

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025	L\$195.7759/US\$1.00	L\$197.4461/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 15 NO. 006 THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



Tolbert, Doe to get state burial

P11



What's in Tarlue's envelope?

-As CBL new Executive Governor-designate confirms tenure settlement



Support Your Family Beyond Borders with MoMo.

Dial *156*1# to MoMo it in LRD or USD

Ivory Coast
 Ghana
 Uganda
 Mali

Guinea
 Sierra Leone
 Senegal
 Rwanda

and counting...



Continental News

Rwanda-backed rebels tighten control over Goma as regional leaders meet

By Africanews with AP

Rwanda-backed rebels captured large parts of eastern Congo's largest city including its airport, the United Nations said, as Rwanda's president on Wednesday joined calls for a ceasefire in the decadeslong

Tuesday said that the M23 rebel group was in control of much of the city.

The M23 rebels, who claimed to have captured the city on Monday after a weeklong advance, are one of about 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo. The conflict

Rwandan President Paul Kagame said on X that he spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on “the need to ensure a ceasefire and address the root causes of the conflict once and for all.”

His government denies supporting M23, despite reports from U.N. experts who estimate there are up to 4,000 Rwandan forces in Congo. Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting Hutu rebels and former militiamen whom it blames for the 1994 genocide.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe has told The Associated Press that Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi “will have to accept talks with M23” to bring an end to the conflict.

M23, made up primarily of ethnic Tutsis, has told the AP that it plans to set up an administration in the city so people can continue living normal lives and displaced people can return home.

Analysts have warned that securing a rebel withdrawal could be more difficult than in 2012, when M23 first captured Goma but withdrew after days. Murithi Mutiga, program director for Africa at the Crisis Group, said that the group has become more emboldened by Rwanda, which feels Congo is ignoring its interests in the region and which has accused Congo of failing to meet demands of previous peace agreements.

escalated with the rebels' advance into Goma, which left bodies on the streets and drove hundreds of thousands of already displaced people to flee once again.

After clashing with government forces, the rebels took control of the airport, U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at a briefing on Tuesday, warning of “risks of a breakdown of law and order in the city given the proliferation of weapons.”

conflict. Much of the beleaguered city of Goma was calm early Wednesday morning, after a day during which thousands of fleeing people hunkered down by roadsides as missiles flew and injured people streamed to overwhelmed hospitals. While government forces still control pockets of Goma, residents who spoke to The Associated Press by phone on

At least 18 killed after a small plane crashes in a remote part of South Sudan

A small plane crashed in a remote part of South Sudan, killing at least 18 people on Wednesday, an official said.

The flight, chartered by Chinese oil firm Greater Pioneer Operating Co., had 21 people on board, including two pilots, said Gatwech Bipal, the minister of information in the oil-rich Unity state, where the crash happened earlier on Wednesday.

The plane crashed while it was taking off near an oil field to head to the international airport in Juba, the South Sudanese capital, he said.

Local media reported that the plane was carrying oil workers. The U.N.-affiliated Radio Miraya, citing the flight manifest, reported that the victims included mostly South Sudanese, one Indian and two Chinese nationals.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, and authorities had not yet revealed the victims' identities.

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, is a major oil producer in the region. The East African nation has been trying to ramp up oil production and exports amid persistent cash flow issues for the government.

Kenyan farmers file court case against seed sharing ban

The junta-led West African nations of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso formally withdrew from ECOWAS on Wednesday.

The move was the culmination of a year-long process during which the regional bloc tried to avert their departure. In a statement, ECOWAS said that its doors remained open should any of the three countries decide to return.

It asked member nations to continue according them membership privileges, including free movement within the region with an ECOWAS passport. Officials also members to treat goods and services coming from the three countries in according with ECOWAS regulations.

Widely seen as West Africa's top

West Africa, in recent years.

They see it as representing only the interests of the leaders and not that of the masses.

Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso last year formed the Alliance of Sahel States as political affinities in the region changed.

Their relations with ECOWAS have been tense after military coups took place in Mali in 2020, Burkina Faso in 2022, and Niger last July.

The bloc condemned all three of the coups, suspended their membership, and pressed them to restore civilian rule. But the military leaders failed to oblige, kicked out French troops stationed in their countries, and turned to Russia for help in fighting jihadists waging an insurgency in the region.

It is the first time since ECOWAS was formed, that members have withdrawn in what is seen as an unprecedented



ECOWAS defence chiefs meet, 2023 - Copyright © africanews Richard Eshun Nanaresh/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

political and regional authority, the 15-nation bloc was formed in 1975 to “promote economic integration” in the region. But analysts say it has lost its support among people in parts of

blow to the group.

Analysts say the departure of the three countries could threaten efforts to return to democracy and stabilisation of the increasingly fragile region.

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger officially exit ECOWAS



The meeting of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the decision of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to leave the community is held in Abuja, Nigeria on February 8, 2024. [Getty Images]

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have officially withdrawn from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), marking a significant geopolitical shift in West Africa.

The departure, initially announced on 29 January 2024, took effect on 29 January 2025 after the [one-year notice period stipulated](#) by ECOWAS regulations.

In a joint statement, the juntas described the sanctions as “inhuman, illegal, and illegitimate.”

The three Sahel nations, now

aligned under the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), cited [ECOWAS' punitive sanctions](#) following their military coups as a primary reason for their exit.

They also criticised the regional bloc for failing to provide adequate support in their battle against jihadist insurgencies, accusing it of serving the interests of France, their former colonial ruler.

Since severing ties with ECOWAS, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have increasingly turned to Russia, Turkey, and Iran, forging new alliances while stepping away from Western influence.

Despite their withdrawal, ECOWAS has implemented transitional measures to minimise disruptions for citizens of the three nations.



United Nations personnel attend the scene where a South African air force plane crash-landed and caught fire at the airport in Goma, eastern Congo Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

EDITORIAL

We need a message of hope

Liberians are desperate and yearning for hope from President Joseph Boakai's second annual message or state of the nation address to the 55th Legislature, rightly so because situations in the country in the past one year has been nothing, but chaotic.

From protest by soldiers' wives, standoff between Police and partisans of opposition CDC, bloody riot at Bea Mountain that left several persons dead, to forceful removal from office of officials holding tenure positions and leadership crisis in the House of Representatives that Speaker Fonati Koffa booted out and subsequent fire at the Capitol Building, situations have not been fine in Liberia.

Liberians are looking up to their President to give direction and hope, especially joblessness and economic hardship is visible everywhere. The people need breathing space to rejuvenate their state of mind from despair and doom to optimism.

We believe no one best suited to provide that now than President Boakai who promised to rescue Liberia from stagnation and retrogression.

The government would begin to show by responding or providing low-hanging fruits such as improved security, stabilizing the economy and creating jobs.

A government that is on a mission to rescue should act more and talk less to build public confidence and attract forest investments that this country needs so badly, for we are convenience that government along cannot do it all. We need an enabling environment for economic activities to thrive.

Substance abuse, trafficking and prevalence of hardcore drugs in our country is decimating our future, the youth. The government should move away from mere promises and publicity stunt and get down to real business.

How many more young people have to die before we do something tangible as a nation to halt the scourge of drugs in our nation? Our streets are littered with drug-addicted youths, who are being sent to their early grave by traffickers.

No amount of political speeches can revive hope in their people unless direct and sincere actions are taken on the ground.

Corruption is another melee that s destroying the fabric of our nation, particularly from the public sector. It seems like the nation's wealth is being distributed between the Legislative and Executive, while schools, hospitals, and other vital institutions face neglect. These trend should be reversed to give hope to our people.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne
www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Happy New Year to all our Readers

COMMENTARY

by Adnan Mazarei

Egypt's Economic Crisis May Not Be Over

CAIRO – Egypt, a country long beset by structural and policy challenges that have resulted in low growth, high inflation, a misaligned exchange rate, and worrying levels of unemployment and poverty, recently averted an all-out economic crisis.

Shortly after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war, the Egyptian economy was pummeled by the Israel-Hamas war that erupted in October 2023. Specifically, the Gaza war cut deeply into Egypt's foreign-exchange revenues, with tolls and transit fees from the Suez Canal declining by 60% in 2024 – a loss of \$7 billion. Investors were therefore less willing to meet Egypt's large external-financing needs, which the International Monetary Fund projected to be around \$40 billion for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

For now, financial assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, and others has pulled the Egyptian economy back from the brink. Some of this support was conditioned on policy reforms such as abandoning the country's unsustainable fixed-exchange-rate regime and changing subsidy and tax rules. Perhaps most important, the government is obliged to loosen its grip on key parts of the economy. The military, in particular, owns large tracts of land, oversees construction projects, maintains privileged access to finance, and receives tax exemptions.

