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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024	L\$178.7380/US\$1.00	L\$180.3897/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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Kangaroo Legislature



Cllr. Gongloe outlines obstacles to Justice



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

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Continental News

UK sanctions Kenyan businessman over illicit gold trade

The UK and US governments have imposed sanctions on a British-Kenyan businessman over his alleged involvement in the illicit gold trade. Kamlesh Pattni, and

Zimbabwe, which he has previously denied. The BBC has asked him for comment.

"Illicit gold is an assault on the legitimate trade of a valuable commodity, fuelling corruption, undermining the rule of law, and

were meant to "disrupt and deter" the business dealings of Pattni. He was allegedly one of the key architects of the Goldenberg scandal - a major gold and currency fraud in the 1990s which almost bankrupted Kenya and involved senior members of Kenya's government.

He faced a trial in 2006 for his alleged role in the scheme, but proceedings collapsed. Pattni later became a self-proclaimed pastor. According to the US Treasury, Pattni was friends with former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and used this relationship to make money by exploiting the country's natural resources.

"This fraudulent scheme robbed Zimbabwe's citizens of the benefit of those natural resources while enriching corrupt government officials and criminal actors," it read. Pattni was implicated in Al-Jazeera's explosive investigation into the "gold mafia" in Zimbabwe. He denied any involvement in money laundering or gold smuggling.

The US Treasury said Pattni's illegal network spanned multiple countries.

The announcement comes as the UK government outlined a new programme to help tackle global corruption. BBC



Kamlesh Pattni has been accused of smuggling gold out of Africa for decades

four others including his wife and brother-in-law, will have their assets frozen, a statement from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office read.

He was implicated in one of Kenya's biggest corruption scandals, Goldenberg, which is believed to have cost the country at least \$600m (£470m). He has since faced allegations of involvement in the illicit gold trade in

entrenching human rights abuses such as child labour," read the UK statement.

It goes to say that Russia uses illegal gold to fund its war in Ukraine. "Russia uses the illicit gold trade to launder money and evade sanctions, in doing so bolsters [President Vladimir] Putin's war efforts."

The UK and other Western countries banned the import of Russian gold in 2022 to stop Moscow's ability to fund the war. The UK said the sanctions

Ghana becomes record fifth African nation to see opposition victory this year

Ghana's Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia has accepted defeat in Saturday's elections, congratulating opposition leader and former President John Mahama on his victory. Early results suggest this could be one of the heaviest defeats in decades for the New Patriotic Party (NPP), which had been in power since 2016. Voters were angered by a combination of the rising cost of living, a series of high-profile scandals and a major debt crisis that prevented the government from delivering on key promises. As a result, the NPP may have dropped below 45% of the presidential vote for the first time since 1996. Ghana's vote brings to an end a remarkable 12 months in African politics, which have seen five transfers of power - more than ever before. This "annus horribilis" for governments has now also brought opposition victories in Botswana, Mauritius, Senegal and the self-declared

republic of Somaliland.

Even beyond these results, almost every election held in the region this year under reasonably democratic conditions, has seen the governing party lose a significant number of seats.

This trend has been driven by a combination of factors: The trend is likely to continue into 2025, and will cause trouble for leaders such as Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera, whose country goes to the polls in September. One of the most

striking aspect of the elections that have taken place in 2024 is that many have resulted in landslide defeats for governments that have previously appeared to have a strong grip on power - including in countries that have never before experienced a change at the top.

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) that had ruled the country since independence in 1966 was crushed in October's general elections.



Comeback victory confirmed for Ghana's John Mahama

Official results from Saturday's presidential election in Ghana have confirmed the victory of opposition candidate, former President John Mahama.

Mahama won with 56.6% against 41.6% for Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia. It is the biggest margin of victory in 24 years. Voter turnout was 60.9%, said the head of Ghana's electoral commission, Jean Mensa.

Mahama said he felt "humbled" that he and his National Democratic Congress (NDC) had "chalked one of the best results in the electoral history of Ghana". He vowed "a new beginning, a new direction" and noted that Ghana had "made history" by choosing its first female Vice-President, Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang. He also thanked Bawumia for conceding, which he did a

desperate for a change, Mahama won several regions - including Bono, Ahafo, Western, and Central - which the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) had won in 2020.

Since Bawumia's concession on Sunday, Mahama's supporters have been celebrating across the country.

People have been cheering, waving flags, blowing horns and spinning motorbikes.

"I'm so excited for this victory," Salifu Abdul-Fatawu told the BBC in the central city of Kumasi.

He said he hoped it would mean that he and his sibling would get jobs, while the price of food and fuel would come down. Although the election was generally peaceful, two people were shot dead on Saturday in separate incidents. The electoral commission office in the northern town of Damongo was also destroyed, allegedly by NDC supporters angry at the delays in announcing the results.

Mahama, 65, previously led Ghana from 2012 until 2017, when he was



Supporters of John Mahama have taken to the streets across the country to celebrate his victory

day after the election.

The vice-president said he had accepted defeat before the official announcement of the results "to avoid further tension and preserve the peace of our country". Nevertheless, there was still some frustration that it took so long to announce the official results.

President Nana Akufo-Addo is stepping down after reaching the official limit of two terms in office. This election comes amid the worst economic crisis in a generation.

Unemployment, the cost of living and concerns over the environmental impact of illegal gold mining, known as "galmasey", were among the key issues.

With many Ghanaians

replaced by Akufo-Addo. Mahama also lost the 2020 election so this victory represents a stunning comeback.

Mahama's NDC and the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) have alternated in power since the return of multi-party politics to Ghana in 1992.

No party has ever won more than two consecutive terms in power - a trend that looks set to continue. Mahama's previous time in office was marred by an ailing economy, frequent power-cuts and corruption scandals. However, Ghanaians hope it will be different this time round.

During the campaign, Mahama promised to transform Ghana into a "24-hour economy".

The new president will be sworn in on 7 January 2025. 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 Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Pass Not Impasse

There is still plenty talk going around these days about what is happening in the House of Lawmakers. Therefore, it is still important to talk about the plenty talk and to present the solution to the problem in the talk. Some of the talk is giving some people heart attacks and they die because of heart failures or what is also called cardiac arrests. Most of this talk is coming from the National Legislature of Liberia where people are sent to make laws to stop plenty talking but they are busy promoting actions that do not follow the Constitution of Liberia. In fact, these lawmakers who have become lawbreakers could be arrested and taken to court because their actions violate the Law when someone gets sick or dies as the result of their plenty talking.

This plenty talking is about removing the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Presiding Officer of the National Legislature from office. To do this, the Law says that the would be removers should have the Speaker to submit himself to what is called Due Process and present the case for the removal. If they were to win their case, then the Speaker would be removed. They should pass Laws that the people want instead of creating an impasse, as seen in the impasse created about the removal of the Speaker and Presiding Officer. But they are running after money and not running after Justice. They should be compelled by the Law to sit and say what they want to do. But they do not want to follow the Law because they are running after money rather than Justice.

