responsabilité d'élargir l'accès à la justice, d'améliorer l'administration judiciaire et de préserver l'État de droit. Ce sont les fondations d'une société équitable et juste », a-t-il affirmé. Inspirer confiance, non la crainte Pour consolider l'État de droit, le ministre Tweh a souligné que les citoyens ne doivent pas craindre les avocats, mais plutôt les respecter et leur faire confiance. « Il est impératif que nous montrions l'exemple par une conduite exemplaire. Nos actions d'aujourd'hui doivent contribuer à restaurer la confiance dans notre système judiciaire et à renforcer l'État de droit », a-t-il conclu. Cette déclaration intervient dans un contexte où le Libéria est confronté à des défis majeurs dans son système judiciaire. Restaurer la crédibilité et l'efficacité de la justice exige des efforts concertés de tous les acteurs du système.

Les diplômés de Starz invités à

L'Éducation a exprimé sa grande fierté envers cette génération de diplômés, qu'il considère comme un héritage précieux pour l'Université Starz. « Je suis convaincu que vous nous rendrez fiers et accomplirez encore de plus grandes réalisations », a-t-il ajouté. L'Innovation et l'éducation au cœur de la mission de l'Université Starz M. Da-Thong a également rappelé les valeurs fondamentales qui guident l'Université Starz : l'innovation, l'excellence et le service à autrui. Ces principes, a-t-il précisé, doivent désormais faire partie intégrante de la vie professionnelle et personnelle des diplômés. Selon lui, la formation reçue à l'Université Starz constitue un tremplin solide pour leur développement futur. « Félicitations à la promotion 2024 de l'Université Starz. Ce moment marque le début d'un parcours prometteur. Nous avons hâte de voir toutes les réussites qui vous attendent », a-t-il conclu, incitant les diplômés à viser toujours plus haut, à persévérer dans leurs efforts et à saisir toutes les opportunités qui s'offriront à eux. Le lancement d'un programme de cybersécurité L'Ambassadeur Da-Thong a également profité de cette occasion pour annoncer le lancement d'un nouveau programme de baccalauréat en cybersécurité (Bsc), qui débutera au début de l'année 2025. Ce programme, lancé officiellement le 27 septembre 2024, vise à répondre à la demande croissante de professionnels qualifiés en cybersécurité, un secteur clé dans le monde moderne. Il a

Décès de Prince Y. Johnson : Le Sénat présente ses condoléances à la famille endeuillée



Le Sénat libérien a adressé un message de condoléances à la famille du feu Prince Y. Johnson, ancien sénateur du comté de Nimba, décédé ce matin à l'hôpital Women of Hope à Paynesville, en périphérie de Monrovia. Dans un communiqué officiel, la présidence du Sénat a exprimé sa profonde tristesse, soulignant que la disparition du sénateur Johnson constitue non seulement un coup dur pour l'institution sénatoriale, mais aussi une perte irréparable pour le pays dans son ensemble. Un engagement politique remarquable Tout au long de sa carrière, le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson a occupé plusieurs fonctions importantes au sein des législatures du Libéria, notamment la 52, la 53, la 54 et la 55 actuelle. Il était l'un des sénateurs les plus anciens

en fonction. Il a également présidé des comités essentiels, tels que celui de la sécurité, du renseignement et des anciens combattants, ainsi que celui des affaires intérieures, de la gouvernance et de la réconciliation. De plus, il a été un membre influent du Parlement de la CEDEAO, basé à Abuja, au Nigeria. Une suspension des travaux en hommage En signe de respect et de deuil, le Sénat a décidé de reporter sa séance plénière initialement prévue le jeudi 28 novembre 2024 au mardi suivant. Le communiqué a souligné que l'héritage du sénateur Johnson, marqué par ses contributions significatives à la politique et à la gouvernance, restera gravé dans les mémoires des Libériens. « Que ses contributions à la nation libérienne soient toujours honorées, et que son héritage philanthropique continue d'inspirer les générations futures », a conclu le communiqué du Sénat.