As Ruchir Agarwal and I argued in a recent Peterson Institute for International Economics policy brief, the 2023-24 crisis is only the latest in a series of episodes since 1956 in which outside powers have helped Egypt stave off a full-blown economic collapse. The main reason for the influx of aid has been the international community's interest in ensuring Egypt's economic and social stability amid regional conflagrations and geopolitical uncertainties – the country has been too strategic to fail. The downside to this external financial assistance is that it has enabled Egypt to avoid the deep structural reforms needed to develop a strong, export-oriented private sector.

The Egyptian economy has traditionally been inward-oriented, state-controlled, and highly regulated, and this has resulted in major public enterprises and rampant cronyism. To maintain social stability and address youth unemployment, the government has provided considerable, though not well-targeted, food and fuel subsidies, and created a bloated public-sector workforce. These massive outlays, coupled with inadequate national savings, have led to budget deficits and external imbalances, to which policymakers have responded by relying heavily on external and domestic debt and squandering central-bank reserves to fix or stabilize the exchange rate.

The new IMF program has produced some successes. Egypt's exchange-rate system was reformed; inflation, while still elevated at 24% in December 2024, has been slowing; and the debt-to-GDP ratio has fallen, although it remains high at 89% in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

But meaningful reforms to economic governance, including a loosening of the military's control over the economy, the divestment of government assets, and improved management of the vast public-enterprise system, have not yet been undertaken. As a result, Egypt remains at risk of political and economic turmoil. The IMF has reduced Egypt's growth forecast for 2025 from 4.1% to 3.6%, and revised down the program's fiscal-adjustment path. The most recent data from Egypt's central bank show that the balance of payments recorded a \$991 million deficit in July-September 2024, down from a \$229 million surplus during the same period in 2023.

Popular discontent is high, owing not only to weaker growth prospects, but also to high inflation, lower food and fuel subsidies, and continued political repression. There is a general lack of trust in the government's ability and willingness to reform the economy and fight cronyism and corruption. Given the recent toppling of Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship in Syria, Egyptian authorities have clamped down harder on political expression over fears of a similar uprising. Simmering public anger could come to a boil. The Arab Spring may not be over after all.

There are also significant external risks. First, even with a ceasefire in Gaza, a large portion of the Strip's population could be forced to settle in the Sinai Peninsula. Recently, US President Donald Trump advocated such a resettlement, but the Egyptian government quickly rejected the idea. This would have serious implications for Egypt, including fresh winds in the sails of the Muslim Brotherhood, which would almost surely provoke a repressive response from the Egyptian military. Moreover, given that Egypt already hosts 1.2 million Sudanese refugees, an influx of Palestinians from Gaza would exacerbate pressure on the country's resources and infrastructure.

Second, international financial assistance, especially from the Gulf countries, is geopolitically motivated and thus may not last. The IMF will likely continue to face pressure from its main shareholders to support Egypt. But those shareholders could condition the Fund's support on Egypt resettling Gazans in Sinai or further reducing the military's role in the economy; if the government fails to comply, the tap could be turned off. In any event, meeting Egypt's financing needs would prove difficult in the event of tariff wars, higher global interest rates, or continued dollar appreciation.

The risk that a full-blown crisis could return is clouding Egypt's economic and political horizon. Another downturn could have severe consequences for the entire Middle East, given the region's current conflicts and geopolitical tensions. While the international community must maintain its financial support for Egypt, pushing the authorities to implement long-overdue governance and economic reforms is equally, if not more, important.

OP-ED

by Jayasree K. Iyer

Climate Displacement Is Also a Health Crisis

AMSTERDAM – Every year, 21.5 million people are forcibly displaced by floods, droughts, wildfires, and storms. This number is set to rise dramatically over the coming decades, with up to 1.2 billion people expected to be driven from their homes by 2050. The unfolding climate crisis is not just a humanitarian disaster but also a global health emergency.

Climate displacement poses both direct and indirect threats to public health. By disrupting care services, it deprives affected communities of access to doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies. Climate-induced migration also exacerbates poverty, overcrowding, and social instability. Food production is often severely affected, while unsanitary living conditions fuel the spread of infectious diseases.

As the climate crisis threatens to derail global efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the health and well-being of hundreds of millions of people across the developing world are at risk. High-income countries are not immune: in the United States, 3.2 million adults were displaced or evacuated due to natural disasters in 2022 alone.

Pharmaceutical companies must play a pivotal role in bolstering global health resilience. Their involvement is particularly critical in conflict zones at the forefront of the climate-displacement crisis, where life-saving medicines and vaccines are often in short supply.

While the pharmaceutical industry has made strides in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and adopting more sustainable practices, its efforts fall far short of mitigating climate-related disruptions to supply chains. These vulnerabilities were on full display in 2017, when Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico's drug-manufacturing sector, which at the time accounted for nearly 10% of all drugs consumed in the US.

Some pharmaceutical companies, such as Novartis and Novo Nordisk, have launched targeted programs to aid populations displaced by extreme weather events, while others have donated cash or supplies in response to natural disasters. The demand for these donations has risen with increasing climate and humanitarian needs. Hikma, a generic medicine manufacturer founded in Jordan, reported \$4 million in donations in 2020, and \$4.9 million in 2023, mostly serving the needs in the surrounding region.

No company has developed a comprehensive strategy to ensure that displaced communities have sustained access to health products. A more holistic approach is needed. Amid the ongoing climate-displacement crisis, pharmaceutical companies should adopt a four-pronged strategy to strengthen health-care systems.

For starters, they could help deliver medicines to vulnerable communities in remote areas by revamping their supply-chains, from building redundancy into shipping networks to redesigning products to be more stable in hot climates where refrigeration may be unavailable. Moreover, they should include robust systems for the large-scale distribution of generic drugs, which are frequently the most effective tools for managing disease outbreaks.

Second, pharmaceutical companies must invest in research and development to create vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics targeting climate-sensitive diseases. Rising global temperatures are accelerating the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue, malaria, and Zika, as well as waterborne diseases like cholera and shigella, putting displaced populations at even greater risk.

Yet, despite the need for innovation, the 2024 Access to Medicine Index – which ranks the efforts of pharmaceutical companies to improve access to essential drugs in developing countries – shows that the R&D pipeline for emerging pathogens and neglected tropical diseases is drying up. Compounding this problem is the lack of research into new antibiotics to combat the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance, exacerbated by extreme weather and poor sanitation.

Third, pharmaceutical companies should forge long-term partnerships with humanitarian organizations focused on climate displacement. Public-private collaborations have also proven effective in strengthening health resilience. Since 2010, for example, leading vaccine manufacturers like GSK and Pfizer have supplied Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, with billions of vaccine doses, protecting vulnerable populations in some of the world's most resource-constrained countries.

Lastly, pharmaceutical companies must boost efforts to cut greenhouse-gas emissions across their value chains. While the climate impact of pharmaceuticals may get less attention than that of traditional manufacturing industries, the sector emits more CO₂ per \$1 million of revenue than the automotive industry.

The active support and engagement of shareholders, employees, and other stakeholders is crucial. Investors, in particular, must encourage companies to align their business practices with global health and climate goals. This is not only an ethical choice but also one that promises significant long-term financial and reputational benefits.

Climate displacement is not a distant or hypothetical threat; it is a rapidly escalating health emergency. The pharmaceutical industry has a moral responsibility to act. To do so effectively, companies must get ahead of the curve and provide vital, life-saving treatments to those on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

OPINION

by Kenneth Rogoff

Europe in Trump's Crosshairs

DAVOS – This year's World Economic Forum in Davos was brimming with creative ideas about how to save the planet, reduce inequality, and tackle urgent security needs. Overwhelmingly, though, the big takeaway was how depressed the Europeans are, about their economy and especially about Donald Trump.

Their anxiety is not baseless: Trump poses an existential threat to Europe in three key ways. First, he insists that Europe must take full responsibility for its own defense – a demand many political leaders find difficult to comprehend. In his Davos speech, delivered remotely from Washington, Trump once again called on European governments to boost defense spending to 5% of GDP. Given that many EU countries like Italy are already struggling to meet the 2% target they committed to during Barack Obama's presidency, it is clear why Trump's demand is a major source of anxiety.

Second, Trump seems determined to make good on his threats to impose sweeping tariffs, dealing a crushing blow to European exporters facing increasingly stiff competition from China. While Trump's rhetoric appears to leave room for individual countries to negotiate lower tariffs, his record of fulfilling campaign promises suggests otherwise. Having reversed former President Joe Biden's open-borders and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) policies, he is likely to impose “beautiful” tariffs next, despite widespread opposition from economists.

