

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

**Advertise Here!**  
Subscribe to our website  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

**WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES**  
of **The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
**AT YOUR DOORSTEPS**  
0886484201 / 0777007529  
**WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.  
**Hurry and book now!**

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

| DATE                    | BUYING              | SELLING            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 | LS159.7671/US\$1.00 | LS161.8329US\$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. 13 NO. 035      TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023      PRICE LD\$40.00

# Defying the odds



## -Rep Gray, SUP members clash

**LonestarCell MTN**  
**Welcome Back Offer**

Haven't used your SIM for more 30days or more?  
Put your SIM back in today and enjoy our special  
Welcome Home offers made just for you.

**40 Mins**  
and  
**60 MB**  
for 50LRD

**300 MB**  
for 50LRD

**Dial \*126#** now.





# Continental News

## Migrants drown on way to French Indian Ocean island

At least 22 people have died after their boat capsized in the Indian Ocean, while undertaking a perilous, 400km (250 mile) journey from Madagascar to the French

clandestinely taken a boat headed to Mayotte, but that sank. 23 of the passengers were able to be saved, 22 bodies were found," the Madagascar maritime authority APMF said in a statement about Saturday's

people from the Comoros islands, which are far closer to Mayotte, but there has been a rise in migration from Madagascar in recent years.

In 2021, French officials detained more than 6,500 people who were caught trying to enter Mayotte.

The number of people who have died trying to make the crossing is unknown, but a French senate report 20 years ago estimated that there were 1,000 fatalities each year. Mayotte is an island of 250,000 people that is part of the Comoros archipelago off the east coast of Africa. The Comoros was a French colony until 1975 when it declared independence.

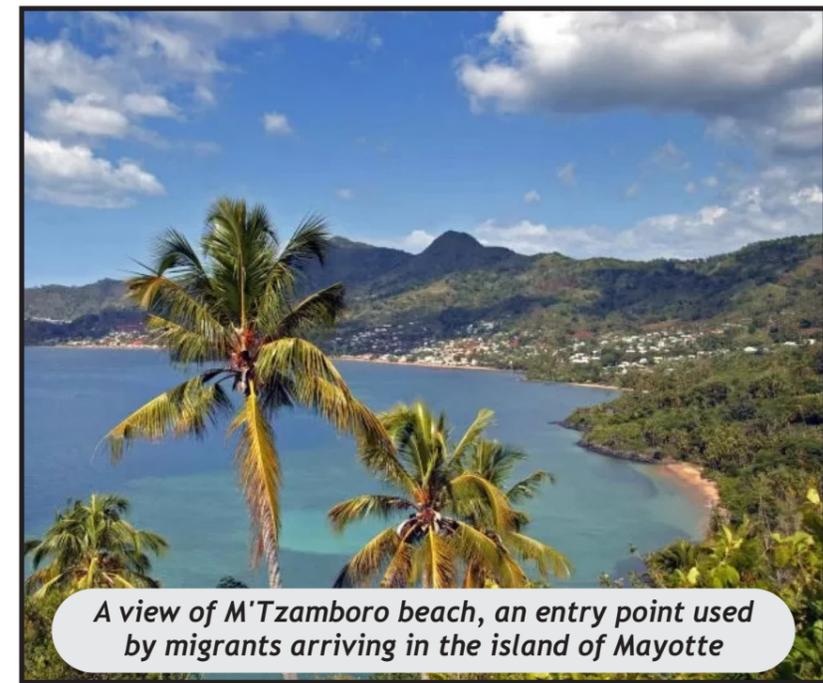
But Mayotte opted to remain part of France, voting overwhelmingly in 2009 in favour of becoming an integral part of France, mainly because of the economic benefits associated with becoming French.

In 2011, it became the 101st French department, in accordance with the 2009 referendum. It is a predominantly Muslim country, and although French is the official language, only about half of the population can read or write it. BBC

accident. The migrants are believed to be from Madagascar's northern city of Ambanja, a local resident told the BBC.

The crossings are often aided by smugglers who charge up to \$700 (£570), he said.

Economic migration to Mayotte has mostly been by



A view of M'Tzamboro beach, an entry point used by migrants arriving in the island of Mayotte

territory of Mayotte. Another 20 people were rescued over the weekend, Madagascar authorities said. Hundreds of migrants are estimated to die every year trying to make such crossings. Search and rescue operations are ongoing to find those still missing. "Forty-seven people had

## Why Tunisia's president picked on black migrants

That is a tried and tested tactic used by populist politicians or authoritarian leaders to win elections or shore up waning popularity.

This type of populism appears to be the most likely explanation for February's outburst by Tunisian President Kais Saied against sub-Saharan African migrants in his country.

Mr Saied made the extraordinary remark that these people were part of a conspiracy to change the demographic composition of the North African country, which has a predominantly Arab-Muslim culture.

As history clearly demonstrates, it is a dangerous tactic that often leads to violence. And that was precisely what happened

estimated 20,000 sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia, which has a population of 12 million.

But Tunisian rights researcher Kenza ben Azouz told the BBC: "This is not a matter of legality or illegality. It's about being black in this country". She added that black Tunisians, who make up around 10-15% of the country's population, suffer discrimination because of the colour of their skin. This is an issue picked up by a BBC News Arabic survey last year.

The problem of sub-Saharan Africans who travel to North Africa hoping to make it across the Mediterranean into Europe is not new. It has long been a bone of contention between North African states and Europe.

What is new this time, though, is the language Mr Saied used to address the issue. It seemed designed to stir up fear and nationalist fervour - to rally the masses around a cause of some kind



Some migrants have decided to leave Tunisia in the wake of President Kais Saied's comments

in Tunisia.

Following the comments, black African migrants felt the full force of the fallout. Some were afraid to leave their homes out of fear of random violence or verbal abuse. A student from southern Africa who has been in Tunisia for the past five years painted a harrowing picture of how Mr Saied's remarks affected black Africans in Tunisia.

She told the BBC Africa Daily podcast that some had their houses set on fire while others were beaten up, and that she no longer felt safe in the country. This resulted in many black Africans heading to their embassies to organise repatriation. The Tunisian government has defended the president, arguing that his speech was aimed at those who had come to the country without permission and not those in the country legally. There are an

at a moment when Mr Saied's woes have continued to pile up.

Economically, Tunisia is in a very bad shape. It has never recovered from the years of political turmoil that followed the overthrow of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011. Tourism was hit badly by terror attacks and the downturn was further compounded by the covid pandemic and then the war in Ukraine. Politically, things are not going the president's way either.

Ever since he sacked the cabinet and dissolved parliament in the summer of 2021 and announced a road map that he promised would put the country on the path to stability and prosperity, his plan has suffered one bruising setback after the other.

The committee that he handpicked to draft a new constitution withdrew its support after he made drastic changes to the draft they had submitted. He effectively gathered all the levers of power in the hands of the presidency and emasculated the legislature and the judiciary. BBC

## Namibian president names woman successor

Namibia's President Hage Geingob on Saturday named Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as the candidate for the ruling Swapo party in next year's elections. In remarks to the party's top organ, the president called on party members to support Ms Nandi-Ndaitwah when official campaigns begin next year. Ms Nandi-Ndaitwah is the party's vice-president and the country's current deputy prime minister.

"Elections took place, we have the results that we are going to have one candidate only, that will be comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and we will campaign and we have a person who will lead us," President Geingob said.

He also called on Swapo members not to create factions from the outcome of the party nominations.