To run after Justice is what they are being paid by taxpayers to do. But

they are autocratic rather than democratic, as seen in their violation of the Constitution of Liberia. Their bad and illegal practices are being followed by the taxpayers through the awareness raising that is taking place by the people who love Liberia. This awareness raising is working well, as seen in the non-election of nearly all of the Legislators who wanted to be re-elected on October 10, 2023. Many of these Legislators have still not learned correctly their lessons. They will be outvoted in the ensuing elections.

They will be outvoted because the awareness raising is working well, as also seen in the exposure of the corrupt practices of the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia. Notice that NEC did not cheat as much during the last election because of this awareness raising. This explains the world record voting by 76.86 per cent of the Liberian people of voting age, Of the youth group, which comprises sixty per cent of the voting population, forty per cent of them voted. The voting group of youth, most of whom are called zogoes, are from the age of 18 to the age of 35.

Zogoes or no zogoes, the awareness raising is transforming the unfair prevailing electoral system into the fair enduring electoral system. It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the indispensable ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other country. It is through this awareness raising that the people of Liberia will pass this test that is giving us this impasse in the House of the Lawmakers.

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OP-ED

by Guillermo Ortiz

How Trump's Return Could Benefit Mexico

MEXICO CITY - After winning the US presidential election last month, it did not take Donald Trump very long to announce that he will impose import tariffs of 25% on all goods from Mexico and Canada, as well as adding ten percentage points to all existing tariffs on goods from China. While the stated objective is to force these countries to block the flow of illegal migration and/or fentanyl from their territory into the United States, the policy neatly folds Trump's favorite topics - immigration, crime, and tariffs - into one package.

The response was predictable. Mexico warns that tariffs would be severely disruptive and inflationary. While it has offered cooperation to allay US concerns, it is also prepared to retaliate if Trump follows through. And some in Canada have suggested a separate agreement, arguing that Mexico is becoming a platform for Chinese exports to the US.

Mexico has been widely seen as vulnerable to Trump's policy agenda. So far, though, the market seems to be assigning a low probability to the imposition of tariffs, perhaps betting that the US will not risk an extraordinarily disruptive unraveling of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA, the follow-on to the North American Free Trade Agreement). The exchange rate has depreciated by only around 1.7% since Trump's announcement, and the spread on Mexican bonds has barely widened.

The reaction to Trump's previous tariff threats in 2019 was far more dramatic. On that occasion, he threatened to impose staggered tariffs beginning at 5% and going up to 25% to force Mexico's then-president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO), to stem the flow of migrants coming from Central and South America. AMLO responded by deploying the national guard to Mexico's southern border, before eventually establishing a working relationship - and even some affinity - with Trump.

But AMLO is gone, and President Claudia Sheinbaum's new administration has been in office for less than three months. Her first 100 days coincided with one of the worst outbreaks of violence by organized-crime groups in recent memory. Following the arrest of a prominent cartel leader, a turf war among rivals has claimed thousands of lives - including the mayor of a state capital and a priest.

Sheinbaum inherited this situation from AMLO, whose security policies were disastrous. Despite overseeing the increased militarization of the country, his administration avoided direct confrontation with the cartels. That strategy has clearly failed (drawing harsh, albeit belated, criticism from the US government), and now Sheinbaum's administration has stepped up the pressure with a more coherent policy based on increased intelligence sharing and cooperation with local authorities.

This is an area of common interest for the US and Mexico. Sheinbaum and Trump have an opportunity to restore their countries' intelligence sharing and law-enforcement cooperation, which fell into abeyance under AMLO. They could start by introducing stronger controls to impede weapons sales to drug cartels by US dealers, which supply an estimated 70% of the cartels' armories.

While US weapons manufacturers have successfully lobbied against restrictions on such sales, depriving the cartels of arms would be hugely beneficial to both Mexico and the US, not least by drastically curtailing fentanyl production and exports northward. Moreover, as in 2019, Mexico could reinforce border controls to stem the flow of migrants, whose numbers have already declined substantially this year.

Any renegotiation of the USMCA would probably focus on the same issues as the NAFTA revision during Trump's first term: auto industry “regional value content,” wages in Mexico, and various measures to discourage relocation of manufacturing from the US. This is to be expected. Yet there is another demand that Mexicans should welcome, because it could strengthen the rule of law within our own borders.

Mexico's constitution was recently modified to enshrine AMLO's judicial reforms, which introduced elections for Supreme Court justices and federal judges. The US and Canada have both voiced concerns about this change, warning that it could pave the way for autocratic one-party rule. And another AMLO-era constitutional initiative, aimed at eliminating autonomous regulatory entities, may be in violation of both the letter and the spirit of the USMCA.

Of course, Trump may not care about the erosion of democracy in Mexico. But his nominee to serve as Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, was an open and frequent critic of AMLO, whom he accused of capitulating to drug cartels and supporting authoritarian regimes in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. Moreover, these are authoritarian regimes that even Trump dislikes.

Thus, a USMCA renegotiation could be a useful instrument to restore some of Mexico's damaged institutions and prevent AMLO's party, Morena, from ramming through other pending reforms. Better yet, US pressure could accentuate the divisions within Morena, weakening support for the former president and giving Sheinbaum more room to maneuver. The erosion of Mexico's democracy probably cannot be stopped by a quasi-legal framework “imported” through ratification of a revised trade agreement. But bringing the split within Morena to a head certainly wouldn't hurt.

The quicker that AMLO's shadow recedes, the sooner we will know which Sheinbaum will govern Mexico. So far, she has mostly followed AMLO's playbook, but she has also sought to build bridges with the private sector to attract investment in clean energy and logistics. She wants to seize the opportunities offered by the US emphasis on nearshoring its supply chains, but such efforts have stalled as a result of Mexico's institutional deterioration.

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OPINION

by Peter Singer

Choice in Dying Comes to the UK

MELBOURNE - Last month, members of the UK House of Commons were allowed to vote according to their conscience on a private member's bill to permit some patients to receive medical assistance in dying. In 2015, a similar proposal failed, gaining only 118 votes, with 330 against. This time, however, the bill, moved by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, was supported by 330 members and opposed by only 275.

The bill allows patients who are 18 or over and have received a medical diagnosis of a terminal illness with no more than six months to live to request medical assistance in dying. The request must be approved by two doctors and a judge. A doctor may then prescribe a lethal drug that patients may take. The legislation must still go through parliamentary committees and the House of Lords, and may be amended, but some form of assisted dying will likely become lawful in England and Wales.

John Stuart Mill, a member of the House of Commons in the 1860s, would have been pleased. Medical aid in dying comes squarely under the principle he defended in *On Liberty*: “the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others.”