Trump's proposed tariffs would have a particularly severe impact on Germany, Europe's largest economy. After two consecutive years of recession, Germany's export-led growth model appears to be faltering. If Trump imposes high import tariffs on German goods, a third year of recession is likely to follow.

The textbook approach would be for Europe to turn the other cheek, because the country that imposes tariffs often suffers the most from them. But try explaining that to voters. With a passive response likely to be seen domestically as a sign of weakness, the temptation to confront Trump's bullying and retaliate may be impossible to resist.

The outcome of such a confrontation is anyone's guess. Trump, who views Europe's chronic trade surplus with the United States as clear evidence of unfair competition, will not back down. Never mind that most economists argue that the surplus is largely due to Europeans' preference for investing in US assets, which have consistently outperformed Europe's and are widely expected to continue doing so.

Third, Trump's plan to shore up America's energy supply puts Europe's green movement in a difficult position. The European Union's energy prices are several times higher than those in the US, largely owing to the Russia-Ukraine war and the cost of the bloc's rapid green transition. High energy prices are making it increasingly difficult for EU industries to remain competitive, especially in critical emerging sectors like artificial intelligence.

So, what can Europe do? For starters, policymakers must stay focused and not allow Trump's chaotic policies to distract them from their top priorities. Chief among these is finding ways to reduce energy prices, with small-scale nuclear technologies offering a promising step forward.

Moreover, Trump's climate-change denialism and “drill, baby, drill” agenda represent a significant challenge for the EU, already at risk of slipping into geopolitical irrelevance. While embracing clean energy is admirable, Europe's efforts alone will have a limited impact on global warming, especially with China and India still generating roughly 60% of their electricity from coal. To convince other countries to follow in its footsteps, Europe must prove that it can be both green and competitive; otherwise, it will become a cautionary tale.

In the face of Trump's threats and growing Chinese competition, European governments would do well to temper their enthusiasm for regulation. As the saying goes, “The US innovates, China replicates, and Europe regulates.” UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves rightly views deregulation as a potential way to improve Britain's growth prospects. But the United Kingdom will struggle to restore growth unless EU member states – particularly France – set aside petty grievances and offer the United Kingdom a Norway-style trade deal. Such an agreement would be mutually beneficial: Europe needs the UK's financial sector, and UK companies need access to European markets.

Even if Europe takes these steps, it will have a hard time dealing with Trump. To have a fighting chance, EU countries must recognize that the roots of their current malaise run much deeper. Regardless of Trump's re-election, European governments need to address the underlying causes of economic stagnation.

To be sure, Europe should be commended for implementing policies to address climate change and curb the tech sector's overreach. In time, the US and China may recognize the value of progressive EU policies and follow suit. But if they remain unconvinced, Europe will be the one forced to adapt. If it fails to do so, the European Commission may end up looking like the Los Angeles Fire Department – scrambling to contain fires after the damage has already been done.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Path of Injustice Doesn't Lead to Justice

Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown II has been nominated, confirmed by the Liberian Senate, and appointed and commissioned by the President as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He once served in the same post from June 2016 to August 2018. Brown successfully negotiated with the Security Council, a one-year extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), to help support Liberia's transitional elections in 2017, and after 57 years, got Liberia elected to chair a Committee of the General Assembly. On Brown's watch, Liberia chaired the committee on Conferences, and was elected Vice President of the 72nd Assembly.

Even Brown's harshest critics will agree that the diplomat is imminently qualified to represent Liberia at the UN, especially as the nation bids for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council, after 65 years. However, a few so-called advocates for justice continue to spare no efforts to portray Brown as anything from a “war criminal” to a “war profiteer”. The portrayal reek of deception and hypocrisy. Some of these “advocates”, who are lawyers, have reasons to know they are proceeding wrongly, and the facts on which they should rely do not lend themselves in any legal or moral support to their claims. In fact, the claims are unfair, illegal and unjust, drawing serious questions about their own commitments to the rule of law, and the wisdom behind calling themselves “advocates for justice and rights.”

The advocates contend that Brown was named in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), for the alleged commission of economic crimes. This, they argue, purveys the perception of guilt, for which President Boakai ought to deny Brown equal right to work as provided by the Liberian Constitution, if the international community is to take the Liberian government's request for support to establish the war and economic crimes court (WECC), seriously.

Firstly, no member state of the United Nations has privately or publicly questioned Liberia's choice of representation, nor can any country will itself to do so. Similarly, Liberia cannot question the choice of representation of other nations at the UN. Secondly, Amb. Brown is not known to have been indicted of even a traffic violation let alone an egregious criminal offense, nor has he ever been found guilty of having committed one.

Therefore, to impress that Amb. Brown is guilty merely on being named in the Final Report of the TRC, including after a decision of the Supreme Court of Liberia declared punitive

recommendations of the same TRC as illegal, unconstitutional and universally abhorrent, is to attempt to reinvent the wheel of justice concerning Brown. This is not how the international community works, nor expects Liberia to act, in exchange of any support it may wish to provide to Liberia. Upholding universal rights and adherence to the rule of law are always a better guarantee for international support, especially to establish a court whose duty it must be to obey the law in setting the innocent free and punishing the guilty.

All member states of the UN subscribe to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948. Article 11 of the UDHR states: “*Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.*” This universal presumption of innocence for Amb. Brown is relatively stronger because merely being named in a report, cannot be reasonably said to amount to an indictment or a “charge with a penal offence,” a decidedly legal action which grows out of an investigation that the so-called charged person is made aware of.

The Liberian Constitution (1986), the bible for any advocate for justice and rights, does not only uphold the universal right to be presumed innocent but forbids punishing anyone, by denying them rights, privilege or freedom, except a court orders same after due process of law. Cited in part, Article 20 (a): “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, *privilege or any other right* except as the outcome of a hearing judgment... and in accordance with due process of law.” Article 18: “All Liberian citizens shall have equal opportunity for work and employment regardless of sex, creed, religion, ethnic background, place of origin or political affiliation, and all shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work. Article 21 (h): “No person shall be held to answer for a capital or infamous crime... unless upon indictment by Grand Jury...”, and *that all accused persons “...shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved beyond a reasonable doubt.”*

Turning to the Final Report of the TRC concerning Ambassador Brown, strangely, nowhere in the entire 344-page narrative of the TRC Report is there a single mention of the name Lewis Brown with reference to either a suspicion or accusation of wrongdoing. No alleged victim pointed to him directly or indirectly for their unfortunate plight. Said Brown recently at the public hearing to confirm him: “I have

never been told or confronted by any one claiming to represent the TRC why my name was listed in its 'charge sheet' when there is not a single mention made of me throughout the preceding narratives from which the so-called charges and recommendations should have been drawn.” Brown went on to say: “I have been told of no referenced investigative or audit report establishing any basis for attempting to accuse me of the commission of a so-called economic crime.”

“Out of respect for the TRC, and our much-needed process for national healing and reconciliation, which I know our hurting country needs, I have restrained myself from making public utterances in response to the obvious smear campaign against me, including by at least one former commissioner of the TRC. I continue to try so as not to proverbially throw out the baby with the dirty bath water. In 2003, as Chief Negotiator of the Liberian government at the Peace Conference that ended our years of fratricidal war, I and others advocated for a TRC-styled process of reconciling and healing our country. I remain fully committed to helping that process succeed, although I am keenly aware that the circumstances were obviously overwhelming and challenging for some into whose inexperienced hands this important national duty befell,” Brown said, adding: “We must now all pick up the pieces and work as best as we can to reconcile ourselves to each other, and heal our land, knowing that the justice we must all seek for the long term good health of our nation must apply to all, in equal measure.”

In an article published online and in print by FrontPageAfrica, on Tuesday, November 26, in response to why Brown was named in the Final Report of the TRC, although there exists no narrative anywhere in the report to point to reasons for his naming, former Commissioner John Stewart said: “*A background investigation was*

conducted, and he (Brown) was cited to answer questions concerning the results of the investigations. He never appeared. And under the TRC policy, if a person cited did not appear to answer to the charges against him, then, we will assume that it's judgment by default.” (<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/liberia-war-crimes-trial/liberia-boakais-un-ambassador-pick-rejects-advocates-claim-that-his-appointment-would-deter-war-crimes-court-donors-as-un-peacebuilding-committee-visit-wraps-up/>).