President Geingob is due to step down next year after

two-thirds majority in parliament in the last general election in 2019. It also lost control of key municipalities, including the capital Windhoek, the port towns of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, and several regional councils. BBC

Swapo has led Namibia since independence and remains the country's biggest political party.

But its popularity has recently waned because of discontent over rampant unemployment and corruption linked to senior party officials. The party lost its



President Hage Geingob (centre) with Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (right)

# EDITORIAL

## Keeping the peace is the duty of all Liberians

**REGARDLESS OF** which political party you belong to or what county and tribe you come from, keeping the currently fragile peace should be the primary duty of all Liberians.

**THE GROWING** political tension in the country and rhetoric can only take us closer to conflict and violence then we can ever imagine.

**THE BUILDING** of private armies amidst the discoveries of arms and ammunition are signs that we are nearing the conflict point and there is no denying that.

**BUT LEST** we forget, violence and conflict have never solved our problems. It has only worsened our condition as an impoverished country and takes away the beauty of our youths turning children into soldiers and little girls into mothers.

**THE SCARS** of the recent 14 years of conflict are still visible on our streets and in our schools and even permeating our governing system.

**THAT IS** why we should as a people endeavour to do all we can to maintain the peace regardless.

**PEACE, AS** they say, is not just the absence of war. It requires hard work and constant attention. Building peace from a fragile standpoint entails embracing and respecting divergences of views.

**THEREFORE, AS** we prepare to hold our fourth post-war democratic elections, we must agree to disagree. People of the same household can never share similar views and we must accept that.

**WE SHOULD** insist on resolving our differences and disagreements through healthy debates and not through violent means.

**WE MUST** learn from our immediate past. And if there is any country in the sub-region that understands the effects and consequences of war, Liberians do, and no one should ever dream of taking this nation back to its ugly past.

**BEING A** refugee in another country is the most inhumane experience and no country on the other hand in this day and age is prepared to go through another experience to host Liberians as refugees.

**THUS, WE** must continue to remind ourselves as Liberians that in all that we do or say during this electioneering period, Liberia is the only country that we can never be deported from.

**THEREFORE, KEEPING** the peace should be our primary objective as we embark upon this process.

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

# COMMENTARY

By Miriam Mutebi

## Winning the Cancer War in Sub-Saharan Africa

**N**AIROBI - Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity, kill 41 million people per year, with 77% of these deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In Sub-Saharan Africa, NCDs are now responsible for roughly 37% of deaths - up from 24% in 2000. Cancer is one of the top three diseases driving this increase, accounting for more than a half-million deaths in 2020. And this number is expected to double by 2030 if the current status quo is maintained.

As with other NCDs, many cases of cancer could be prevented by addressing behavioral risk factors, such as tobacco and alcohol use and obesity, which contribute to more than 40% of all cancer deaths worldwide.

Other cost-efficient measures include widespread vaccination against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes most cervical cancers, and against hepatitis B, which, along with hepatitis C, contributes to liver cancer. In Africa, cancers associated with infections accounted for about 27% of all cancers in 2018 - the highest of any region monitored by the World Health Organization.

Furthermore, many common cancers, such as colorectal, breast, prostate, and cervical cancer, can now be treated successfully if detected early. But they remain among the deadliest in Africa, because patients there are typically diagnosed too late with advanced disease and frequently do not complete their care.

There are multiple reasons for this, including a combination of financial (out-of-pocket), health-system, and sociocultural barriers, as well as chronic underfunding that impedes the ability of African public-health agencies to provide timely, value-based quality care. Many African countries also lack the resources, infrastructure, and workforce needed to implement effective vaccination and population screening programs. And, despite improvements over the last few years, many countries do not have access to safe, timely diagnostic and treatment services.

Regional disparities are another major concern, as many cancer patients must travel long distances to reach treatment centers, which are generally located in urban areas. The need to find accommodations and manage work or childcare concerns can deter many patients from completing routine screenings or treatment, and out-of-pocket costs for screening services, where available, also tend to limit their routine uptake.

Even when care is available, social and cultural norms may prevent people from seeking it. For example, social stigma often discourages many patients suffering from cancers affecting sexual and reproductive organs. Similarly, "cancer fatalism" leads many to believe that the diagnosis is a death sentence and that treatment is futile. "Collectivism," whereby the community decides about a patient's ability to access care, also ultimately results in poorer outcomes.

Consequently, cancer survival rates in LMICs are abysmally low compared to high-income countries (HICs). For example, while the five-year survival rate for breast cancer in HICs is above 84%, it drops to 40-60% in LMICs. Survival rates for colorectal cancer, which can reach 76% in high-income settings, are lower than 25% in low-income countries. And, owing to low HPV vaccination rates and the lack of effective testing, LMICs account for 90% of all cervical

cancer deaths, underscoring the need for urgent action.

A recent Lancet Oncology Commission report on cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa that I co-authored emphasizes the need for African governments to invest in local data collection and research to support and develop resource-efficient cancer detection and treatment programs tailored to their countries' specific needs and funding requirements. We also recommend that governments start to think of innovative ways to expand universal health-care coverage to include cancer services such as early diagnosis, targeted treatments, and supportive care.

Kenya, Nigeria, and other African countries are already moving ahead with initiatives to expand access. By mobilizing international support and engaging local stakeholders, these countries could invest in prevention and early detection strategies, including mobile screening units, community outreach programs, self-examination kits, in vitro diagnostics, and telehealth, thus improving prevention and early detection.

But diagnosis is not enough. "System preparedness" is essential, and the infrastructure and skilled workforce to provide treatment for detected cancers must be expanded in tandem with any early diagnosis.

Moreover, to ensure equal access to health services, African countries should train primary-care physicians to identify early signs of cancer and facilitate timely referrals. A patient in Sub-Saharan Africa sees 4-6 health-care providers, on average, before a cancer diagnosis is made.

Governments should also integrate resources meant for COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases toward comprehensive strategies - for example, providing cervical cancer screening for patients with HIV. While integrated clinics capable of treating both infectious diseases and NCDs would be ideal, policymakers must be pragmatic and consider the shortage of health-care personnel, particularly in densely populated areas, and develop models and innovations that can help bridge some of these access barriers.

Countries such as India, Pakistan, and Jordan have shown that investing in building local capacity makes developing world-class cancer facilities possible, despite limited resources. African policymakers, too, are increasingly aware of the need for local cancer detection and treatment capacity, as evidenced by an increase in the number of countries with national cancer-control programs and the expansion of oncology training centers and infrastructure for care. Rwanda, where a widespread HPV vaccination program and expanded testing could make the country one of the world's first to eliminate cervical cancer, also provides a useful model for improving health outcomes in low-resource settings.

Given this continent-wide trend, we have a unique opportunity to enhance our regional collaboration and develop centers of excellence for knowledge-sharing, research, and coordinated, evidence-based treatments for patients. But to realize the promise of recent advances in diagnostics and care, from vaccines and immunotherapy to precision medicine and multi-cancer early detection tests, we must ensure that the basics of cancer care are readily available, and that life-saving treatments are distributed equitably. To paraphrase the activist and U2 co-founder Bono, where you live should not determine whether you get to live.

## OP-ED

By Daron Acemoglu  
and Simon Johnson

# How to Fix the Platform Economy

**B**OSTON - Meta (Facebook), Alphabet (Google), Microsoft, Twitter, and a few other tech companies have come to dominate what we see and hear on the internet, shaping hundreds of millions of people's perceptions of the world. In pursuit of advertising revenue, their algorithms are programmed to show us content that will hold our attention - including extremist videos, disinformation, and material designed to stimulate envy, insecurity, and anger. With the rapid development of "large language models" such as ChatGPT and Bard, Big Tech's hold on impressionable minds will only strengthen, with potentially scary consequences.