Doctors in the Netherlands have been able to practice voluntary euthanasia openly since the 1980s, and Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Spain, and Switzerland now permit medical assistance in dying, while a law permitting it in Portugal is not yet in force.

In the United States, Oregon legalized medical assistance in dying in 1997. It has, to date, been followed by nine states, including California, as well as by Washington, DC. All six Australian states now allow medically assisted dying, too.

In the 1970s, when I first advocated legalizing voluntary euthanasia, the most troubling opposition came from those who argued that legalization would be a slippery slope. We would start, they predicted, by honoring the considered requests of terminally ill people, but once we had weakened the prohibition on taking innocent human life, we would proceed to kill people who are an economic burden or members of racial or ethnic minorities considered inferior to the majority.

Predictably, in the United Kingdom, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, attempted to use this argument. But today, in contrast to the 1970s, there is plenty of evidence against it. Leadbeater responded to the archbishop by pointing to the experience of Oregon, which now has 27 years of legal medically assisted dying without a slippery slope in sight.

In the UK, opponents of legalization referred to the danger that, once doctors could legally provide assistance in dying, terminally ill patients would feel pressured to request it. Liz Carr, an actor and disability-rights campaigner, said that some people might think: “My family is having to look after me, I'm incontinent, I don't want to use all the money I have saved over the years on care, it would be better for those who love me not to see me like this, I will do the honorable thing.”

Carr is right: some people might think that. But why is that an objection to legalizing assistance in dying? Doesn't a person who has been told that she has fewer than six months to live have the right to decide whether she prefers her savings to be spent on her care or to be available to her family after she dies? If, perhaps after using some of her savings for her own care, she judges that this is not money well spent, isn't she in the best position to decide?

Another argument I have heard many times over the past 40 years is that instead of legalizing assisted dying, governments should spend more on palliative care so that terminally ill patients can die a natural death without suffering. In the recent UK debate, that argument came from an unusual source: Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in the Labour government. Streeting voted against the bill after saying that he did not believe the palliative care system is good enough to support assisted dying.

If Streeting wants to reduce the number of people who will use the new legislation, it is within the power of his government to ensure that the UK has the best palliative care that the current state of science and available funding can provide. Until that happens, though, why would he wish to prevent terminally ill patients from obtaining assistance in dying when they are dying in pain and discomfort because of the inadequacy of the health-care system his department administers?

In any case, statistics from Oregon show that only a minority of those using the state's Death with Dignity Act do so because of inadequate pain control. Loss of autonomy and the inability to engage in activities that make life enjoyable are the most commonly cited reasons, and palliative care cannot change those aspects of illness. Fortunately, terminally ill residents of England and Wales (Scotland's parliament is considering a similar bill) will most likely soon be able to make their own decisions on when their life is no longer worth living.

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Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Whein Town, Bernard Farm, Montserrado County Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

Republic of Liberia

**Assignment Title: Individual Consultancy for the Position of Construction Supervisor
Completion of One Share Facility Centre and Construction of Two additional Share Facility
Canterers**

Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_
Phase II

Sector : Forestry

Project ID No : P-LR-AAD-002

Grant No : 5900155018403

Issue Date : December 2, 2024

End Date : December 30, 2024

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Phase II, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for **Construction Supervisor**.
2. The services included under this project are [The individual consultant will be expected to undertake physical site assessments to support design of the three demonstration and storage facilities, support the review of designs, in coordination with the project teams and recommend approaches, Designs and responses to the resolution of comments, Daily monitoring of construction activities in accordance to the specifications and designs, cost, and schedule to ensure progress, Carry out site inspections and assessments as required, prepare periodic reports for submission to Project Coordinator (PC) and Project teams and Act proactively to identify key areas of concerns that relates to quality, health, safety and environmental issues at site and where necessary. The duration of the contract is Maximum Nine (9) months
3. The Forestry Development Authority now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).
4. **Qualification and Experience:** i. Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Technical Diploma in Civil or Construction Engineering, Electrical or related field required. Applicants with a relevant Vocational Certificate with additional 2 years of relevant working experience may also be considered. ii. Working knowledge of MS Office applications iii. Demonstrated planning and organizational skills and ability to coordinate the works, work on tight deadlines, and handle multiple concurrent activities iv. Ability to translate engineering drawings into physical implementation v. Organized, attention to detail, able to prioritize construction activities vi. Proven experience in the construction industry, with a strong record of accomplishment of managing construction sites and teams vii. Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to motivate and direct workers viii. Excellent organizational and time-management skills ix. Knowledge of construction processes, materials, and legal regulations x. Ability to read and interpret construction plans and specifications
5. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Liberian Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): emmanuellew965@gmail.com with copy to: wynnbeyant12@gmail.com.
7. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by December 30, 2024 at 1:00 PM and mention "Construction Supervisor".

Attn: *Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia*

E-mail: emmanuellew965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:
Email : wynnbeyant12@gmail.com
0776-063-643/0886-551-249



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024
Purchaser: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II
Contract title: " Provision of office materials to Three (3) Shared Facility Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven (11) Associations"
Country: Liberia
Grant No.: 5900155018403
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)
OCBN No: LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024
Issued on: December 2, 2024

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of office materials to three Shared Facility Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven (11) Associations. “For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Stationery, ICT Equipment and Office Furniture’s**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Stationery	Various
ii	ICT Equipment	Various
iii	Office Furniture	Various

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank’s Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded operations ² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM, December 30, 2024**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below
6. All Bids must be accompanied by a **“Bid-Securing Declaration”**.
7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
8. For any further clarification, please contact:
Attn. Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:
Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com
0776-063-643/0886-551-249

ARTICLE

By 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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberian fraudster busted

-For engaging in Facebook scam

A Liberian facebook fraudster confesses to his crime and apologizes, blaming his action on economic hardship.