Firstly, Brown did testify to the TRC, being one of the first to do so, when it was not popular. Arguably, Brown was one of those who inspired others to come forward to testify (see Brown's testimony here




<https://youtu.be/31nx7zclifo?si=3ygDMhrP-bxWb369>). He was neither presented with findings of any “background investigation” nor investigative or audit reports pointing to a wrongdoing on his part, over his days of public testimony to the TRC, to which Commissioner John Stewart was present.

Secondly, this policy of passing “judgment by default” is not just legally problematic, for which the highest court in Liberia ruled decisively against the TRC, but also it cannot be found to have been published anywhere before now. Judgment by default is an action reserved only for courts of law, which the TRC was not. But let's assume such a policy ever existed; why was this reason not stated in the report so Brown and all others reading it would come to the same conclusion for naming him? What is the finding of the so-called background investigation that Brown refused to respond to? Where can anyone find it, if not in the Final Report of the TRC, where it is not included?

Section 44 of the Act Creating the TRC mandates that its “report shall be **detailed** on all aspects of the TRC's work, investigations, hearings, findings and **recommendations for prosecutions**”. This was not just important to justify taxpayer's dollars and donor's support to the TRC, but it would guarantee that the findings and recommendations could be relied upon for genuine healing and reconciliation of a nation fractured by years of war, corruption and undemocratic governance. Adherence to this mandate would also elevate the report to meet required legal standard for prosecution. Unfortunately, it is impossible to see how this important mandate and detailed standard for reporting of the TRC was applied concerning Ambassador Brown.

On pages 342/343 of the Final Report of the TRC, under the caption of “Economic Crimes in the Petroleum and Telecommunication Sectors”, which we cite in full, it reads: “*On September 25, 2003, the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation (LPRC), acting under the authority of Edwin Snowe, former LPRC Managing Director and Montserrado County Senator, executed a credit agreement with West Oil Investment (WOI) for \$10 million USD. The agreement designated WOI as the importer and distributor of petroleum products in Liberia in exchange for the credit. While the LPRC has not justified its decision to obtain the credit, shortly thereafter, the company made a series of suspicious payments beginning in 2003 through 2006.*





Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:

Purchaser:

Project:

Contract title:

Country:

Grant No.:

Procurement Method:

OCBN No:

Issued on:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

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

" Provision of Additional Machines/Tools and the Installation to Three (3) Share Facilities"

Liberia

5900155018403

Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/001/2024

January 28, 2025

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 additional Machine/Tools to three Shared Facility. “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	Machines/Tools	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 operations² 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, February 25 2025**. 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



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:

Purchaser:

Project:

Contract title:

Country:

Grant No.:

Procurement Method:

OCBN No:

Issued on:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

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

" Provision of Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members "

Liberia

5900155018403

Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/005/2024

January 28, 2025

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 Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits to 1,108 Registered Members**. “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	Electric Planing, and Sandpapering Machines Kits	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 operations² 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, February 25 2025**. 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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CENTAL criticizes Boakai's speech

-Says the President failed to address corruption

President Boakai faces criticism here for not taking firm actions against corrupt officials.

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia, Liberia, January 30, 2025 - President Joseph N. Boakai has come under serious criticism for his alleged failure to address corruption and other key issues affecting the country during his address on Monday to the 55th Legislature.

"Clearly, President Boakai can boast of relative success in other areas, but not in the fight against corruption, Liberia's biggest problem", says the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia, CENTAL.

In a live Facebook podcast Wednesday, January 28, 2025, Executive Director Anderson Miamen, said the President has been lackluster when it comes to taking action on allegations of corruption against his officials, saying "He has not really matched his anti-corruption commitments with deeds."

Delivering the state of the nation address on Monday, President Boakai outlined progress in key sectors such as the economy, infrastructure, agriculture, and education. However, his claims were met with skepticism and opposition from various political figures.

Boakai began by addressing Liberia's economic challenges before he assumed office, noting that the economy had grown by only 4.6%, inflation had surged to 10.1%, and the country's debt burden had escalated to \$2.5 billion.

He also highlighted struggles faced by civil servants, particularly pay harmonization and delayed salary payments, which led to reliance on informal financial schemes.

President Boakai revealed that decisive actions have been implemented, including salary increases for health workers, police officers, and teachers. He reported that in 2024, Liberia's economy showed resilience, with a revised GDP growth rate of 5.1%.

According to the President, growth was fueled by sectors such as mining, agriculture, fisheries, and services, with international partners like the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and USAID

contributing to investments in infrastructure and energy development.

"We have managed inflation prudently, reducing it to 7.7% by the end of 2024, down from 10.1% in 2023," Boakai said. "We expect inflation to decrease further to 6.0% in 2025."

Additionally, he pointed to improvements in Liberia's international reserves, which has risen to \$458.9 million, and appreciation of the Liberian dollar by 4.7% against the US dollar. He also noted that the Central Bank has lowered monetary policy rate from 20% to 17%, which helped bolster confidence in the financial system and resulted in a 9.1% increase in private sector credit.

On infrastructure, Boakai highlighted several key projects, including the expansion of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) Road Project from 8 to 20 kilometers of paved road, as well as significant progress on the Sanniquellie to Logatuo and Saclepea to Tappita road projects. He also mentioned road development funded by the World Bank's Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP).

In the education sector, Boakai acknowledged the challenges his administration inherited, including \$2 million in scholarship arrears, poorly qualified teachers, and inadequate infrastructure.

His government allocated \$1 million to clear scholarship arrears, including fees for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), and launched a \$75

million foundational learning project with USAID to improve literacy and math skills for third-grade students.

In the health sector, the President touted the progress made under his ARREST Agenda, reporting reductions in maternal and child mortality rates and an increase in child vaccination rates from 64.9% to 73% in 2024.

But responding to the President's address, Miamen argues that President Boakai removed the entire board of commissioners at LTA because of allegations of corruption, but has taken no action against the current acting LTA board chair, who is implicated in audit report released by the General Auditing Commission.

He also wonders what has the President as done to his officials that have refused to declare their assets.

"He keeps giving them warning and ultimatum. What has he done to Dorr Cooper investigated by the University of Liberia and found liable for academic fraud? Again, nothing. I could go on and on."

According to him, former President Weah and his party lost the 2023 presidential election not necessarily because they did not build roads or other public facilities. Mainly, they lost because they failed to deal with corruption.

"Like Weah, President Boakai is not doing enough to send a strong message to his officials to comply with the Code of Conduct and other Anti-Corruption laws. We can't compare CDC's six years to UP's one year. However, we can speak to the trends and what likely will happen, should things change or continue the way they are", Miamen underscores.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Government promotes local foods consumption

-As MOA donates local foodstuffs to Health Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture moves to promote purchase and consumption of locally-grown foodstuffs under its "Liberians Feed Yourselves Agenda."

By Judoemue M. Kollie

Monrovia, Liberia, January 30, 2025 - The Ministry of Agriculture has donated some quantity of locally grown assorted food items to the Ministry of Health, to support hospitals here.

The donation includes 100 bags of 50 kg rice, 10 bags of gari, three bags of beans, and organic processed food for babies.

An initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, it aims to promote the local purchase and consumption of food which aligns with the "Liberians Feed Yourselves Agenda."

Agriculture Minister, Dr. J.

locally-produced rice is nutritious because it is organically grown without use of chemical fertilizers. This also incentivizes our farmers by buying what they are growing. If we do that, we will grow more to feed ourselves, and our farmer's livelihoods will be improved."

Receiving the items, Health Minister, Doctor Louise Kpoto, expressed profound gratitude, emphasizing the importance of agriculture in addressing healthcare challenges.

"It is with immense gratitude that I accept this generous donation," Minister Kpoto stated. "You have proven health care is everybody's responsibility. You saw the need



Alexander Nuetah, highlighted the initiative's significance during the donation. "In July of last year, we launched the 'Liberians Feed Yourselves Agenda' to encourage Liberians to produce and eat what we grow," Dr. Nuetah stated.

Given that the Ministry of Health oversees hospitals in the country, the minister said that it was appropriate to donate these items to support patients and promote farmers' efforts.

"It is a donation from the government to encourage our Liberian people to begin eating what we are growing in this country," the minister added. Dr. Nuetah further explained that the gesture encourages vendors and hospitals to prioritize buying from local farmers, stating that it is the surest way to improve incomes of producers.

He continued that the initiative also aims to promote nutritional food consumption.

"We also want to encourage your vendors to start buying from our farmers and feeding our hospitals, knowing that

in this particular sector and came to our aid. You can rest assured that the items will be utilized for the people of Liberia, especially the patients in the hospitals."

Dr. Kpoto suggested plans to explore the possibility of producing food for malnourished children, using local ingredients such as rice, beans, beniseed, and oil in Liberia.