But other outcomes are possible. Companies could deploy the latest wave of artificial intelligence much more responsibly, and two current court cases serve as warnings to those pursuing socially destructive business models. But we also need public-policy interventions to break up the largest tech companies and to tax digital advertising. These policy levers can help change Big Tech's pernicious business model, thereby preventing the platforms from inflicting so much emotional harm on their users - especially vulnerable young people.

The legal cases include *Gonzales v. Google*, which is currently before the US Supreme Court. At issue is the tech industry's insistence that Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act exempts platform companies from any liability for third-party content that they host. If platforms are acting more like news outlets than mere online repositories when they recommend videos, tweets, or posts, they should be held to the same standard as established media, which, under existing defamation laws, are not allowed to publish what they know to be untrue.

Hence, in a \$1.6 billion lawsuit filed against Fox News, Dominion Voting Systems has uncovered ample evidence that Fox's top on-air hosts and executives were well aware (and told each other) that former President Donald Trump's claims of election fraud were entirely false. Dominion thus has a strong claim to damages if it can show that Fox knowingly spread falsehoods about Dominion's voting machines in the 2020 election. Shouldn't online platforms whose algorithms disseminated the same lies be held to the same standard?

Addressing such questions has become even more urgent now that programs like ChatGPT are poised to reshape the internet. These sophisticated algorithmic recommenders could potentially be trained not to promote extreme content or deliberate lies, and not to encourage extreme emotions. If an algorithm is exploitative or manipulative toward children (or anyone else, for that matter), the responsibility for such harm should lie with the humans in charge. After all, AIs at this level are not operating autonomously of human decision-making. To claim otherwise is to grant their creators legal immunity.

Tech companies should no longer be able to excuse their own inattention or negligence by arguing that "there's too much data" for them to monitor. That wealth of data is the source of their profits, and the sheer abundance of content on their platforms is what makes their AIs so potent. While they should enjoy a reasonable degree of protection against liability for what someone else posts on their site, this should apply only to passive content that the platforms do not in any way recommend to other users. Active content that is algorithmically pushed out to millions of people to generate revenue is a different matter. Indeed, it is just like traditional publishing, only much more powerful.

If a daily newspaper publishes a commentary by a terrorist, some readers will probably stop subscribing. But since most individuals do not want to walk away from their existing online social networks, we need government regulation to re-empower consumers.

First, the largest platform companies should be broken up to create more intense competition between recommendation algorithms and their trainers. But for this to work in the public's interest, platforms also must be required to allow a user's social network to be transferred to a different platform. The same "interoperability" rationale allows you to keep your cell-phone number when you change carriers. Social-media and digital-content consumers should be able to vote with their feet when they don't like what a platform is promoting.

Second, and even more importantly, we need to force an adjustment in the prevailing Big Tech business model, which is based on harvesting vast amounts of user data and monetizing it through digital-advertising sales. This business model explains why disinformation, outrage, and insecurity are so prevalent online. Emotional manipulation maximizes user engagement, enabling more intrusive data collection and higher profits.

A tax on digital advertising is one of the only practical ways to change this extraordinarily destructive business model. It would reduce platforms' temptation to maximize user engagement through emotional manipulation; and, if coupled with limits on data collection, it would provide incentives to develop alternative approaches, such as subscription-based models.

Another advantage of a digital-advertising tax is that it could be set even higher for content promoted to people under 21. Selling cigarettes or alcohol to minors is a serious criminal offense. While it is not feasible to forbid young people from seeing content that damages their mental health, a high rate of taxation on advertising revenues derived from promoting such material is entirely appropriate. The proceeds could be devoted to strengthening mental-health programs, not least those for teen suicide prevention. If there is any doubt about which content is hurting young people, we can just ask the AI recommendation algorithm.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of the forthcoming *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, May 2023). Simon Johnson, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, is a professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management and a co-author (with Daron Acemoglu) of the forthcoming *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, May 2023).

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

## Addressing the current digital divide in Liberia: Strategies for bridging the gap in access to technology and internet service

**O**ne of the world's poorest nations, Liberia, is struggling with a significant digital divide that has an impact on both its educational system and its ability to thrive economically. The digital divide refers to the disparity between persons or groups who have access to modern technology and those who do not. Due to the high expenses of purchasing and maintaining technology, the digital gap is pervasive in many developing nations. Low literacy rates and poor infrastructure in Liberia further contribute to the

country's digital divide. A thorough strategy that would boost access to technology, develop digital literacy, and offer technical support is needed to solve the digital gap in Liberia. The government of Liberia, in partnership with non-governmental organizations and private sector companies, can play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide.

Access to technology should be made more widely available as one of the first stages toward closing the digital divide. This can be achieved by giving remote libraries and schools access to computers, the internet, and software. Moreover, Wi-Fi hotspots and other community-based projects can increase mobile internet availability in rural areas. Funding for such an endeavor might be provided in a crucial way by donors and international organizations. Increasing digital literacy is a crucial first step in closing the digital gap. Technology education-focused training programs can be established by the government and non-governmental groups in rural areas. The training ought to address fundamental computer abilities, web usage, and online safety. By offering classes in regional tongues, training programs might be created to meet the demands of the local population.

The need to provide technical support to those with restricted access to technology is also necessary. This can be accomplished by

establishing community technology centers that offer technical support and repair services. Local technicians who are able to help rural residents on the spot can work in these centers.

As a result, closing the digital divide in Liberia calls for a multidimensional strategy that emphasizes technical assistance, digital literacy training, and technological access. The government, non-governmental groups, and private sector businesses must work together to close the gap. Through a comprehensive strategy, Liberia can create a trained workforce with the necessary tools to compete in the global market. In the current digital era, having access to technology and internet services is essential for social and economic progress. Yet, there is a sizable digital divide in Liberia, just like in many other developing nations, with a sizable percentage of the population lacking access to technology and internet services. To ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to engage in the digital economy, the digital gap is a crucial issue that needs to be addressed. This article will go over ways to close the access gap in Liberia for technology and internet services. Understanding the Digital Divide in Liberia

Liberia, a West African country with a current population of 5,377,025 as of Sunday, March 12, 2023, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Liberia's internet penetration rate stands at 22.0 percent of the total population at the start of 2022 according to datareportal.

Datareportal estimates that in 2022, just 22.0% of people had access to the internet. There are a number of reasons for this low rate of internet adoption, including the expensive nature of internet services, a lack of infrastructure, and low levels of digital literacy. The distance between those who have access to contemporary information and communication technologies (ICTs) and those who do not are known as the "digital divide." This gap affects people, homes, enterprises, and geographical areas. Due to poor internet access and low ICT adoption rates, the digital divide in Liberia continues to be a serious problem.

Liberia had one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world in 2022, according to datareportal, with only 22.0%. Only urban areas, where telecommunications infrastructure is comparatively superior than in rural areas, have access to the internet. For people residing in rural areas of the country, this imbalance has led to limited access to essential services including healthcare, education, and banking.

Another factor that contributes to the digital divide in Liberia is the cost of internet services. According to the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), the average cost of 1GB of mobile data in Liberia is around 8.7% of the average monthly income, which is well above the affordable threshold of 2% recommended by the United Nations. High internet costs are a significant barrier to internet adoption, especially among low-income households and individuals. In conclusion, the digital divide in Liberia remains a significant challenge, with limited internet connectivity and high internet costs being the main barriers to ICT adoption. The government and other stakeholders must work together to address these challenges and promote digital inclusion, especially for those living in remote and underserved areas.

Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Addressing the Digital Divide

### 1. Improving Infrastructure

The absence of infrastructure is one of the main causes of Liberia's low internet penetration rate. An essential requirement for internet connectivity is dependable energy, which is lacking in many areas of the nation. The government must make infrastructure investments to bring internet connectivity to underserved communities in order to close the digital divide. These investments should include energy, fiber-optic cables, and other network infrastructure. To accomplish this, the government can collaborate with businesses in the private sector.

### 2. Increasing Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is another critical factor that contributes to the digital divide. Many people in Liberia lack the skills and knowledge required to use technology and access the internet. To address this, the government can provide digital literacy training programs for all age groups. The training programs should focus on basic computer skills, internet browsing, and online safety. Digital literacy training programs can be implemented in schools, libraries, and community centers.

### 3. Reducing the Cost of Internet Services

High internet service costs are another barrier to internet access in Liberia. The government can work with internet service providers to reduce the cost of internet services. The government can also provide tax incentives to internet service providers to encourage them to expand their services to underserved areas. This will not only increase access to the internet but also promote competition among internet service providers, leading to lower prices.

### 4. Implementing E-Government Services

The government can also promote the use of e-government services to improve access to public services. E-government services can be used to provide information and services to citizens through online platforms. This will reduce the need for physical visits to government offices, making it easier for citizens to access government services. E-government services can also promote transparency and accountability in government.

### 5. Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be an effective way to bridge the digital divide in Liberia. PPPs can bring together the government, private sector, and civil society to work towards increasing access to technology and internet services. The government can provide incentives to the private sector to invest in infrastructure and provide internet services in underserved areas. PPPs can also be used to provide digital literacy training programs and support the implementation of e-government services.



The Author BY: Willie Bee Tingba, Jr

# 'Koijee, CDC love war'

## -Whapoe alleges

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has alleged that Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government love war and violence as their only way of survival.

"Mayor Koijee is somebody who likes war because he is a war child, that is why all he and his government think about is war and violence," Dr. Whapoe told our reporter Sunday evening, 12 March 2023.

The Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Whapoe's comments are in reaction to Koijee's claim that the opposition community is beating war drums here.

Over the weekend, Mr. Koijee, Secretary General of the ruling CDC, alleged that the opposition's recent petition to the Legislature, National Elections Commission and diplomatic Missions urging them to reject the National Housing and Population Census results is an act of beating a war drum.

"To come here today and begin to threaten a national process, the National Housing and Population Census of our country, it tells you that those are tactics and those are war

community are false and misleading.

According to Dr. Whapoe, it's unfortunate that Mayor Koijee would be accusing the opposition of beating war drums when he is aware that his government is the alleged

beating war drums because they are potential threats to stability and democracy," Dr. Whapoe noted.

"Mr. Koijee is very elementary for him and myself to be in verbal exchanges. Koijee is suffering from [a]

the worst against the people they should protect.

He believes that Koijee doesn't understand anything about the census and its importance, and he is satisfied with the census results because he wants the CDC to get re-elected.

The VOLT political leader explained that conducting a census has a fundamental reason, saying it's not done by the government or anybody because they want to fabricate numbers.

Dr. Whapoe explained that census is done to collect a particular data that will reflect the livelihood of the Liberian people which will represent their lives status.

On the contrary, he said the initial census result released by Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) cannot be accepted. "The National Housing and Population Census was full of fraud. Let me say this to you, do you know that till now I have not even been counted, including my entire household and community?" said Whapoe.

"LISGIS [is] coming out with numbers that don't represent the people. We from the opposition community feel that if at all that number represents the people, all Liberians should be counted," he stated.



Dr. Whapoe



Cdcians

drums that being beaten by people who have nothing to offer the Liberian people," Mayor Koijee claimed. In reaction, Dr. Whapoe said Koijee's allegations levied against the opposition

mastermind and custodian of war and violence in the country. "The man is suffering from [a] traumatic mental disorder that's why he is speaking like that. It's clear locally and internationally that he and his government are

traumatic mental disorder that is why he continues to speak as a child," Dr. Whapoe added.

The opposition leader said it's laughable for Mayor Koijee to allege that the opposition is beating war drums when his government is the ones doing



CROWE LIBERIA, LLC

### RECRUITMENT

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

Our Client - the Liberian Bank for Development & Investment (LBDI) is seeking a qualified, experienced and competent individual with impeccable character and integrity to fill the vacant position of **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

**Personnel Grade : Executive Officer**

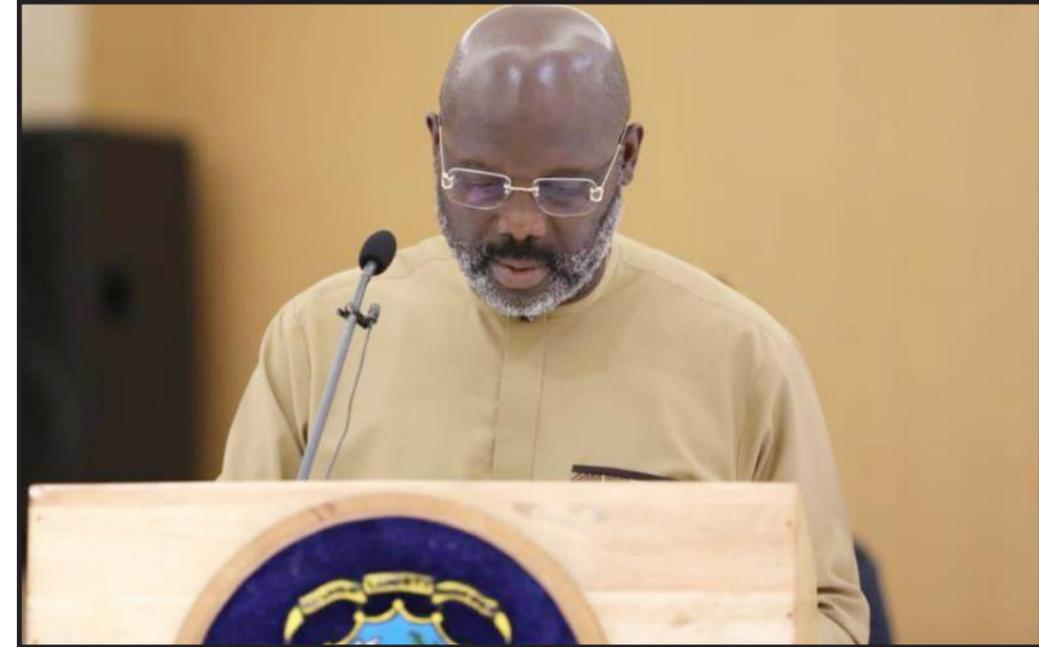
#### Terms of reference – Chief Financial Officer

- The Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer is a member of the Executive Management of the Bank. The Comptroller administers the affairs of several departments covering Finance, Treasury, Accounting and Reconciliation. The Comptroller and CFO also is the principal executive officer looking after strategic matters in relations to financial reporting, financial management, profitability and liquidity management.