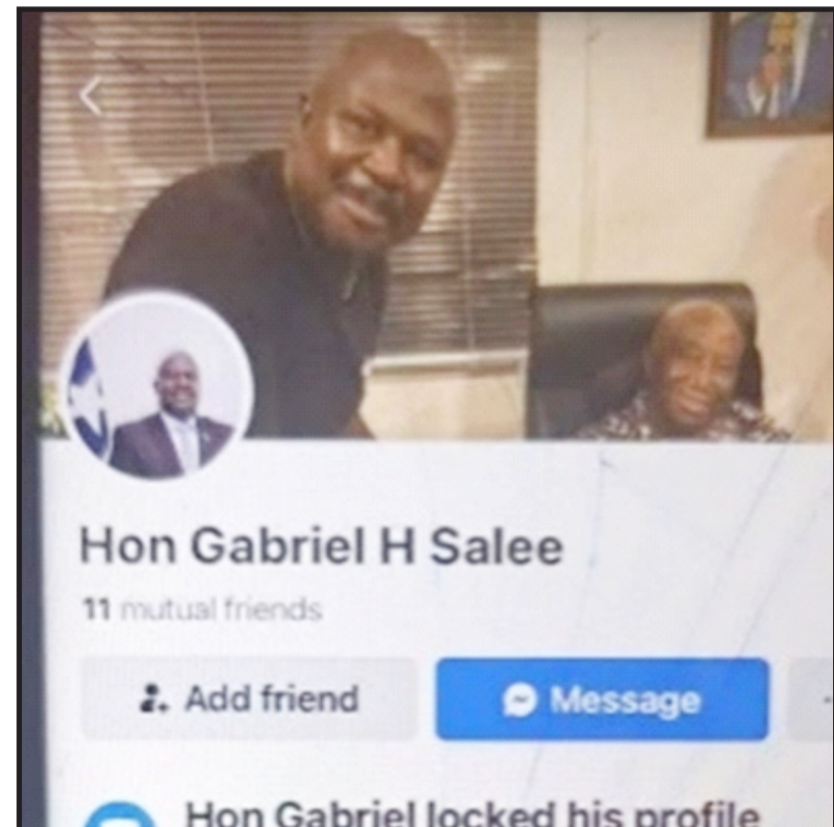
By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, December 10, 2024 - A resident of West Point community, Varney Burphy, apologizes to Deputy Minister for

name to dupe and solicit money from individuals, especially females. Defendant Burphy was arrested by the Liberian National Police in November and subsequently turned

and blamed his action on economic challenge and skyrocketing poverty in the country. According to him, he created the purported account, using the Minister's photos, names and other information on a Facebook account and requested females to send nude pictures and videos to him with an intent of extorting money from them.

"I want to say sorry to Minister Gabriel Sarlee, for using his name, information and position to create a fake Facebook account to chat with females. The account that I created was fake but I used it to chat with females by using relationships and at the end, I can request their naked pictures and nude videos. My intent was just to get money from them. I don't really mean this but it's the work of the devil. You know things are hard, the economy is not moving and we have to survive", Defendant Varney justified. He added that the account was recently created but despite his intention, he was very mindful with his conversation, noting that only one female fell victim of his scam. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Administration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gabriel Sarlee, for creating a fake Facebook account in his (Gabriel Sarlee's)

over to the Monrovia City Court, where he pleaded guilty to the crime of extortion. Hiwever, expressed regret

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Kangaroo Legislature

Representatives, the 1986 Constitution provides that it would require 2/3 of such numbers of representatives to convene a session. Article 49 of the said constitution speaks of the Speaker presiding over every session unless he is absent or has dedicated such responsibility to his deputy to act. The majority bloc, which appears to be enjoying the support of the Executive, has refused to show respect for the law. Hence, it has continued to conduct its affairs without conforming to the Constitution. Monday, the riot witnessed a complete testimony of the Executive's endorsement of the actions of the majority bloc as the riot police were deployed to protect their activities. Speaker Koffa's warning Over the weekend, the leadership of the House headed by Speaker Koffa issued a statement warning spending entities not to honor any invitation from the majority bloc, stating that the majority were acting outside of the law. By the statement signed by

embattled Speaker Koffa, the leadership of the House of Representatives noted that any invitation for any hearing not scheduled by Rep. Dixon Seboe, Chairman of Ways Means and Finance, would be ultra vires, and no decision taken therefrom will be cognizable at law. The warning also follows the Supreme Court's decision on Friday. Speaker Koffa had filed a writ before the Superior Court seeking its intervention into the constitutionality of some actions taken by the "majority bloc," holding sessions, suspending members, restructuring committees, taking possession of the budget, and electing a speaker. The embattled speaker, in the statement, encouraged absentee members (members of the majority bloc who have been holding separate sessions) "to seek clarification of the Supreme Court's ruling from competent legal authorities if they are unclear about its decision" instead of engaging in actions that undermine the rule of law." The main reason behind the

fight to remove Speaker Koffa This paper has gathered that the quest to remove Speaker Koffa stems from the Speaker's desire to audit the 54th Legislature. This move has been opposed by some members of the Legislature now, serving in different leadership capacities in government. Another reason behind the removal of Speaker Koffa is that Koffa is seen as an obstacle to manipulating the budget. In the 2024 budget, sources told this paper that US90 million was hidden in the budget to be divided among lawmakers within the House and Senate. A source said Speaker Koffa was offered 5m of that amount, which he rejected. This has made Koffa an unwanted player at the helm of authority with the current National Legislature. How this saga will end at the Legislature remains to be seen. However, Speaker Koffa has repeatedly stated that resignation is not an option.

Desist from pampering corruption

-CENTAL urges Boakai

Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL wants President Boakai to act firmly against corrupt officials in his government.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, December 10, 2024 - As Liberia celebrates International Anti-Corruption Day with the rest of the world, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, criticizes the Boakai administration, calling on the government to immediately desist from pampering corruption and take drastic actions that to deter corrupt officials from looting state resources. "However, the Liberian government's efforts have not been good enough to send a very strong message to corrupt officials and deter others from

example and set a very high standard for others to follow." The Anti-Corruption advocate continues that while leadership from lawmakers and other actors in government is important, President Boakai has the greatest power and responsibility to shape the country's fight against corruption in the right direction. "As we celebrate this year's international anti-corruption, we wish to remind President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., that Liberia's score on the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International is 25/100", he points. He says this means that the Liberian public sector is at its lowest level in terms of being



feasting on public resources and assets", CENTAL notes here. Executive director, Anderson D. Maimen, made the observation on Monday, December 9, 2024, at CENTAL head office in Monrovia during observance of International Anti-Corruption Day. Reading a three-page press statement, he notes that the biggest threat and missing link of the country's anti-corruption drive is government's gross failure to end the culture of impunity for corruption, heavily fueled by inadequate funding of public integrity institutions and limited presidential and legislative will powers. He believes that this continues to be the biggest challenge, which has haunted the country for too long. He recalls that successive governments had made flowery a n t i - c o r r u p t i o n promises/commitments, but sadly, he notes, they had not matched them with required individual, collective, robust and holistic actions or deeds. "If the fight against corruption must succeed, he underscores, "the President must lead by

corrupt, adding while it poses a challenge, it presents an opportunity for the President and his government to boldly lead the country in ways that help to reverse this negative trend. He recommends that President Boakai should lead by example and set a very high standard for others in government and Liberia to follow. He observes that since the inception of the government, the President has not raised the anti-corruption, transparency and accountability standards very high, as Mr. Boakai is still pampering his officials, including those in gross violation of the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, especially the component on asset declaration. CENTAL says strong political will means timely acting on matters involving those perceived to be closer to the Presidency and ruling party. He also wants the President to suspend and dismiss those at the center of corruption and violators of the code of conduct and other related laws. According to Maimen, the Liberian government should provide

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Français

Koffa renforce son autorité après la décision de la Cour suprême

La direction de la Chambre des Représentants a interdit aux entités budgétaires de répondre aux convocations émanant du bloc majoritaire, à peine quelques jours après que la Cour suprême a rendu son verdict sur l'impasse qui divise l'institution.

entités budgétaires contre toute participation à des auditions convoquées par le bloc majoritaire pour examiner le budget cette semaine, précisant que de telles démarches seraient considérées comme illégitimes.