Inspired by a successful initiative in Sierra Leone, she noted the potential for such a program to create jobs and combat malnutrition.

"We saw a factory in Sierra Leone producing "Benimix," a nutritious food for malnourished children, using low-cost machinery. We want to see how we can engage farmers in this venture, which could be a work opportunity to employ Liberians and produce our food for the malnourished," she explained.

In a related gesture, the Ministry of Agriculture has also donated 50 bags of rice to the Ministry of Justice to feed inmates in correctional facilities. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Advertise with us!

Français

Crise nationale : le CDC critique sévèrement le discours sur l'état de la nation du président Boakai

Le président Joseph Nyuma Boakai a prononcé, lundi 27 janvier, son deuxième discours sur l'état de la nation devant l'Assemblée nationale, conformément aux exigences constitutionnelles. Toutefois, son allocution a suscité une réaction virulente de

an de gouvernance Boakai. Dans sa réponse officielle, le CDC affirme que « la nation est en crise », décrivant un pays « fragile, divisé et polarisé ». Cette fracture, selon le parti, s'est illustrée par le boycott du discours présidentiel par une part significative des institutions du pays : huit sénateurs, plus de 25 représentants et l'ensemble des

McGill – ancien ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles sous George Weah – a dénoncé « un recul alarmant » du pays, marqué, selon lui, par l'érosion des avancées démocratiques et économiques des six dernières années. Il accuse le Parti de l'Unité, actuellement au pouvoir, d'être « piégé par ses propres promesses électorales trompeuses ».

« Le pays est plongé dans la confusion et la division. Cette situation exige une réponse forte, à la hauteur des inquiétudes du peuple en ces temps incertains », a déclaré le C^oC.

Une transition démocratique ignorée ?

Le parti est également revenu sur la passation de pouvoir de novembre 2023, rappelant que l'ancien président George Manneh Weah avait reconnu sa défaite et concédé la victoire à Joseph Boakai avant même l'annonce officielle des résultats par la Commission nationale des élections.

« Par cet acte de patriotisme, le président Weah a rompu avec

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



l'opposition, en particulier de l'ancienne coalition au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), qui dresse un bilan préoccupant du pays après un

juges de la Cour suprême étaient absents.

Un Liberia en déclin, selon l'opposition

S'exprimant au nom du CDC, le sénateur de Margibi, Nathaniel F.

Incendie criminel à la plantation SRC : deux suspects en garde à vue

La Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) a signalé un incendie criminel sur ses plantations dans le comté de Margibi, entraînant la destruction d'environ 150 hévéas et des pertes économiques estimées à plus de 35 000 dollars américains.

Deux suspects arrêtés et placés en garde à vue

Selon la SRC, l'incendie s'est déclaré le 28 janvier 2025, vers 2 heures du matin, et aurait été provoqué par deux individus actuellement en garde à vue. Alertée, l'équipe de lutte contre les incendies de la plantation est rapidement intervenue, parvenant à maîtriser les flammes et à appréhender les suspects, qui ont ensuite été remis à la Police nationale du Liberia (LNP). Les suspects, identifiés comme Abraham Kpannah et Joe Bono, auraient avoué leur implication lors des premières auditions, selon la police. Cependant, leurs motivations restent pour l'instant inconnues.

Des répercussions

économiques préoccupantes. Alors que l'évaluation des dégâts se poursuit, la direction de la SRC met en garde contre les conséquences économiques d'actes similaires.

« La répétition de tels incidents pourrait contraindre la plantation à fermer définitivement, entraînant la perte de nombreux emplois locaux », a averti la direction.

Un contexte marqué par des tensions sociales

La SRC, aujourd'hui propriété de l'homme d'affaires indien M. Jeety, fondateur de Jeety Rubber

LLC, avait déjà été contrainte à la fermeture en 2024 à la suite de violences, pillages et incendies liés à un mouvement de contestation des travailleurs contre l'ancienne direction.

Le rachat et la réouverture de la plantation par M. Jeety avaient permis la restauration de l'emploi et un regain d'espoir pour la population locale. Toutefois, cet incident soulève de nouvelles préoccupations quant à la sécurité et la stabilité des opérations.



Éditorial

Un message d'espoir pour un Liberia en quête de renouveau

Par Daron Acemoglu

Les Libériens attendent avec une grande impatience le second discours annuel sur l'état de la nation du président Joseph Boakai devant la 55e législature. Après une année tumultueuse marquée par des crises répétées, cette adresse est perçue comme une occasion cruciale pour tracer une voie d'espoir et de renouveau.

L'année écoulée a été marquée par des épisodes troublants : manifestations des épouses de militaires, affrontements entre la police et des partisans de l'opposition, émeutes meurtrières à Bea Mountain, éviction forcée de fonctionnaires sous mandat, crise de leadership à la Chambre des représentants aboutissant au renvoi de Fonati Koffa, et incendie au Capitole. Ce climat d'instabilité a exacerbé les frustrations d'une population déjà éprouvée par le chômage de masse et les difficultés économiques.

Aujourd'hui, les Libériens attendent du président Boakai qu'il fournisse des orientations claires et des solutions tangibles. Leur besoin d'espoir est d'autant plus urgent que le pessimisme gagne du terrain.

Le président, qui s'est engagé à sortir le Liberia de la stagnation et du déclin, est à un tournant de son mandat. Il doit traduire ses promesses en actions concrètes. L'amélioration de la sécurité, la stabilisation de l'économie et la création d'emplois sont des priorités immédiates qui pourraient, à elles seules, insuffler un vent d'optimisme.

Cependant, les discours ne suffiront pas. Seuls des résultats tangibles permettront de restaurer la confiance du public et d'attirer les investissements étrangers indispensables à la relance économique. Il est essentiel de créer un environnement propice au développement des activités économiques pour sortir durablement de l'impasse actuelle.

Par ailleurs, la lutte contre la toxicomanie et le trafic de drogues doit être érigée en priorité nationale. La prolifération des substances illicites décime la jeunesse, pilier de l'avenir du pays. Les rues sont envahies par des jeunes en détresse, victimes des trafiquants, et condamnés à une mort précoce. Il est impératif que le gouvernement abandonne les annonces spectaculaires et passe à des actions concrètes et ciblées.

La corruption constitue un autre fléau majeur qui mine les institutions et freine le progrès. Les richesses nationales semblent se concentrer dans les cercles restreints du pouvoir exécutif et législatif, tandis que des secteurs essentiels tels que l'éducation et la santé sont négligés. Cette injustice systémique doit être corrigée de toute urgence pour redonner aux citoyens un sentiment d'équité et d'espoir.

Le Liberia est à un moment décisif de son histoire. Pour répondre aux attentes de la population, le gouvernement doit adopter une approche proactive, pragmatique et transparente. Il s'agit non seulement de résoudre les crises actuelles, mais aussi de jeter les bases d'un avenir plus stable et prospère.

Les Libériens méritent des actions à la hauteur de leurs sacrifices et de leurs aspirations. Il revient au président Boakai de transformer ce moment critique en une opportunité historique de redressement et de renaissance.

Copyright : Project Syndicate, 2024. www.project-syndicate.org

Happy New Year to all our Readers

Français

Starts from page 8 Crise nationale : le CDC critique sévèrement le

l'histoire tourmentée du Liberia, marquée par des contestations électorales, des violences et des recours devant la Cour suprême. Il a ouvert une nouvelle ère de paix et de démocratie », souligne le communiqué.

Selon le CDC, cette transition pacifique prouvait que le Liberia pouvait assurer un transfert de pouvoir respectueux des principes démocratiques, « à l'image des grandes nations comme les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni ou l'Allemagne ». Toutefois, un an plus tard, le parti estime que le pays est « plongé dans un chaos démocratique et institutionnel ».

Des accusations de dérive autoritaire

Le CDC accuse l'administration Boakai d'avoir affaibli l'État de droit et instauré une gouvernance arbitraire.

« Le gouvernement actuel enseigne aux Libériens que la loi est malléable, qu'elle dépend de la

volonté du président et de ses alliés politiques, et que seuls les citoyens ordinaires doivent s'y conformer, tandis que l'élite du Parti de l'Unité la contourne en toute impunité », dénonce le parti.

L'oppositeion condamne également ce qu'elle qualifie de « chasse aux sorcières » contre d'anciens responsables du régime Weah, certains ayant été arrêtés et emprisonnés dans des conditions qu'elle juge arbitraires.

Enfin, le CDC met en lumière la crise parlementaire actuelle, marquée par la présence de deux présidents de la Chambre des représentants : l'un, élu conformément à la Constitution, et l'autre, désigné « de manière illégale ». Selon le parti, l'Exécutif aurait imposé ce dernier tout en exerçant des pressions pour obtenir la démission du président élu.

« Cette situation constitue une atteinte grave aux principes démocratiques et à l'État de droit », conclut le CDC.

Le gouverneur désigné de la BCL face au Sénat : une nomination controversée

Le gouverneur désigné de la Banque centrale du Liberia (BCL), Henry Saamoi, comparait ce mercredi 29 janvier 2025 devant le Comité sénatorial des finances et de la banque pour son audition de confirmation. Cette nomination suscite toutefois des tensions au sein du Sénat, certains législateurs dénonçant une procédure irrégulière.

Une nomination sous le feu des critiques

Le 23 janvier 2025, trois sénateurs ont exprimé leur opposition à la décision du président Joseph Boakai de nommer un nouveau gouverneur de la BCL alors que l'actuel gouverneur suspendu, Aloysius Tarlue, n'a pas officiellement démissionné.

Les sénateurs J. Gbleh-bo Brown (Maryland), Nathaniel McGill (Margibi) et Nyan D. Twayen, Jr. (Nimba) estiment que la nomination de Henry Saamoi intervient dans un contexte d'incertitude et pourrait enfreindre les règles de gouvernance de l'institution.

Pour rappel, Aloysius Tarlue a été suspendu par le chef de l'État à la suite d'un audit révélant des détournements de fonds au sein de la BCL.

Des interrogations sur la procédure

Dans une communication adressée au Sénat le 23 janvier 2025, le président Boakai a demandé la confirmation de Henry Saamoi en tant que gouverneur exécutif de la BCL et de James B. Wilfred en tant que gouverneur adjoint chargé des opérations.

« J'ai l'honneur de soumettre ces nominations au Sénat pour confirmation. Il est impératif que cette procédure soit menée rapidement afin d'assurer le bon fonctionnement de la Banque centrale », a déclaré le président Boakai dans sa correspondance. Toutefois, les sénateurs

contestataires dénoncent l'absence d'une lettre officielle attestant de la démission de Tarlue, soulevant ainsi un vide juridique quant à la succession à la tête de la BCL.

Un Sénat divisé

Face à ces incertitudes, le sénateur Nyan D. Twayen a proposé que la communication présidentielle soit acceptée et transmise au Comité des finances et de la banque, mais seulement après clarification de la situation du gouverneur suspendu.

Le sénateur J. Gbleh-bo Brown, quant à lui, a plaidé pour un rejet pur et simple de la demande présidentielle tant que les différends entre le Sénat et la BCL ne seront pas résolus.

« Cette institution rencontre des difficultés avec la Banque centrale du Liberia, et nous en sommes tous conscients », a-t-il déclaré, appelant ses collègues à exiger des réponses avant toute validation.

De son côté, le sénateur Nathaniel McGill a mis en avant la question du mandat des personnes désignées. Il a rappelé que les postes à la BCL sont soumis à des durées spécifiques et s'est étonné que la communication présidentielle ne précise pas la durée des mandats de Saamoi et Wilfred.

« La loi établit que ces fonctions

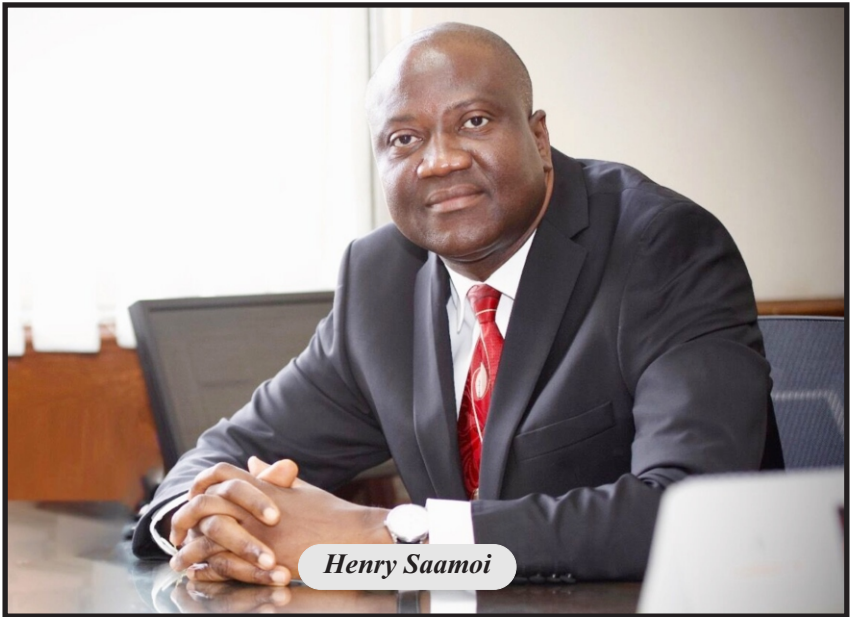
sont régies par des mandats définis. Or, le président n'a pas précisé la durée de ces nominations. Il est essentiel que nous ayons ces informations avant d'aller plus loin », a-t-il insisté.

Vers un examen en commission

Face aux divergences, la présidente pro tempore du Sénat, Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence (Grand Bassa), a estimé qu'un rejet immédiat de la communication présidentielle n'était pas la meilleure approche. Elle a suggéré que la nomination soit examinée en commission, permettant ainsi aux sénateurs de poser leurs questions et d'obtenir des clarifications avant un débat en séance plénière.

« La procédure appropriée consiste à recevoir et accepter la communication du président, puis à transmettre les préoccupations au comité compétent. Une fois les réponses obtenues, le Sénat pourra débattre et voter. Si ces préoccupations ne sont pas satisfaites, le Sénat aura alors le droit de rejeter la nomination », a-t-elle expliqué.

L'audition de Henry Saamoi devant le Comité sénatorial des finances et de la banque s'annonce donc déterminante pour l'avenir de la gouvernance à la Banque centrale du Liberia.



Henry Saamoi

La Chambre des Représentants enquête sur les opérateurs GSM

La Chambre des Représentants du Libéria a institué un comité ad hoc pour enquêter sur les problèmes persistants de réseau de télécommunications dans certaines régions du pays, en particulier dans le sud-est.

Le comité est chargé d'examiner les fournisseurs de services GSM, notamment Lonestar Cell MTN et Orange Liberia, ainsi que les régulateurs du secteur, à savoir l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Libéria (LTA) et le Ministère des Postes et des Télécommunications.

Cette initiative fait suite aux préoccupations soulevées par les législateurs des districts électoraux 2 et 3 du comté de Maryland. Ceux-ci ont souligné les conséquences graves des services de réseau défaillants sur les citoyens du sud-est, affectant gravement la vie quotidienne. Ils ont évoqué des perturbations économiques majeures, une entrave aux activités commerciales et un impact négatif sur les services de mobilité monétaire, cruciaux pour les transactions financières.

Les parlementaires ont expliqué que l'absence d'une infrastructure de communication fiable avait provoqué des pertes financières pour les commerçants et entrepreneurs, tandis que les citoyens continuaient de rencontrer des difficultés pour organiser des activités essentielles.

Le comité est présidé par le député Ivar Jones et comprend les députés Foday Fahnbulleh, Drwohn Gleekia, Austin Taylor et Anthony Williams, qui agiront en tant que personnes ressources.

De leur côté, les opérateurs mobiles et l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Libéria (LTA) ont reconnu les difficultés liées à la couverture réseau dans plusieurs régions du pays, en particulier dans le sud-est, et ont promis de renforcer la connectivité à l'échelle nationale.

Jean Marius Yao, directeur général d'Orange Liberia, a présenté des excuses pour les problèmes récurrents de réseau dans certaines régions, notamment dans le comté de Maryland, tout en soulignant que d'autres zones faisaient face à des défis similaires.

“Nous nous excusons sincèrement pour les désagréments causés par ces problèmes de réseau. Nous sommes déterminés à améliorer la qualité de nos



services à travers tout le Libéria”, a affirmé M. Yao.

Il a assuré que les équipes techniques d'Orange étaient activement mobilisées pour résoudre la situation, avec des réparations d'infrastructures en cours et plusieurs zones encore en phase de travaux. M. Yao a également souligné qu'Orange avait investi plus de 245 millions de dollars pour l'expansion et la maintenance de son réseau depuis la reprise de celui de Circle.