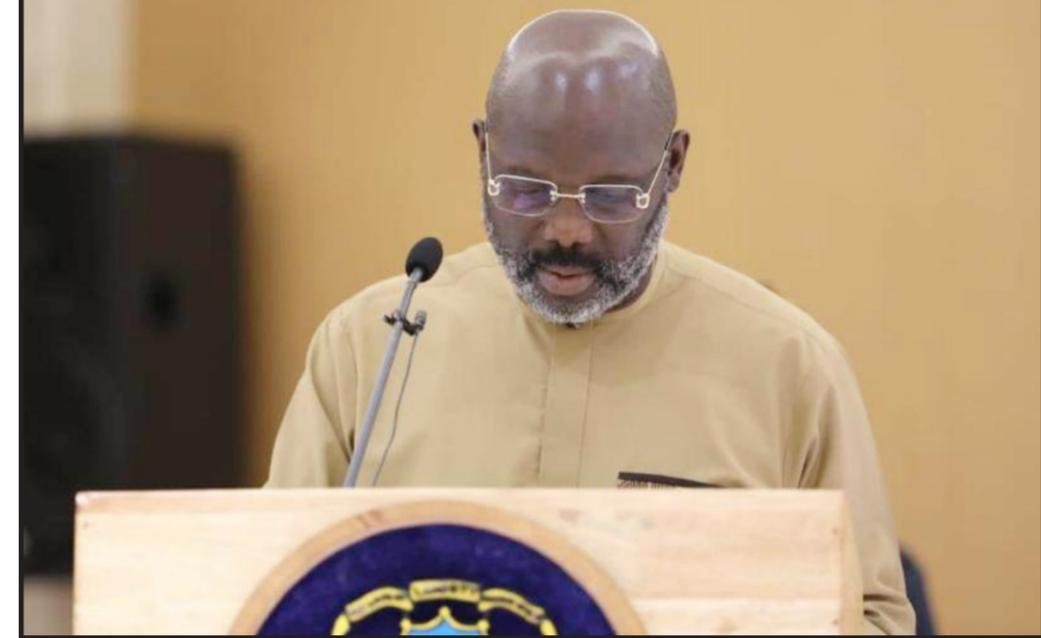
#### Education & Experience: -

- Must have a Professional Accounting Qualification and be a member of a recognized Accountancy Body (CPA, ACCA, CA, or ACCA);
- Must have a Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Management, or any related Business Management Field;
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business related field;
- Must have proven knowledge of IAS, IFRS reporting standards/regulations and its implications and ramifications for the Banking Industry;
- Must ensure that Financial Reporting meets credible highest standards in Liberia. This Should be supported by certification and proven records with at least three Institutions;
- **A minimum of 3 (Three) or 4 (Four) years of experience in Senior/Executive position in a reputable institution;**
- Must be fluent in English;

# Honoring Program for the outgoing World Bank Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara Held on Thursday March 9, 2023



# Honoring Program for the outgoing World Bank Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara Held on Thursday March 9, 2023



# Français

## Le Libéria honore le directeur national sortant de la Banque mondiale

Le gouvernement libérien a rendu hommage au directeur national sortant de la Banque mondiale, le Dr Khwima Nthara, sous le mandat duquel le soutien de la Banque aux secteurs clés a considérablement augmenté.

La grande cérémonie

responsables gouvernementaux et d'autres partenaires au développement.

« Monsieur le Président, (s'adressant au président George Manneh Weah), aujourd'hui est en effet mon dernier jour au Libéria, après 3 ans et 7 mois. Ce fut une expérience tellement enrichissante, et ce fut un grand plaisir et un honneur d'avoir été

amoureux d'un calice empoisonné, d'un cas désespéré. Mais je dois dire que dès que je suis arrivé et que j'ai eu ma première interaction avec vous, Monsieur le Président, le ministre des Finances, l'honorable Samuel D. Tweah Jr, et d'autres membres clés de votre administration, j'étais tellement énergique et inspiré », a déclaré le Dr Nthara.

Il s'est dit encouragé par la clarté de la vision du gouvernement et l'engagement dont il a fait preuve pour changer les choses.

« En effet, peu de temps après », a-t-il dit, « le gouvernement a tenu parole et a présidé une retraite entre la Banque mondiale et le Cabinet, le dimanche 15 décembre 2019, sous le thème « Maximiser le soutien du Groupe de la Banque mondiale au Libéria ».

« Cette retraite, votre excellence, a préparé le terrain pour ce qui a été un partenariat vraiment enrichissant et productif entre la Banque mondiale et le Libéria. Les résultats de ce partenariat sont là, le gouvernement a changé la situation macroéconomique l'inflation est passé d'environ 37% en 2019 à un chiffre », a-t-

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Le président Chambers et le représentant du FMI délibèrent sur l'économie du Libéria

La nouvelle directrice nationale du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), Madame Eva Jenkner, a rendu vendredi une visite de courtoisie à M. Bhofal Chambers, président de la Chambre des représentants.

Ils ont discuté des questions économiques pertinentes allant des défis et des perspectives de l'économie libérienne du point de vue du FMI et de celui de Speaker Chambers.

Madame Jenkner, une ressortissante allemande, a dit voire des perspectives pour l'économie libérienne. Selon elle, le Fonds monétaire international s'est engagé à travailler avec les techniciens monétaires et fiscaux du gouvernement libérien sur le vaste potentiel économique du pays.

Elle a souligné les intentions du Fonds de travailler avec le gouvernement du Libéria

pour accélérer l'engagement du Libéria envers la politique du cadre de dépenses à moyen terme et l'expansion du régime fiscal du gouvernement.

Le cadre de dépenses à moyen terme (CDMT) fournit au gouvernement un outil pour gérer la tension entre les priorités politiques concurrentes et les

réalités budgétaires.

Cela permet de redéfinir les priorités des dépenses et de faire des choix politiques éclairés qui sont abordables à moyen terme.

Au cours de la réunion, le responsable du FMI a déclaré

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### La justice que nous réclamons

Au beau matin du 23 février, les Libériens se sont réveillés avec la terrible nouvelle d'une attaque contre le domicile de l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Musu Scott. Des inconnus ont pris d'assaut son domicile dans la nuit du 22 février et tué la jeune Charloe Musu, l'une de ses filles, une future diplômée de l'Institut Starz de Monrovia. D'autres personnes ont été également blessées. On ignore cependant à l'état actuel leurs conditions.

L'attaque est survenue après que Scott a signalé deux vagues précédentes d'attaques contre son domicile les 8 et 9 février respectivement. Des voisins ont affirmé avoir entendu des cris et appelé à l'intervention de la police, mais en vain.

L'ancien président de la Commission vérité et réconciliation Jérôme Verdier soupçonne, lui, le maire de la ville de Monrovia Jefferson Kojee et Varlee Telleh, bien qu'il n'ait pas encore fourni de preuves.

Cependant, Kojee et Telleh ont nié tout lien avec l'incident au domicile de l'ancien juge en chef lors de l'interrogatoire de la police la semaine dernière. Il y en a d'autres qui ont également été convoqués pour être interrogés, notamment des agents de sécurité privés et des travailleurs qui avaient travaillé dans l'enceinte pendant la journée à la même date de l'attaque.

Mme Scott et sa famille ont également été interrogées. Les enquêteurs se sont rendus sur les lieux du crime lundi.

Pendant ce temps, les manifestations pacifiques se multiplient. La coalition des groupes de femmes de la société civile demande justice pour les personnes décédées et des procès rapides des coupables qui n'ont pas encore été identifiés ou inculpés.

D'autre part, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, dont le secrétaire général national en la personne de M. Kojee est lié au vol à main armée et à l'attaque meurtrière, a également organisé des manifestations pacifiques, défilant avec des pancartes et des images du feu Charloe Musu, tout en réclamant justice.

La justice que nous exigeons est le processus ou le résultat de l'utilisation des lois pour juger et punir équitablement les crimes et les criminels. La justice ne compte pas sur le tribunal de l'opinion publique ou ces magouilles politiques pour rendre son verdict.