Le Barreau national du Libéria élit une nouvelle direction

L'Association nationale du Barreau libérien (LNBA) a renouvelé sa direction lors de sa Convention nationale à Ganta, en élisant un nouveau bureau pour diriger ses affaires au cours des trois prochaines années. Cllr. Varmah M. Bornor, ancien Secrétaire général, a été élu à une large majorité comme nouveau Président, succédant à Cllr. Sylvester Renne. L'élection s'est tenue le samedi 30 novembre 2024, dans une atmosphère paisible à la salle intellectuelle Wuo-Garbe Tarpia de Peace Empire Guest House. Une convention marquante Organisée du 28 novembre au 1er décembre 2024, cette Convention nationale a rassemblé des partenaires locaux et internationaux ainsi que des juristes venus de tout le pays. Soutenue par le gouvernement des États-Unis, le PNUD et Arish Aid, entre autres, la rencontre a réaffirmé l'engagement de la LNBA à promouvoir des mécanismes alternatifs de résolution des conflits et à offrir une assistance juridique gratuite aux citoyens. Résultats des élections Le Comité électoral national de la LNBA a publié les résultats suivants : Présidence Cllr. Preston Chea Doe : 23 voix Cllr. Wiefueh A. Sayeh : 115 voix Cllr. Varmah M. Bornor : 309 voix Total des votes valides : 447 | Votes invalides : 2 Vice-présidence Cllr. Evelyn Lah-Gongloe : 108 voix Cllr. Juah F. Lawson : 191 voix Cllr. Bobby F. W. Livingstone : 90 voix Cllr. Swalliho A. Sesay : 38 voix

Cllr. Dr. Mohammed S. Sheriff : 20 voix Total des votes valides : 447 | Votes invalides : 1 Secrétaire général Cllr. Elijah T. Forkeyah : 228 voix Cllr. Fredrick M. Gbemie : 220 voix Total des votes : 448 Trésorier national Atty. Yaney K. Horton : 174 voix Atty. Yemi Shobayo-Williams : 269 voix Total des votes : 449 | Votes invalides : 6 Priorités du président élu Dans son discours de victoire, Cllr. Varmah M. Bornor a exprimé sa gratitude envers ses collègues et a réaffirmé son engagement à collaborer avec le gouvernement, les institutions internationales et les organisations locales pour renforcer l'État de droit et améliorer l'accès à la justice. « Cette victoire est celle de l'Association nationale du Barreau, du secteur juridique et de la démocratie libérienne. Ce processus électoral exemplaire, mené sans chaos ni contestation, est une source de fierté. Nous allons travailler à renforcer les systèmes internes de la LNBA et à collaborer étroitement avec la Cour suprême.



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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: The Death of Senator Prince Y. Johnson

By Naneka Hoffman

The sudden death of Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson last Thursday, November 28, 2024 hit the nation like a tsunami, receiving mixed reactions from citizens, including his kinsmen in Nimba. In a random sampling, The NEW DAWN solicits views of some residents of Monrovia and parts adjacent on the death of the former warlord, evangelist and senator, as you may read below.



Cyrus Ganah

"Prince Johnson will be remembered for so many things that he did for the people of

Nimba, and more especially, I can remember during the course of the war when Prince Johnson stood up for the people of Nimba. These are things I will actually remember especially, when it comes to standing for the people of Nimba when former President Doe was caught in the process, killing innocent children and even threatening the people of Nimba to kill them, and Prince Johnson stood up and protected his people of Nimba."



Patrick P. Gweh

"Liberians will remember Prince Johnson, for so many things, instead of representation, making laws, you know Senator Prince

Johnson was one of the elders in the Senate, who people used to listen to for advice and his contributions are very significant to the Liberian people. When it comes to Nimba, Nimbaians will miss Prince Johnson more than ever before. I don't see anybody in Nimba County that will replace Prince Johnson in advocating for his people and defending them. We agree that more people will have different sayings about Prince Johnson in terms of the war, but Prince Johnson did well for Nimbaians."

"Prince Johnson taught the sons and daughters of Nimba serious lessons that have to do with having love for county and everything. It means what you work for you, learn to carry back home. And one thing I do remember of him, he was a very serious person and selfless leader, who gave his all to the sons and daughters of Nimba."



Stanley S. Dunbar

"Prince Johnson was a very good man for his kinsmen of Nimba. I do remember him for advocating for his county and youths of Nimba. Prince Johnson was one of the senators that were very controversial in politics; he was a very bold person and never hid his feelings in telling people the truth in our body politics. I think politicians will miss him a lot, because when it comes to election in our country, if you do not have Prince Johnson on your team, it can be very difficult for them to win the



Ofantee Togbah

position in Nimba and the Presidential seat, so I think they will miss him for that."



Jake Parker

"The death of Senator Prince Johnson is a shocking news to the entire country, because he was a true statesman. I think Liberia lost a real renowned man, who was having love for the country. Whenever you sat

with him and listened, his love for this country is to always to see Liberia improved, to have better roads, good health system, and good infrastructure. Liberia lost one of its great men. The people of Nimba County lost a great statesman. To find someone like Prince Johnson, it will take a while; there are sons and daughters of Nimba but, to find replacement for Senator Prince Johnson will be difficult at this moment, because Prince Johnson was a different kind of human being."



Varfley Konneh

"The state is bereaved; this is the senator that had more passion about information about the state. He played a leadership role in the senate; his passing is a big loss to the state and Nimba, because the leadership role he played in the Legislature. I think that is what we should be celebrating, so his death is a mourning for the state."

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NEC dismisses protesting workers

The National Elections Commission dismisses protesting employees.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah (contributor)

Monrovia, Liberia, December 3, 2024—The National Elections Commission (NEC)

According to a communication seen on social media on December 2, 2024, from NEC’s Human Resource Director, Pauline G. Korkoyah, the workers were dismissed for

been paid according to the 2023 budget.

The communication signed by HR Director Pauline G. Korkoyah and approved by Executive Director Anthony K. Sengbe states: “You are hereby dismissed, effective immediately, for having shown



Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

has dismissed several employees who repeatedly protested the Commission in demand of unpaid benefits. The total number of workers affected has yet to be established. But they had been protesting for the past month, seeking resolution of outstanding insurance benefits and salary arrears, some dating back to 12 months. The protest peaked between November 12 and 24, 2024, when aggrieved workers blocked the Commission's entrance, preventing NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah from performing her duties.

"gross insubordination" and for obstructing the Commission’s operations. Those involved have been instructed to return all NEC’s property in their possession immediately.

The protests stemmed from claims that the Commission had not paid insurance benefits and salary arrears, with workers accusing the leadership of mismanagement.

Their demands included forming a committee to address outstanding payments, particularly for hazard allowances and insurance benefits. However, Chairperson Madam Browne-Lansanah denied the accusations, clarifying that all arrears had

disrespect and gross insubordination to the Office of the Chairperson. During November 12 - 24, 2024, you left your area of assignment, blocked the Commission's entrance, and prevented the Chairperson from entering to carry out her duties."

It continues that the workers' actions obstructed the Commission's functions, paralyzed its operations, and negatively impacted its image. "Upon receipt of this communication, you are requested to turn over all NEC's properties to the Human Resource Section." The NEC mandates. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Supreme Court comes down

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practicing lawyer is aware that even if a defendant returned with his or her deed, the magistrate court immediately loses jurisdiction, wondering what is the purpose of granting countenance for up to six months to allow a defendant to go and find his or her deed, a practice she notes the Supreme Court describes as travesty of justice.

The Chief Justice says it is, therefore, most appropriate

that the magistrates expeditiously issue judgment in favor of the plaintiff in such a summary proceeding to recover possession of real property cases. When the defendant appears with the deed, he or she has a remedy at law to file it with the circuit court that has jurisdiction.

"The Supreme Court with vested constitutional authority to administer the law transparently, expeditiously and fearlessly to all citizens

and residents alike with a strong resolve to discourage by appropriate penalty, the act of filibustering by some lawyers and their clients, determined to delay cases in our courts through unnecessary legal technicality just to frustrate the end of justice. This, my colleagues and friends, will not continue with this Bench", Justice Youh warns. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Grand Kru citizens warn politicians

struggles, particularly since the creation of Bolloh Statutory District in 1912.

He emphasizes the importance of staying focused, if the community is to achieve development.

Mr. Werh lauds organizer of the forum, Elder Nicholas W. Koffa, for fostering unity among the people of Bolloh Community, stressing that the spirit of unity must

continue.

But another speaker, Mr. Reagan S. Bropleh, criticized Grand Kru politicians and government officials for abandoning the people after elections.

He says the politicians often engage the community during elections but disappear once polls are over.

He vows that the people would

hold politicians accountable in 2029 by ensuring their votes count.

The event, which brought together hundreds of Bolloh citizens, including elders, women, and youths, was characterized a parade from Point Four Junction to Central New Kru Town, followed by an indoor program. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Double taxation strangulates NaFAA revenue generation capacity

Double taxation and other bureaucratic procedures have strangulated revenue generation at the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Tuesday December 3, 2024/ Liberia’s National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Director General, Madam Emma Metieh Glassco, says double taxation instituted by both the Liberia Revenue Authority and NaFAA has drastically strangulated the fisheries sector's revenue generation base, leading to dozens of foreign vessels leaving Liberian waters.