Rahul De, directeur général de Lonestar Cell MTN, a également abordé les efforts continus de l'entreprise pour améliorer la qualité du service à travers le pays, y compris dans le comté de Maryland et dans d'autres zones sous-desservies. Il a confirmé que Lonestar était bien consciente des défis en matière de couverture réseau et procédait actuellement à une mise à niveau de son infrastructure pour améliorer la disponibilité du service.

“Actuellement, la disponibilité de notre réseau est de 95 %. Nous travaillons activement pour atteindre une couverture de 99 % à travers le Libéria”, a déclaré M. De.

Il a précisé que Lonestar Cell MTN procédait à la mise à jour de ses connexions micro-ondes et à l'extension de son infrastructure, avec l'objectif de finaliser ces améliorations d'ici la mi-année. Cependant, De a reconnu que les conditions météorologiques et les difficultés de liquidités pour les services de mobilité monétaire avaient également affecté la qualité du service dans certaines régions.

“Nous sommes en train de résoudre ces problèmes, et nous remercions nos clients pour leur patience pendant que nous œuvrons à améliorer la connectivité”, a ajouté M. De.

Pour sa part, Clarence Massaquoi, commissaire par intérim du Département de l'Ingénierie et de la Technologie à la LTA, a exprimé ses préoccupations concernant les lacunes de couverture, aussi bien en milieu urbain qu'en milieu rural. Il a confirmé que la LTA suivait de près les plans des opérateurs pour améliorer leur service.

Massaquoi a insisté sur la nécessité d'améliorer la qualité des services et de garantir la fiabilité du réseau, tout en précisant que des lois de protection des consommateurs sont désormais en place pour assurer que les entreprises respectent les attentes en matière de service.

“Nous collaborons avec tous les opérateurs pour garantir qu'il n'y ait aucune concession sur la qualité des services”, a conclu M. De.

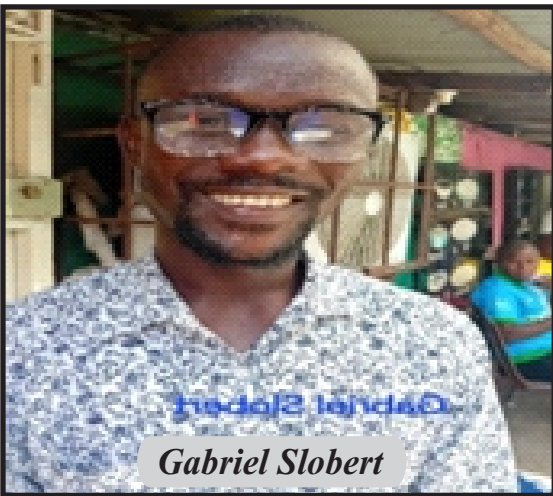
LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Supreme Court's absence at SONA

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The absence of the full bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia President Joseph Boakai's State of the Nation Address has sparked public debate here, as you may read below.

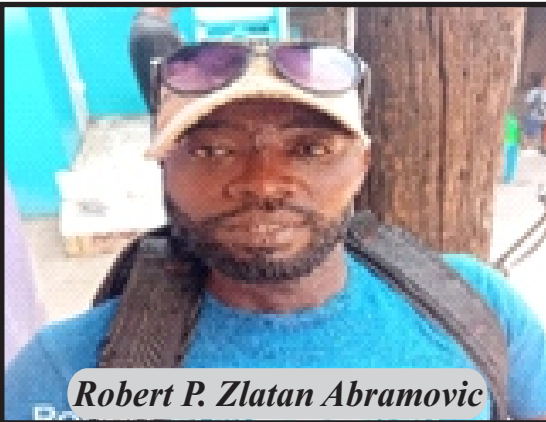


Gabriel Slobert

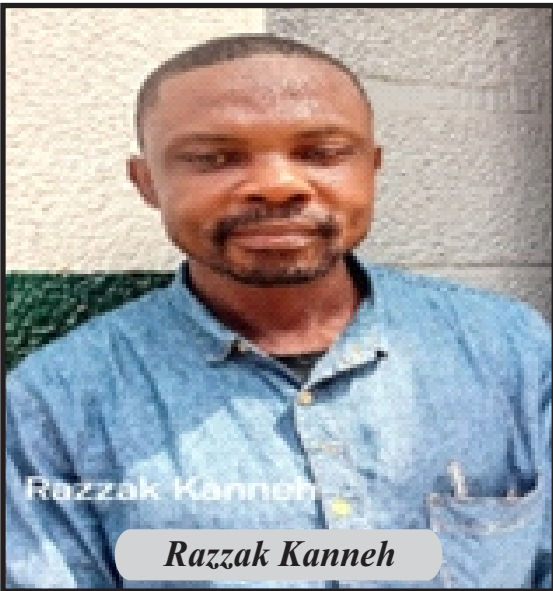
"I think the absence of the judiciary at the State of the Nation Address was unfortunate, because Liberians didn't expect that the Supreme Court would choose not to attend the SONA. But I believe that it was because of dissatisfaction

over budgetary allotment for the Judiciary that the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh had formally protested that it. So they did it as a way of drawing public attention and attention of the Legislature so the President can do the needful. For me, this is how I think because the Supreme Court is not involved in politics. However, the Constitution of Liberia gives the President the authority to address the country at the legislature; it doesn't say the Supreme Court. We saw majority of the senate members and representatives seated, so the law says when the two Houses meet, the President can address the Nation. It didn't say the Chief Justice must be there or the Associate Justices."

"I must appreciate the Supreme Court for going by the rule of Law. I see their action as democratic; I see it in a good fate and it was good enough they didn't go to sit under Boakai's Speaker Richard Koon. They did it because they didn't want to contradict their ruling."



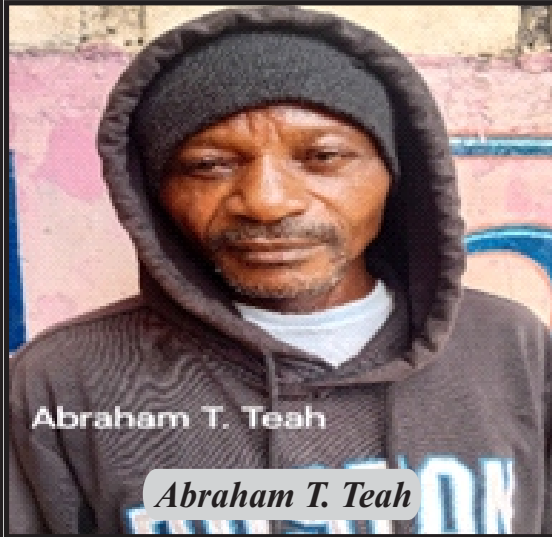
Robert P. Zlatan Abramovic



Razzak Kanneh

"The absence of the Supreme Court is an embarrassment, but we consider it as a shame on the Supreme Court, after coming out with a controversial ruling that nearly plunge this country

into conflict. The Capitol Building went on fire because of the Supreme Court's ruling that led to lawyers interpreting the ruling their own way, so this is the first time for the Supreme Court to rule thru parable. The Supreme Court's parable ruling is what brought Richard Koon as Speaker today. I believe that they felt in their minds when they go there to sit, the public and international partners will believe that they are in line with Richard Koon Speakership. So, to save their faces, they decided to stay away from the State of Nation Address. I think the Supreme Court owes this Nation a statement why they stayed away."



Abraham T. Teah

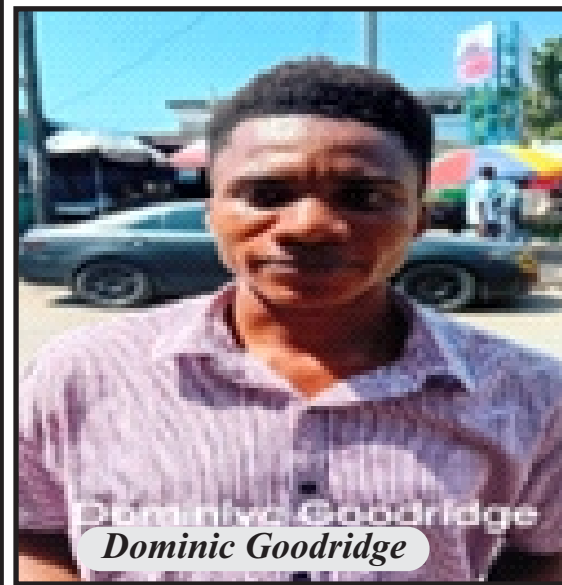
Abraham T. Teah

"As the highest arbiter of justice in Liberia, the Supreme Court will never go against her opinion. The Supreme Court described the election of rebel Richard Koon as illegal. And haven't declared the election as illegal, the Supreme Court will not go and sit while Koon presides, so any attend for the Supreme Court to do that there will be no rule of law in Liberia. I think if investors will even be thinking of coming to Liberia, from the President down are violating and continue to violate."

"The Supreme Court's absence from the SONA was appropriate, because they were the one that told the government that their action was illegal. The Supreme Court can't tell the government what they did is illegal then they go and sit under the same people. It will be like bringing yourself to a slaughterhouse, so that stand was ok; I support that."



Rudolph G. Gborkeh



Dominic Goodridge

"I think the Supreme Court's absence from the SONA, is not a good sign for a country. I think the Supreme Court didn't do well for us Liberians. If the Supreme Court knew very well that

they weren't going to attend the President's SONA, they should have been bold and informed the Liberian people but, leaving the entire country in doubt, it's not good for us. The Supreme Court has the power to say yes, or no, if the government is not doing the rightful thing by law; so I don't think why the Supreme Court should leave the entire country in doubt and just make everybody saying their own thing about them. I think the Supreme Court needs to come up and tell the Liberian people why they stay away from the SONA and stop beating around the bush, because we depend on them when it comes to the law, so they should do the rightful thing."

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

WWW thenewdawnliberia.com
Advertise with us!
Subscribe to our website
Get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The NewDawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

WE DO PHOTOCOPY

PLEASE! KEEP THE DOOR CLOSE

2 Colors Heidelberg Machines

PRESS

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING PRINTING SERVICES:
- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...

PUBLISHED BY THE SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS INC.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1244
Opposite the National Investment Commission
Monrovia - Liberia.
Tel: 0886484201 / 0777007529 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com
0886978282 / 0775407211 Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Starts from Back page**Partners brainstorm on ARREST Agenda**

areas of interest within the government's development agenda. Speaking in an exclusive interview with the NEW DAWN following the interaction, Ambassador Guellec, who chairs the Local Development Council in Liberia, said it is a yearly initiation of the French Embassy to track project being implemented and define how they can outline priority areas in Liberia's development basket. According to her, all partners within the conference find themselves within the government development agenda because they have been implementing and supporting different projects in those areas. "For us, European Member states are interested in Technical Vocational Education for young Liberians to have more job opportunity and economic growth. Now, the agenda for France proposed in our three strategic priorities unique Solidarity and Sustainable Strategy for the French team in Liberia are environment, which looks at forest and biodiversity, climate change, and the second is education while the last is health" she concluded.

The Government of Liberia on 15 January in the port city of Buchanan, Grand Bassa, launched a Five-Year National Development Plan dubbed, ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development aimed at transforming Liberia's infrastructure and systems. During presentation of the plan, Finance and Development Planning Minister, Augustine K. Ngafuan, acknowledged challenges faced and recognized the necessity to address them. He stated that the AAID aims to achieve ambitious socioeconomic progress, including a 37 percent increase in GDP, which is anticipated to grow the economy from US\$4.75 billion to US\$6.5 billion. "This growth will also result in a 23.6 percent increase in per capita GDP, rising from approximately US\$850 to US\$1,050. On the human capital front, the plan aspires to extend life expectancy from 60 to 65 years, reduce the maternal mortality rate from 742 per 100,000 to 440 per 100,000, and lower the multidimensional poverty rate from 45 percent to 36 percent" Ngafuan said. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Tolbert, Doe to get state burial

Two former Liberian presidents are to receive proper burial, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai announces here.

By Wise Wesseh
Monrovia, Liberia, January 30, 2025 - President Joseph N. Boakai says here that he will institute plans to have proper burials for two former Liberian Presidents, Williams Richard Tolbert and Samuel Kanyon Doe. The former died in a military coup in 1980, while the later died at the barrel of the gun ten years later in a bloody civil war. Liberian history has spoken much about the life and death of these two late presidents, given their contributions to the Republic, but some might have forgotten or may not be totally aware how they were interred and under what circumstances despite their deep history. Delivering his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Capitol on Monday, January 27, 2025, President Boakai reflected

on the loss of several prominent citizens, including former Vice President Bennie Dee Warner and late Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson. "As the nation mourns the loss of former Vice President Warner, also former Vice President and Senator John D. Gray, former Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson, former Montserrado County Senator Joyce Musu Sumo, former Lofa County Senator Sumo G. Kupee, and the lists continues, we will institute plans for the proper burial of former Presidents Williams R. Tolbert and Samuel K. Doe", President Boakai promised. After his assassination in the April 12, 1980 military coup, former President Tolbert was buried in a mass grave at the Palm Grove Cemetery on Center Street, Monrovia. Late President Doe also died a violent death when he was captured by the then

Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) rebels led by late Senator Prince Y. Johnson in 1990. However, during testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the late Senator Johnson narrated that the body of President Doe was cremated and his ashes thrown into a river. Doe's family had disagreed, suspecting that Johnson and his (INPFL) rebels may had engaged in cannibalism by eating Doe's body, as controversy continues over the remains of the former president, who was left without a befitting burial, up to date. Howbeit President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's pronouncement to institute plans to give these falling leaders befitting burials may bring a sense of relief and closure to their immediate families who would love to have the State accord them last respect. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

What's in Tarlue's envelope?

By Lincoln G. Peters
Central Bank of Liberia Executive Governor-Designate, Henry F. Saamoi, discloses here that the Government of Liberia has fully paid off his predecessor, suspended Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue, for his unexpired tenure, but is tight-lipped on the amount. Governor Tarlue was suspended by President Boakai following an audit report that links the Central Bank to unapproved or illegal withdrawal of funds. The President did not want

low level of technological enhancements leading to vulnerabilities, and other operational risks, and risk to price and financial stability. He indicates that thus, they immediately commenced restructuring and fully constituting critical committees of the Bank to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency. "These included the Monetary Policy, Compliance & Risk Management, Financial Stability



him back in the Bank despite he being a tenure official. Tarlue ran to court to compel the government to pay him off, including the remaining years of his tenure. Now it has been disclosed and confirmed that the embattled executive governor got what he wanted, but the public is yet to know how much he received from the government. Making the disclosure on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 during senate confirmation hearing, Governor Saamoi said President Joseph N. Boakai settled Mr. Tarlue, something he says prompted the outgoing governor to have withdrawn lawsuit filed against the government from the court. "So, the Government of Liberia or the Bank settled or paid out former Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue, who was suspended by the President for his unexpired terms. This process allows me to officially take over the Bank to end the tenure of Aloysius Tarlue's, if confirmed by the senate", the incoming Governor explains before the committee on banking and finance. Mr. Saamoi extols President Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., for the trust and confidence reposed in him to lead the Central Bank of Liberia during this period. "We believe we are confident that we are prepared to lead the CBL team of professional technocrats to manage and achieve the CBL's objectives of price stability, financial sector stability and support the government's economic agenda for inclusive growth as enshrined in the CBL Act of 1999, and as amended and restated in 2020", he vows. According to him, over the last few months at the CBL in his acting capacity, they have identified several critical areas and challenges of the CBL, including limited reserves, non-compliance with policies and procedures as well as corporate governance challenges, as detailed in the GAC Compliance Audit Report,

and the Procurement Committees, among others. We also immediately took steps to begin addressing all the issues and recommendations of the GAC and other audit reports. In line with our vision to transform the CBL and to become one of the model central banks in the sub-region, we have developed a new Strategic Plan (2025-2029)" Mr. Saamoi adds. He explains that the new SP is fully aligned with the ARREST Agenda with the overarching goals of achieving operational efficiency, promoting macroeconomic stability, promoting digitalization of the financial system and financial inclusion, as well as regional integration, adding "Our medium-term goal is to transition the Liberian economy into a cashless economy." "One key risk that we will continue to monitor closely is that of cybercrime, as we tighten controls to ensure digitization is more secure. The intensification of our internal control environment as envisaged in our new strategic plan, will result in a reduction in operational losses over the years. The draft strategic Plan has been reviewed and shared with our partners and stakeholders for their review and insightful comments. We plan to launch the new plan by February 2025." "In light of the current moderation in inflation rate, and to support economic activity, the Committee recently adjusted the monetary policy rate (MPR) in December 2024 from 17.5 percent to 17 percent with the aim of managing the Liberian dollar liquidity in the economy; regarding the operational achievements, we have successfully reduced the wage bill of the Bank through a staff rationalization exercise", he informs the senate. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



-As French Embassy holds Development Council meeting

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



The program was graced by World Bank Liberia Country Manager Georgia Wallen, Joel Chiedu Okwuokei, Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development

A photograph of a laboratory setup for measuring the speed of sound. The setup includes a computer monitor displaying a graph, a sound card interface, and a speaker system.