Ce à quoi nous assistons jusqu'à présent, c'est le procès de l'incident devant les tribunaux de l'opinion publique sur la base de théories du complot avant même que les suspects puissent être identifiés et inculpés, ce ne sont pas des procédures légales, ce sont des commérages. Et ces rumeurs et théories du complot ou oui-dire ne font que saper la justice même que nous recherchons.

La justice que nous exigeons est un processus qui respecte la primauté du droit. Lorsque nous avons commencé à utiliser des théories du complot basées sur des oui-dire, cela s'appelle des préjugés et cela met en danger les mérites et les démérites des résultats de l'enquête.

L'incident d'Angel Tokpa, dont les tuteurs ont été reconnus coupables par un tribunal de l'opinion publique témoin d'innombrables protestations avant même que l'affaire ne puisse être tranchée, est un exemple de la façon dont le tribunal de l'opinion publique n'a jamais gagné une affaire.

Pendant que nous demandons justice pour la mort de Charloe et d'autres qui l'ont précédée, nous ne pouvons qu'espérer une enquête juste et approfondie basée sur l'honnêteté et le professionnalisme, sans crainte ni faveur.

La justice n'ignore pas les faits et ne s'appuie pas sur ce que nous pensons ou ressentons, elle établit la vérité, récompense la victime et punit le coupable. Et c'est ce que nous recherchons.

# Français

## Le Libéria honore le directeur national

il dit.

Le directeur national sortant de la Banque mondiale a rappelé qu'à son arrivée au Libéria, le taux de change était d'environ 200 dollars libériens pour 1 dollar américain. Mais le dollar libérien s'est renforcé et se situe désormais autour de 154 dollars libériens pour 1 dollar américain.

« Toutes ces réalisations ont été possibles parce que votre gouvernement a respecté son engagement à faire ce qu'il fallait et à changer la situation », a-t-il déclaré.

Il s'est félicité du fait que le gouvernement n'ait pas renoncé aux mesures non populaires, telle que l'harmonisation des salaires, qu'il a prises.

« En effet, c'est grâce à la détermination de votre gouvernement à faire la bonne chose que nous avons également pu plaider auprès de notre haute direction et de notre conseil d'administration pour doubler le soutien budgétaire au Libéria de 20 millions de dollars par an à 40 millions de dollars. »

L'année dernière, a-t-il dit, le montant a même été augmenté à 55 millions de dollars. Selon lui, c'est parce que le gouvernement a mis en œuvre certaines réformes clés qui ont attiré des ressources supplémentaires de l'un des guichets spéciaux.

« Le Libéria a été le

premier pays... de toute la Banque mondiale à recevoir des ressources budgétaires au titre de ce guichet.

Au-delà de la stabilisation de la situation macroéconomique, au cours des quatre dernières années, plusieurs nouveaux records ont été battus. Il a précisé que les engagements nets de la Banque envers les projets nationaux ont doublé, passant d'environ 500 millions de dollars à 1 milliard de dollars.

« Aujourd'hui, le portefeuille de la Banque mondiale au Libéria s'élève à 1,4 milliard de dollars. Dans ce portefeuille, nous avons vu le financement de la Banque mondiale dans l'agriculture tripler. Il est passé de 25 millions de dollars en 2018 à 80 millions de dollars aujourd'hui.

Ensemble, a-t-il déclaré, ils ont également mis en place des financements importants dans des domaines où la Banque n'était jamais intervenue auparavant, comme le soutien au secteur privé par le biais du Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade Project (LIFT) qui a été lancé.

Le Dr Nthara a dit que pour la première fois dans l'histoire du Libéria, le Conseil d'administration de la Banque mondiale a approuvé un ensemble total de 44,6 millions de dollars pour l'autonomisation des femmes.

De même, dans le domaine de l'énergie, pour la première fois, le conseil d'administration de la Banque mondiale s'est engagé dans un programme de financement à long terme dans le cadre de ce que l'on appelle l'approche multi-phase.

## Le président Chambers et le représentant

que sa visite au Capitole a également coïncidé avec les engagements du Fonds avec l'Assemblée législative par l'intermédiaire de son département bicaméral pour les activités fiscales et budgétaires appelé le Bureau législatif du budget (LBO) où le FMI a parrainé une formation qui a duré une semaine.

Le président Bhofal Chambers a dit s'attendre avec impatience de voir le Fonds travailler avec les

techniciens économiques du gouvernement libérien pour une architecture de revenus plus efficace qui produira de solides dividendes économiques.

Il a en outre dit souhaiter que le FMI élargisse les droits d'emprunt du Libéria comme il le fait pour les autres pays.

Il a prié le FMI de prêter assez d'argent au Libéria pour résoudre les problèmes d'infrastructure respectifs, comme il le fait pour les autres pays à qui il prête des milliards.

## Guinée : le ministère de la Justice exige des explications suite à l'interpellation de deux militants



En Guinée, le ministre de la Justice a exigé des explications suite à l'interpellation de deux militants de la société civile. Dans un communiqué, Alphonse Charles Wright indique avoir « instruit au procureur général près la cour d'appel de Conakry de produire un rapport sur les motifs de ces interpellations ».

Le ministère guinéen de la Justice a exigé, ce 12 mars 2023, des explications sur l'interpellation de deux militants de la société civile. Abdoul Sako et Ismaël Diallo ont été interpellés la veille pour des raisons non-communicées, puis relâchés. Tous deux font partie d'organisations réclamant un retour rapide des civils à la tête de ce pays dirigé par des militaires depuis septembre 2021.

C'est par voie de presse que le ministre de la Justice et des droits de l'homme dit avoir appris l'interpellation d'Abdoul

Sako et d'Ismaël Diallo. Alphonse Charles Wright laisse entendre que les gendarmes ont interpellé les deux hommes en dehors de toute procédure légale.

Face à cet état de fait, le ministre de la Justice a rendu public un communiqué dans lequel il instruit au Procureur général près la cour d'appel de Conakry de produire sans délais un rapport circonstancié sur les motifs de ces interpellations.

Fait rare en Guinée, le ministre de la Justice dit prendre ses distances avec cette méthode cavalière et affirme qu'il ne tolérera aucune démarche violant les droits des citoyens en conflit avec la loi.

Les deux activistes de la société civile ont été interpellés le 11 mars par des gendarmes et conduits à la Direction centrale des investigations judiciaires de la gendarmerie nationale où ils ont été soumis à un interrogatoire pendant plusieurs heures avant d'être remis à leur avocat, quitte à lui de les ramener ce lundi au même endroit. Les observateurs estiment que ces interpellations risquent de remettre en cause une tentative de reprise du dialogue rompue entre l'opposition et la junte au pouvoir.

## Côte d'Ivoire : comment une troupe se prépare aux Rencontres interculturelles du cirque d'Abidjan

En Côte d'Ivoire, du 13 au 19 mars 2023 a lieu la 6e édition des Rencontres interculturelles du cirque d'Abidjan (Rica), avec des représentations en salle de compagnies internationales, des performances de rue, des ateliers, des conférences. Objectif : faire découvrir au plus grand nombre les arts du cirque, mais aussi professionnaliser les circassiens du continent. RFI a assisté aux répétitions de la troupe locale Ivoire Cirque Décalé, à la Fabrique Culturelle d'Abidjan.

C'est une petite troupe hétéroclite qui répète ce matin-là. Trois circassiens de la compagnie suédoise The Vessel, un conteur et cinq danseurs-acrobates ivoiriens qui découvrent les agrès, en suspension au-dessus du sol.