Le communiqué, signé par le Président Koffa, souligne que toute audition ou convocation non

des actions du « bloc majoritaire », notamment la tenue de sessions parallèles, la suspension de députés, la réorganisation des comités, la gestion du budget et l'élection d'un nouveau Président.

Dans son communiqué, il a exhorté les membres absents, alignés sur le bloc majoritaire, à « chercher des éclaircissements juridiques auprès d'autorités compétentes concernant la décision de la Cour suprême » au lieu de s'engager dans des actions susceptibles de compromettre l'État de droit. Une décision de la Cour suprême qui tranche le débat La Cour suprême, dans une décision historique rendue le 6 décembre, a statué que « toute session ou action menée par des membres de la Législature, non conforme aux articles 33 et 49 de la Constitution, est ultra vires et donc nulle et non avenue. » Le terme ultra vires, emprunté au latin, signifie que ces actions outrepassent les pouvoirs conférés par la Constitution.

L'article 33 de la Constitution libérienne exige un quorum pour la tenue de sessions, tandis que l'article 49 régit l'élection et la destitution des présidents et autres dirigeants de la Chambre.

L'article 33 stipule qu'une majorité simple des membres de chaque chambre constitue

► CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Par Othello B. Garblah
Le conseiller J. Fonati Koffa, Président contesté de la Chambre des représentants, semble consolider son autorité après que la Cour suprême a annulé, vendredi dernier, l'élection du député Richard N. Koon en tant que Président par le bloc majoritaire.

Dans un communiqué diffusé ce week-end, le Président Koffa a mis en garde les

organisée par le député Dixon Seboe, président de la Commission des Finances et des Moyens, serait jugée ultra vires (hors des compétences prévues) et que les décisions prises dans ce cadre n'auraient aucune valeur juridique.

Un conflit de légitimité au centre destensions

Le Président Koffa avait auparavant saisi la Cour suprême pour obtenir une clarification juridique sur la constitutionnalité

La présidente de la LACC exhorte la communauté internationale à exiger une gestion transparente des fonds

À l'occasion de la Journée internationale de lutte contre la corruption, la présidente exécutive de la Commission libérienne anti-corruption (LACC), la conseillère Alexandra K. Zoe, a lancé un appel pressant à la communauté internationale et aux partenaires au développement du Liberia. Elle les a exhortés à veiller à ce que les financements alloués aux projets de développement soient systématiquement évalués en fonction des résultats tangibles obtenus.

S'exprimant lors d'une cérémonie tenue à la mairie de Monrovia le 6 décembre 2024, Cllr. Zoe a souligné l'importance cruciale de mesurer les interventions de développement par leur impact réel. « Nous devons placer le suivi et

l'évaluation au cœur de toutes les initiatives de développement et exiger une véritable valeur pour l'argent investi », a-t-elle déclaré.

Promouvoir l'intégrité et la responsabilité

La journée, placée sous le thème national « Promouvoir

l'intégrité et la responsabilité pour une participation accrue des citoyens dans la lutte contre la corruption », a réuni des responsables gouvernementaux, des étudiants, des partenaires

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Éditorial

La chute et l'essor de la démocratie américaine

Par Daron Acemoglu

BOSTON - Il n'aurait pas dû être si surprenant que les électeurs américains soient largement insensibles aux avertissements des démocrates selon lesquels Donald Trump représente une grave menace pour les institutions américaines. Dans un [sondage](#) Gallup de janvier 2024, seuls 28 % des Américains (un niveau historiquement bas) se sont déclarés satisfaits du « fonctionnement de la démocratie américaine ».

La démocratie américaine promet depuis longtemps quatre choses : une prospérité partagée, une voix pour les citoyens, une gouvernance fondée sur l'expertise et des services publics efficaces. Mais, comme celle des autres pays riches et même des pays à revenu intermédiaire, elle n'a pas répondu à ces aspirations.

Il n'en a pas toujours été ainsi. Pendant les trois décennies qui ont suivi la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la démocratie a produit des résultats, en particulier une [prospérité partagée](#). Les salaires réels (corrigés de l'inflation) [ont augmenté](#) rapidement pour tous les groupes démographiques et les inégalités [ont diminué](#). Mais cette tendance s'[est interrompue](#) à la fin des années 1970 et au début des années 1980. Depuis lors, les inégalités sont [montées en flèche](#) et les salaires des travailleurs sans diplôme universitaire ont à peine augmenté. Environ la moitié de la main-d'œuvre américaine a vu les revenus de l'autre moitié s'envoler.

Si les dix dernières années ont été un peu meilleures (l'augmentation des inégalités, qui dure depuis près de 40 ans, semble [s'être arrêtée vers 2015](#)), la poussée d'inflation induite par la pandémie a fait payer un lourd tribut aux familles de travailleurs, [en particulier dans les villes](#). C'est pourquoi tant d'Américains [ont cité](#) les conditions économiques comme leur principale préoccupation, avant la démocratie.

La conviction que la démocratie permettrait à tous les citoyens de s'exprimer était tout aussi importante. Si quelque chose n'allait pas, vous pouviez le faire savoir à vos représentants élus. Si ce principe n'a jamais été pleinement respecté - de nombreuses minorités sont restées privées de leur droit de vote pendant une grande partie de l'histoire des États-Unis -, la privation du droit de vote est devenue un problème encore plus généralisé au cours des quatre dernières décennies. Comme le [dit](#) la sociologue Arlie Russell Hochschild, de nombreux Américains, en particulier ceux qui n'ont pas de diplôme universitaire et qui vivent dans le Midwest et le Sud, en sont venus à se sentir « *étrangers sur leur propre terre* ». Pire encore, les démocrates ont cessé d'être le parti des travailleurs pour devenir une coalition d'entrepreneurs de la tech, de banquiers, de professions libérales et de diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur, qui partagent [très peu](#) de priorités avec la classe ouvrière. Oui, les médias de droite ont également alimenté le mécontentement de la classe ouvrière. Mais ils ont pu le faire parce que les médias grand public et les élites intellectuelles ont ignoré les griefs économiques et culturels d'une grande partie du public. Cette tendance s'est accélérée au cours des quatre dernières années, pendant que les segments hautement éduqués de la population et l'écosystème médiatique mettaient constamment l'accent sur les questions identitaires, ce qui a encore aliéné de nombreux électeurs.