Speaking on Monday, December 2, 2024, during a live interview simulcast on 15 local radio stations, Mrs. Glassco described NaFAA as a business arm of the government. Still, she argued that business has its highs and lows.

She also blamed the drop in NaFAA revenue generation in the fisheries on the non-compliance of Artesian fishermen and the decline in programs and laws surrounding the Liberian fisheries sector.

She said some of these unfavorable regulations contributed to the departure of 33 European Union vessels fishing in Liberian waters.

According to Mrs. Glassco, there has also been a steady decline in the number of vessels that have expressed interest in the NaFAA registration process to fish in Liberian waters due to some of the challenges outlined above.

high export fees. Liberian law required high export charges on exported aquatic products.

To address the high cost associated with exports, the NaFAA Director General said her entity's Board was able to pass a resolution to reduce export fees by 50%, which was consistent with the law.

Madam Glassco lamented that despite the reduction in export fees, most companies operating fishing vessels in Liberian waters still left mainly due to double taxation.

She said that following the vessel's withdrawal, they initiated a trained fishing operation, which also led to a revenue shortfall.

Mrs. Glassco disclosed that Liberia's major revenue source in the aquatic industry is Tuna fish. However, despite its demand on the global market, out of the 77 fishing vessels here, the country can only boost by 16-20 as of 2024.

"This is where we had the shock. Some of the issues they registered when we called a meeting with the vessel’s agents, they noted that there is a boat called the ‘Sea Shepherd’ that is patrolling the Liberian waters and their concerned was when they go to sea the ship can mount their vessels. There have not been a lot of entrances in our waters. We have the numbers. We have a monitor, and when a vessel comes, they can tell us, and most of the vessels are foreign. But now, we don’t see lots of entrance



Madam Emma Metieh Glassco

" This is because of several reasons. First, we discussed the expired SSPS agreement. The next one is that we brought a flag vessel to Liberia, and the flag vessel was left out of our registrant because of double taxation.

The Liberian Revenue Authority had charged the Flag vessel US\$2 million. In contrast, we (NaFAA) also charged them some license fees and other charges," Madam Glassco disclosed.

She identified other factors contributing to the revenue drop in the fisheries, such as

into our waters." She alarmed.

However, Mrs. Glassco narrated that there are ongoing back-channel negotiations with vessel agents and the Liberian Coast Guard to handle some of the issues raised by the companies and ensure that the sector raises more revenue as it has in the past. "I am telling you all these things, so you know it’s far from our reach. However, all we can do is create a program and develop strategies to create a conducive environment for them to enrol in our programs," she added. - Edited By Othello B. Garblah.

High dependency hampers Liberia's economy

-German Ambassador
Dismal performance of the Liberian economy has been attributed to high dependency on imports.

By Ramsey N. Singbeh,
Jr in Margibi
argibi County, Liberia,
December 3, 2024—The
German Ambassador to
Liberia, Dr. Jakob Haselhuber,
notes that the country's high



German Ambassador Dr. Jakob Haselhuber

dependency on imports is hampering its economy. Ambassador Haselhuber observed in an interview with reporters in Margibi County District# 4, where he had gone recently along with his wife for an official launch program. The program is funded by the German Cooperation Deutsch Zusammenarbeit, supported by Welt Hunger with Hilfe,

and implemented by Serving Humanity for Empowerment and Development (SHED). According to the Ambassador, he has been surprised by Liberia's high dependency on imports ever since he came to the country. He notes that most of the products sold here are produced outside the country, so value change is also placed abroad, as salaries and taxes are paid outside, which he cautions is not good for Liberia. "I'm not an agriculture specialist, but ever since I arrived in this country, I was surprised by the high dependency on imports, and if I

go to the market like Catholic Junction close to my embassy, most of the products that are sold there are produced outside, so the value change is placed outside the country. The salaries are earned, and the taxes are paid outside the country. That cannot be in the interest of Liberia," Dr. Haselhuber continues. In a related development, he recounts numerous developmental projects in Liberia in which Germany has invested millions of Euros. The German Ambassador, responding to an inquiry about how much his country has invested in Liberia's agriculture development, explains that he could not tell the exact amount but reveals that Germany has invested about 130 million Euros into Liberia's Electricity, set up laboratories, and hospitals in the Southeast of Liberia, and funded a vocational training center in Bensonville, Montserrado County. The Liberian economy is heavily import-driven, moving from essential commodities to rice, the nation's staple on which the government spends millions annually despite the country being endowed with rich soil for agriculture. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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