Sarah Lett, artiste-chorégraphe de The Vessel, est venue présenter son propre spectacle, mais aussi former la compagnie abidjanaise, Ivoire Cirque Décalé. « C'est assez intensif, comme création, explique-t-elle. On leur enseigne de nouvelles disciplines de cirque auxquelles ils n'ont jamais touché auparavant. C'est surtout le tissu aérien, le cerceau aérien et les portés acrobatiques. Comme les artistes sont surtout danseurs, et un peu acrobates, ils sont déjà très physiques et apprennent très vite ».

« Les Ivoiriens, même sans le savoir,



ont aussi le cirque dans les gènes »

Le tout forme un spectacle pluridisciplinaire de 40 minutes qui mêle les arts du conte, du cirque et de la danse. Une façon de renforcer un lien distendu mais profond entre la Côte d'Ivoire et le cirque, explique le chorégraphe de la compagnie ivoirienne Hermann Nikoko. « Les Ivoiriens, même sans le savoir, ont aussi le cirque dans les gènes, assure-t-il. Mais nous, on le voit plutôt dans le registre patrimonial. Le boloye au nord de la Côte d'Ivoire, c'est une danse très acrobatique. On a les échassiers à l'est, et puis la danse urbaine, le coupé-décalé, où il y a vraiment beaucoup de talents. C'est de là qu'est née cette compagnie, puisque ce sont des jeunes danseurs urbains. L'idée, pour nous, c'était de les discipliner et les remettre dans le registre qui leur va le mieux, qui est le cirque ».

Leur spectacle est intitulé « Sacrée Forêt » et alerte sur les dangers de la déforestation... Car l'édition 2023 du Rica sera une édition engagée sur le thème « Tous Citoyens ».

Read the  
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## NEC to go ahead as planned with BVR phase one

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says it will proceed as planned to commence the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) exercise in the Phase One counties of Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu, Margibi and

the voter registration process, including the arrival of the first consignment of BVR training materials and the conduct of the Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop from 1 to 5 March for Elections Magistrates, Assistant Magistrates, County Logistics Officers, and some staff of

registration enters in the six Phase One counties were published in keeping with Section 3.2 of the New Elections Law. Madam Browne Lansanah said several mock demonstrations of the BVR exercise have been conducted for the Liberia Marketing Association, political parties and civil society.

She also said a 20-man technical team from LAXTON Group, headed by Daniel Engelbrecht, is currently in the country to assist NEC with training, logistics, and preparations for the arrival of equipment and other BVR materials and the setting up of the server in the Data Center of NEC. Chairperson Browne-Lansanah said Civic and Voter Education (CVE) activities for the BVR have been ongoing in the six Phase One counties since the launch of the CVE campaign on 24 February.

To mitigate risks and challenges associated with the BRV exercise, the NEC Chairperson challenged all stakeholders to effectively play their role by avoiding spreading fake news, misinformation, and disinformation in order to ensure that the transition to BVR is successful.



NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

Montsurrado from 20 March to 9 April.

Addressing the Bi-monthly BVR Briefing on Friday, Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah disclosed that there has been progress in preparation for the scheduled commencement of

Headquarters.

She announced that a 5-day training of electoral supervisors started on 8 March, and training of 3,195 Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) staff will convene from 13 to 17 March.

The NEC Chairperson said the locations of voter

## Liberia and UK commit to strengthening trade

Liberia and the United Kingdom have highlighted the key role of the private sector as a catalyst in advancing trade and investment between the two countries.

The Minister of Africa of the United Kingdom, Andrew Mitchell and Commerce and Industries Minister of Liberia- Madam Mawine G. Diggs, held discussions on broadening trade with Liberia and the United Kingdom.

Speaking at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London, Minister Mitchell recounted the continuing partnership between Liberia and the United Kingdom in promoting democratic governance.

He indicated that following the COP27 Climate Summit, the United Kingdom will continue its leadership role in soliciting greater commitment around climate change and global peace.

He hailed Liberia for strengthening its democratic gains especially as Liberians look towards the 2023 general and presidential elections. Minister Mawine Diggs reflected on the strategic importance of the UK Liberia relations and how

it continues to impact varying aspects of the two countries. She commended the United Kingdom for support to Liberia's development across education, health, and fisheries. She highlighted the importance of attracting UK investment to Liberia as well as development financing to consolidate the efforts of Liberian businesses. Minister Mawine Diggs expressed optimism that Liberia's new

Commerce Minister Mawine Diggs- indicated that a new trade agreement will be productive - - alongside development finance to boost the private sector. Also speaking at the offices of the British International Investment (BII), she rolled out the prospect of Liberian business and the need to explore markets beyond Liberia. 'The focus is geared toward strengthening the



legislation on Standards - will [propel] made in Liberia products, thus reducing the reliance on imports, while increasing the prospects of Liberian businesses in accessing other markets.

private sector through access to capital: focusing on agriculture and manufacturing." Minister

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

## Gov't hails outgoing WB

Starts from back page

commitment to do the right things and turn the situation around," he said. Some of the steps he said the government took, such as wage harmonization, were not popular, but it did not waiver. "Indeed, it was because of your government's determination to do the right thing that we were also able to make a case with our Senior Management and our Board to double budgetary support to Liberia from \$20 million per year to \$40 million." Just last year, he said, the amount was even increased to \$55 million, noting that this is because the government implemented some key reforms that attracted additional resources from one of the special windows.

"Liberia was the first country ... in the whole World Bank to receive budgetary resources under that window."

Beyond stabilizing the macroeconomic situation, he said they have over the past four years broken many new records in their partnership. He detailed that the Bank's net commitments to national projects doubled from around \$500 million to \$1 billion.

"Today, the World Bank's portfolio in Liberia stands at \$1.4 billion. Within this portfolio, we have seen World Bank financing to agriculture triple from \$25 million in 2018 to \$80 million today." Together, he said they also put together significant amounts of financing in areas where the Bank was never involved before, such as in supporting the private sector through the Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade Project, (LIFT) that was launched here.

For the first time in the history of Liberia, Dr. Nthara said the World Bank Board approved a total package of \$44.6 million for the empowerment of women. Similarly, in energy, he said for the first time in the whole World Bank, its Board

committed to a long-term financing program under what is known as the Multi-Phase Approach.

Liberia's Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., said Dr. Nthara exudes an air of reticence and quietude that belies the transformative force of nature that underpins the numerous successes for which the celebrate and honor were held for him.

"No country manager of the World Bank has left an imprint as outsized, as large and as indelible as those of Khwima, as we affectionately call him," said Minister Tweah.

He added that the Cambridge-trained economist, supplants his neo-classical theoretical economic grounding for a more practical and pragmatic development approach, using this approach to embed flexibility and adaptability in his over-arching governing philosophy of raising country context as a priority.

Minister Tweah said upon his arrival, Dr. Khwima understood the fragility of Liberia's transition from an UNMIL supported economy, dependent on inflows unlinked to domestic possibilities, toward the foundations of what President Weah described in his 2023 state of the nation address as 'macroeconomic fundamentalism.'

He said Dr. Khwima fully understood that development partners had to seriously accompany the Government on this transition, fraught with political sensitivities, but a transition that had to occur if Liberia were to turn a transformative corner.

"It was this particular understanding that endeared him to the policies and programs of the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and to availing the full panoply of World Bank expertise, resources and capabilities to enable Liberia navigate this difficult transition, especially amid the onset of COVID-19," said Minister Tweah.

**OFFSET** Printing

@

**The New Dawn**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

# Defying the odds

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Repeated attacks on state officials and individuals with close ties to the George Weah

former Solicitor General Saymah Cyrenius Cephus.