S'il s'agissait simplement de technocrates et d'élites intellectuelles qui fixent l'ordre du jour, on pourrait se dire qu'au moins les experts sont à l'œuvre. Mais la promesse d'une [gouvernance fondée sur l'expertise](#) sonne creux au moins depuis la crise financière de 2008. Ce sont les experts qui ont conçu le système financier, soi-disant pour le bien commun, qui ont fait fortune à Wall Street, parce qu'ils savaient comment gérer les risques. Or, non seulement leur beau discours s'est avéré faux, mais les politiciens et les régulateurs se sont empressés de [sauver](#) les coupables, tout en ne faisant presque rien pour les millions d'Américains qui ont perdu leur maison et leurs moyens de subsistance.

Daron Acemoglu, lauréat du prix Nobel d'économie en 2024 et professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec Simon Johnson) de [Power and Progress : Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity](#) (PublicAffairs, 2023).

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Français

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Koffa renforce son autorité après

un quorum pour délibérer, tandis que l'article 49 précise que le Président de la Chambre des représentants, élu pour un mandat de six ans, peut être destitué pour des motifs valables par une résolution des deux tiers des membres.

La Cour suprême a ainsi invalidé les actions du bloc majoritaire, notamment l'organisation de sessions parallèles, la suspension de membres, la réorganisation des comités, et l'élection d'un nouveau Président. Ces actes sont jugés contraires à la Constitution et dépourvus de toute légitimité.

Cependant, la Cour a également précisé qu'elle n'a pas le pouvoir de contraindre les députés absents à assister aux sessions, faute de disposition constitutionnelle en ce sens. Une interprétation controversée

de la décision

Bien que la décision de la Cour suprême ait tenté de clarifier l'impasse, les deux camps revendiquent chacun une victoire.

Le bloc majoritaire soutient que l'utilisation de l'expression ultra vires par la Cour signifie qu'elle s'est déclarée incompétente pour trancher sur un conflit politique interne. De son côté, le Président Koffa considère que la décision confirme son autorité légitime et invalide les actions de ses opposants.

Alors que la Cour suprême a jeté les bases d'un retour à l'ordre constitutionnel, les divisions au sein de la Chambre des représentants demeurent profondes, laissant planer l'incertitude sur une résolution rapide de cette crise institutionnelle.

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La présidente de la LACC exhorte

locaux et internationaux ainsi que des acteurs de la société civile. À l'échelle mondiale, le thème « S'unir avec la jeunesse contre la corruption : façonner l'intégrité de demain » a mis en lumière le rôle essentiel des jeunes dans la lutte contre ce fléau.

Cllr. Zoe a insisté sur la nécessité d'intégrer un cadre de suivi et d'évaluation (S&E) dans tous les projets de développement. Elle a proposé que les partenaires au développement collaborent avec la LACC pour surveiller et évaluer systématiquement les projets après leur mise en œuvre, afin d'identifier les réussites, les défis et les leçons à tirer.

« Une telle approche renforcera la planification des projets futurs et améliorera les résultats, tout en assurant une transparence accrue », a-t-elle affirmé.

Un message fort aux dirigeants politiques

Dans un ton critique mais constructif, Cllr. Zoe a exhorté les leaders politiques libériens à abandonner les discours creux et à privilégier des actions concrètes en faveur des citoyens. « Les regards sont tournés vers vous. La jeunesse du Liberia attend de vous honnêteté, responsabilité et équité. Vous n'avez pas le droit de trahir leurs espoirs », a-t-elle déclaré.

Elle a également salué l'initiative technologique du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai, qui vise à offrir aux jeunes des opportunités d'emploi et à renforcer leurs

compétences dans les mois à venir.

S'adressant directement à la jeunesse, elle les a encouragés à s'impliquer activement dans les processus de décision nationale. « Lutte pour une place à la table des décisions. Exigez votre représentation dans l'élaboration des politiques et la planification du développement. Refusez les gains issus des pratiques corruptives », a-t-elle plaidé.

Un bilan préoccupant après 177 ans d'indépendance

Dans un discours empreint de gravité, Cllr. Zoe a dénoncé les lacunes persistantes du Liberia malgré 177 ans d'indépendance. Elle a déploré l'incapacité du pays à fournir de l'eau potable à Monrovia, à garantir une électricité fiable pour soutenir le développement industriel et à assurer la sécurité alimentaire malgré des sols fertiles et des ressources naturelles abondantes.

« La majorité de nos citoyens vivent encore avec moins d'un dollar par jour, et nous construisons toujours des routes primaires pour relier les capitales des comtés. C'est un échec collectif », a-t-elle souligné.

L'éducation, clé de la lutte contre la corruption

Pour Cllr. Zoe, l'éducation représente un levier fondamental dans la lutte contre la corruption. « L'éducation joue un rôle essentiel dans la formation des valeurs et des perspectives des jeunes.

Ngafuan soutient un plan de sauvetage pour les banques commerciales en difficulté



Le ministre libérien des Finances, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a exprimé son soutien sans réserve à l'initiative du gouvernement visant à venir en aide aux banques commerciales en difficulté, dans le cadre d'un plan de sauvetage de 12 millions de dollars.

Lors de son passage à l'émission Spoon Talk le 7 décembre, M. Ngafuan a salué l'intervention en faveur de SIB Liberia Limited, qualifiant cette mesure de « stratégie économique responsable » conçue pour préserver la stabilité financière, protéger les déposants et éviter une crise économique plus large.

Ce plan de sauvetage, orchestré par le gouvernement en collaboration avec la Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL), inclut une injection directe de 8 millions de dollars dans SIB Liberia et une garantie supplémentaire de 4 millions de dollars pour couvrir les risques de défaut de paiement.

Une réponse nécessaire pour la stabilité économique

Le ministre a défendu ce type d'intervention comme un mécanisme essentiel pour éviter les crises systémiques dans le secteur financier. « Lorsqu'une banque est en difficulté, cela ne se limite pas à l'institution elle-même : des milliers de vies peuvent être affectées. Stabiliser le système financier est donc une priorité absolue », a-t-il déclaré.

Ngafuan a précisé que la CBL, en tant qu'institution autonome, a supervisé l'ensemble du processus, tout en soulignant que des discussions restent en cours pour déterminer si l'aide sera structurée comme un prêt ou une subvention. « La CBL veille à ce que les intérêts du gouvernement et des contribuables soient pleinement protégés », a-t-il ajouté.

Controverses et critiques

Malgré les objectifs annoncés, le plan de sauvetage a suscité des critiques. John Morlu, ancien vérificateur général du

Liberia, a dénoncé ce qu'il qualifie de « dangereux précédent », mettant en garde contre le risque d'encourager une gestion imprudente au sein du secteur bancaire.

Ngafuan a reconnu ces préoccupations tout en défendant l'intervention comme une décision nécessaire pour éviter des conséquences économiques graves. « Dans des moments comme celui-ci, l'inaction n'est pas une option », a-t-il affirmé.

Le ministre a également évoqué des tensions passées entre le gouvernement et les banques locales, notamment des accusations selon lesquelles l'État aurait manqué à ses obligations en matière de paiement d'intérêts sur des emprunts contractés auprès de ces institutions.

Assurer la responsabilité et la transparence

M. Ngafuan a insisté sur le fait que les fonds publics mobilisés pour ce sauvetage devraient être remboursés une fois que SIB Liberia retrouvera sa rentabilité, afin de garantir que les contribuables libériens ne supportent pas le poids financier de cette intervention à long terme.

Cependant, certaines inquiétudes demeurent quant au fait que le gouvernement ait engagé cette aide avant de conclure un accord clair sur les modalités de remboursement.

Alors que ce plan de sauvetage continue de susciter des débats, il pose des questions fondamentales sur l'équilibre entre la stabilisation du secteur bancaire et la responsabilité financière, tout en soulignant la nécessité d'une gestion prudente des ressources publiques.

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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

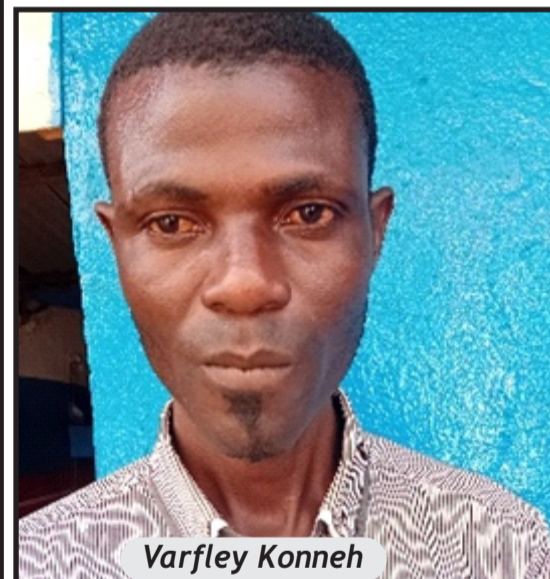
position in Nimba and the Presidential seat, so I think they will miss him for that."



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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Cllr. Gongloe outlines obstacles to Justice

Ex-presidential candidate and Human Rights Lawyer, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe attributes lack of access to justice in Liberia to poverty, lack of education and systematic inequalities.

By Lincoln G. Peters
Monrovia, Liberia, December 10, 2024 - Renowned Liberian Human Rights Lawyer, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe points out poverty, lack of education and systematic inequalities stimulated by extreme greed, selfishness



and corruption as impediments to accessing Justice in Liberia. Addressing the 2024 National Legal Aid Conference in Monrovia over the weekend, Cllr. Gongloe explained that legal aid, in its most essential form, is not just a service, rather, it is a lifeline, a beacon of hope, and an embodiment of the true meaning of justice for all. He notes that legal aid is an instrument of equity that bridges the gap between the legal system's promises and its practical accessibility, adding that in Liberia like in many countries, the service faces a complex intersection of socio-economic challenges that directly affect access to justice. The former Presidential

candidate believes that without legal aid, many citizens and residents would find themselves excluded from protections guaranteed by law, simply because they cannot afford the legal services necessary to access those rights. "Poverty, lack of education,

and systemic inequalities stimulated by extreme greed, selfishness and corruption, often leave the most vulnerable segments of society without the means to engage with or benefit from the legal system. As we gather here today at this important conference, it is crucial to reflect on the critical role that legal aid plays in ensuring access to justice for all, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities", Cllr. Gongloe reminds. Gongloe, also Ex-president of the Liberia National Bar Association, continues that a poor rural farmer or a community that cannot afford a lawyer in a land dispute against a giant corporation or powerful individual faces the same fate of not been able to access justice.

He says whether it is a domestic abuse survivor, who has nowhere to turn for legal representation, a single mother of children whose fathers persistently refuse to provide financial support for the survival of their children, or the accused who faces trial without any legal defense, legal aid is the vital force that can help right these wrongs. "As a nation, we are committed to upholding the principles of democracy and human rights. Yet, these ideals are meaningless if they are not accessible to all Liberians, regardless of their economic status. Legal aid is not just a service—it is a manifestation of our commitment to equality and justice. Legal Aid as an instrument of peace and stability", Cllr. Gongloe adds. He says legal aid is not just a mechanism for individual justice, but it is also a cornerstone of societal peace and national stability. He reflects that in post-conflict societies like Liberia, where scars of war and instability still linger, access to justice plays an essential role in healing divisions, restoring trust, and preventing a resurgence of conflict. "When people lack access to legal recourse, they often resort to alternative means of resolving disputes—often through violent or unlawful means. Disputes over land, inheritance, or even basic human rights can escalate into open conflict when individuals and communities feel they have no other avenue for justice. Legal aid prevents such escalation by offering a formal, peaceful resolution to disputes, and by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their status, can seek justice within the boundaries of the law." Editing by Jonathan Browne

Kangaroo Legislature

The Liberian House of Representatives is fast becoming a "Kangaroo Legislature" where the rule of law is completely ignored amidst frequent disregard for the constitution.

By Othello B. Garblah
Capitol Hill, December 10, 2024/ The grounds of the Capitol Building, the seat of the Liberian National Legislature was a scene of total pandemonium on Monday, December 9, when riot police clashed with members of the minority bloc supporting embattled House Speaker J. Fonati Koffa.

The clashes led to two persons, including Gbarpolu County District #1 Representative Luther Koliins, being wounded and hospitalized after the lawmakers were manhandled for attempting to disrupt an ongoing budget hearing scheduled by members of the majority bloc headed by ruling Unity Party Representative Richard Koon. Police dressed in riot gear and armed with batons beat minority lawmakers who were bent on forcing their way into the office of Deputy House Speaker Thomas Fallah, where the 2025 National Budget hearing was ongoing with

Montserrado District #10 lawmaker Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, Bong County District #5 Rep. Eugene JM Kollie Grand Gedeh District #3 Rep. Jacob Debee and Gbarpolu District #1 Rep. Luther Kollins. Kangaroo House of Representatives The clashes followed a Supreme Court decision on Friday, December 6, 2024, declaring the actions by the majority bloc and some members of the House of Representatives illegal. In its ruling on Friday, the Court said, "Any sittings or actions by members of the Legislature not in conformity with the intent of Articles 33 and 49 of the Constitution are ultra vires and void. "Ultra vires," meaning it was beyond their power and authority to do so. For months, members of the majority bloc, now headed by Rep. Koon, had been absent from sessions and had instead chosen to conduct Legislative sessions independent of the leadership of the House headed by embattled Speaker Koffa. Speaker Koffa, on



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

few spending agencies, including the Liberia Maritime Authority, in attendance. Among the minority lawmakers who were engaged in the clashes with riot police were

the other hand, could not hold a session because it had not reached a quorum. Out of 73 members of the House of

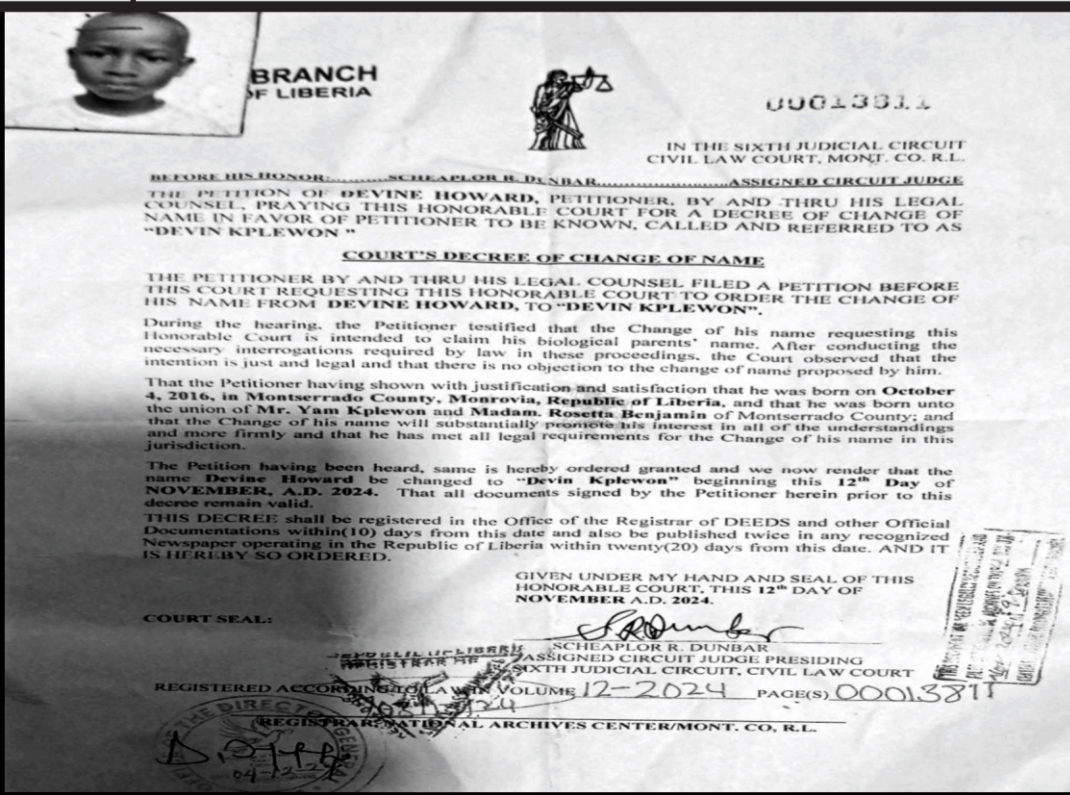
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Desist from pampering corruption

adequate financial and logistical support to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and other public integrity institutions as well as respect their independence and financial autonomy. He says adequate financial and logistical support to various integrity institutions will enable them to fully execute their mandates by identifying, investigating and prosecuting corruption cases involving current and past public officials. "LACC, GAC and other public integrity institutions must be robust, more engaging, innovative, and result-driven in their work." At the same time Maimen notes that the LACC now has enormous assets declaration information and corruption cases, so it must move to make the most of these cases and asset declaration and other vital information in its possession.

"They must timely investigate and prosecute current and former government officials sanctioned by the U.S. Government for public sector corruption." He says while the public fully supports anti-graft institutions, they must do enough to continue enjoying the support and confidence of the public. Meanwhile, Director Maimen wants civil society and the media to raise consciousness regarding the dangers of corruption and rally citizens to take decisive actions against those engaging in corruption and those whose inactions lead corruption to flourish here. Editing by Jonathan Browne



-For current state of affairs
A strong ruling UP supporter, Senator Amara Konneh blames Presidency Boakai for current state of affairs in Liberia.

Monrovia, Liberia,
December 10, 2024 - Amid the ongoing
impasse in the House of
Representatives, and

forward. While acknowledging the constitutional separation of powers, Senator Konneh, who played a key role in Boakai's election in 2023, emphasizes that Liberia's rank as 8th on the

government.
“President Boakai’s success in the Executive Branch depends on a well-functioning Legislature,” Konneh says, emphasizing “He must unite us now, following the Supreme Court’s opinion to make 2025 a better year for our country.”

A staunch supporter of the governing Unity Party, the Senator also addresses growing concerns over the state of Liberia's economy under President Boakai.

Despite signs of improvement in the exchange rate, Konneh laments that prices remain stagnant or continue to rise, unemployment is increasing, electricity is still scarce, and businesses are struggling. Additionally, the country faces a growing crisis with illicit drugs that threatens future of Liberia's youths.

In a post on his Facebook page on December 9, Senator Konneh also criticized the government for failing to adequately invest in the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), describing it as a missed opportunity that endangers the country's future. "Leaders must prioritize this critical issue," he urges.



Following the Supreme Court of Liberia's ruling, Gbarpolu County Senator Amara M. Konneh, calls for decisive leadership from President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, to restore order in the House and propel the country

scale of the world's poorest countries requires a different approach.

He argues that the nation cannot afford to operate like a wealthy nation, stressing the importance of strong leadership at all levels of

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The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the foreground, a woman with a joyful expression holds a smartphone. Behind her, a man also celebrates while holding a phone. A yellow motorcycle is prominently displayed, surrounded by various prizes including two large blue speakers, a flat-screen TV showing a tropical beach scene, and two white bags of MasAR rice. The bottom of the ad includes logos for MoMo, Lonestar Cell, and MTN.

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A person's hands are shown placing a document into a large, modern photocopier. The copier is silver and black with a control panel. A large, open magazine or brochure is shown floating in the air to the right of the copier, displaying various articles and photographs. Overlaid on the top center of the image is the text "WE DO PHOTOCOPY" in large, bold, red capital letters with a white outline. The background is a bright blue sky with some clouds.

A collage of various New Dawn publications. It includes a letterhead with the New Dawn logo and a large blank space for a message. There is a calendar with the New Dawn logo and the word 'CALENDAR' prominently displayed. A magazine cover features the New Dawn logo and the headline 'J\$2.5m for Mont. by-elections'. Another magazine cover shows the New Dawn logo and the headline 'Sports moves too soon'. A brochure with the New Dawn logo and the word 'BROCHURE' is also visible. The publications are set against a background of colorful, abstract, overlapping shapes in shades of blue, green, and yellow.