Howe, the latest victim sustained injuries and his vehicle damaged in the process.

property damage during the clashes when SUP members attempted to resist Gray and his supporters.

The rival parties engaged in a rock battle. SUP militants



regime by students of the Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia, was met with stiff resistance by supporters led by Montserrado County District #8 Representative Acarus Moses Gray resulting in a total mayhem on Monday as students ran helter-skelter. Rep. Gray had announced a planned lunch visit to the campus days earlier following the latest assault on Mr. Aloysius Howe, a Special aide to Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah.

The attack on Mr. Howe was the six in a series of attacks on government officials by stewards of SUP. The students had chased former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill off campus during an official visit there. They also chased out Finance Minister Tweah who had also gone there on an official function.

With no suspension and punishment from university authorities the students went on to attack Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor chasing her off campus after she had gone there to launch a program. Weeks later, they disgracefully chased out

The students have made the University main campus a no go zone for members of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), its members in government and those affiliating with the regime. Monday's bloody clash came as Rep. Gray planned lunch on the campus prompted his supporters and members of SUP to trade threats.

During Gray's visit to the UL campus as planned, clashes erupted and left many persons injured as SUP members attempted to resist the supporters of the CDC lawmaker in a failed attempt.

The situation got messy when opposition lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah and his supporters later appeared on the UL Capitol Hill campus under the guise of defending members of SUP who had been outnumbered and subdued by supporters loyal to Rep. Gray.

The situation was taken advantage of by members of the disadvantaged youth referred to her as "Zogoes" creating a chaotic scene.

Normal academic and administrative activities were disrupted, forcing the UL Administration to cancel all activities for Monday. There were several injuries and

threw rocks, and other harmful objects at supporters of Rep. Gray. Gray's supporters counter-attacked and overpowered the students, leaving several wounded.

While Gray and his supporters were celebrating victory, they suddenly left the campus to avoid further clashes as report of Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah and his supporters mixed with disadvantaged youth were headed to the protest scene.

Mr. Kolubah is a staunch critic of the CDC regime and ruthlessly reacts verbally to the government's failures.

Rep. Kolubah managed to grab a supporter of Rep. Gray only identified as Ansu Sirleaf, manhandled him, and left several bruises on his body. The University administration cancelled all classes and related academic activities, pending investigation.

The University said its decision was based on "concern for the safety of students, faculty, and staffers on Campus."

It added that the decision to cancel classes also arose out of the safety of the public while expressing regret over the situation.

# NEC ends final Gender training workshop



The Gender Section of the National Elections Commission (NEC) Monday concluded a five-day training that reviewed the existing legal and policy provisions within the internal structures of the political parties to ensure they are gender sensitive. The training, conducted under the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC), also highlighted Violence Against Women in Elections and Protocol (VAWIE-P).

Speaking at the close of the workshop, NEC Commissioner with oversight on Gender, Josephine Kou Gaye, pleaded with the political parties to ensure that their internal structures and policies are more gender-sensitive and friendly. Funded by the governments of Sweden and Ireland, UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the theme of the training was, "Promoting Gender Equity in Elections and Politics: Breaking the Barriers: Finding Solutions."

# GVL rejects reports against its operation

Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) says reports of Golden Agri-Resources (GAR)'s exit from the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) do not accurately reflect the implications its operations in Liberia.

According to a press release, GVL explained that GAR's decision to exit the HCSA does not diminish GVL's commitment to No Deforestation, Peat and Exploitation (NDPE).

The release added that it does not also weaken the company's commitment to implement plans to address the clearance of High Carbon Stock (HCS) and Social Grievances.

"GVL has already taken key steps to remediate and mitigate the HCS clearance and Social Grievances, in line with the time-bound action plan submitted to the HCSA," the release said.

It continued that regular

standards.

It noted further that a remediation and compensation plan has been drafted and ground surveys done by another third party - ProForest - to select sites for HCS compensation and remediation aligned to the Liberia Forest Sector Program.

The GVL added that it has accepted ProForest's recommendations, and it expects the plan to be implemented beginning June 2023, once consultations with stakeholders, including communities and government authorities, are completed.

"For Social Grievances, GVL has completed the Social Background Study for two communities and submitted them to HCSA as required." It detailed that the next phase of social remediation overlaps significantly with the current Sustainability Action Plan which



reviews are ongoing to ensure that GAR has full visibility of the situation in GVL, in line with the investor's requirement that all direct and indirect partners adhere to GAR's sustainability

is being monitored by the RSPO Complaints Panel.

GVL said it will continue to submit quarterly reports to the RSPO on its progress.

# Starts from page 10 Liberia and UK commit

Diggs stressed.

According to Vivianne Infante, Director, Africa Resilience Investment Accelerator - two study tours have already provided sufficient insight into the approaches and partnership in Liberia, especially through commercial banks.

They hailed Commerce Minister Diggs- for the visit and pledged the commitment of BII as the key outlet of the United Kingdom to drive private sector growth and development around the world.

The BII seeks to leverage the partnership with commercial institutions to provide better and long-term support for private sector development in Liberia. According to Andrew

Palmer, Director, Global Affairs, the focus of (BII) is concentrated at key projects with high prospects; interventions are aligned with prosperity and targeted at yielding great fruits.

The British International Investment (BII) is part of ARIA (Africa Resilience Investment Accelerator) alongside US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and other development finance institutions (DFI).

ARIA aims to boost investment by bringing together experience to overcome the challenges in providing investment in these countries.

Currently, BII is the largest development financial partner with infrastructure, solar energy as well as digital connectivity.

## Gov't hails outgoing WB Country Manager

The grand honoring ceremony was held Thursday, 9 March 2023 at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.



The Liberian government has honored outgoing World Bank Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara, saying the Bank's support to key sectors increased significantly under his tenure.

experience, and it was a great pleasure and honor to have been of service to this very special country," said Dr. Nthara. The World Bank envoy explained that while many people were envious of him that he was coming to such a unique country, many more were feeling sorry because all

other key members of your administration, I was so energized and inspired," said Dr. Nthara.

He said he was encouraged by the clarity of the government's vision and the commitment shown to turning things around.

Indeed, before long, he said, the government lived up to its word and presided over a retreat between the World Bank and the Cabinet, on Sunday, 15 December 2019, under the theme "Maximizing World Bank Group Support to Liberia."

"That retreat, your excellency set the stage for what has been a truly rewarding and productive partnership between the World Bank and Liberia." According to him, the results of that partnership are there for all to see, adding that the government turned the macro-situation around that saw inflation decline from around 37% in 2019 to single digit.

The outgoing World Bank Country Manager recalled when he arrived in Liberia, the exchange rate was around 200 Liberian Dollars to 1 US dollar. But he said the Liberian dollar has gained strength and is now at around 154 Liberian Dollars to 1 US dollar.

"All these achievements were possible because your government followed through your

Liberia had been due to the macroeconomic collaboration and teamwork involving World Bank colleagues, government officials, and other development partners." Mr President (referring to President George Manneh Weah), today is indeed my last day in Liberia, after 3 years and 7 months. It has been such a rewarding

situation at the time was in bad shape.

"I recall some even saying I had fallen for a poison chalice, a basket case. But I have to say, as soon as [I] arrived and had my first interaction with you, Mr President, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr, and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**Lonestar Cell** | **MTN**

**300 MB for 50LRD**

**40 Mins and 60 MB for 50LRD**

**There is no place like home!**

Put your LonestarCell MTN SIM back in today and enjoy our special Welcome Home offers.

**Dial \*126#**

and receive the welcome you deserve!

# The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

**DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing**

☎ 0886484201 | ✉ Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street  
☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia