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**P11**

**We wanted election, not coup**

Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh

**-Gongloe rejects progressives' role in coup**

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# Continental News

## 'Not a pothole but a pond': Ugandans rage over roads

The huge craters that pockmark many of the roads in Uganda's capital have become the subject of a Twitter trend. Using #KampalaPotholeExhibition, residents have been sharing images of the city's many potholes that their vehicles have to gingerly make their

up. "That is not a pothole! That is a pond!" he responded to one person who shared a photo. Some have turned the photos into memes with graphics added - like ships sailing across potholes or people chilling on the beach, complete with palm trees, next to other ones. The florid descriptions accompanying the images - including details such as

regularly uses had become stairs. "We have potholes of every design, and size, deep, shallow, wide, narrow, filled with water and dry ones, they are all in Kampala," the deputy speaker of parliament, Thomas Tayebwa, has been quoted as saying when calling for a minister to explain the situation.

The Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), charged with the city's road maintenance, will from time-to-time fill the crevices up with a clay-like soil called murram. But piles of soil cannot withstand the heavy rainy season and the murram gets washed away.

Dr Ssentongo says his campaign is intended to shame those who are failing to maintain the roads, "to make them uncomfortable at their own incompetence." "If they have any sense of shame they should act," he said, pointing to the dangers of potholes and the fact that city residents paid tax for roads to be maintained.

In response, the KCCA tweeted that the issue could not be trivialised and it was aware of the damage they caused to cars.

It said the roads were "due for overhaul... which explains the high prevalence of potholes and other road damages". BBC



The potholes form an obstacle course for drivers on some roads

way around or through. The local authority has acknowledged the problem, saying the cavities amount to 8,500 sq m (91,493 sq ft) in area.

But it added that it did not have the funds to fill them all. When academic, writer and cartoonist Dr Jimmy Spire Ssentongo started the campaign, even he could never have imagined the kind of material that would turn

a pothole's age - might be satirical, but they also point to how long a particular road has been in bad shape.

Some potholes feel like they have become permanent geographical features, creating a series of mini lakes whenever it rains.

A few weeks ago, when I tweeted that in one part of town there were potholes within potholes, one follower responded that the ones on the road he

## Syria, Tunisia Reestablish Diplomatic Relations

Syria's chief diplomat is on a three-day official visit to Tunisia meant to restore diplomatic relations that have been cut off since 2012 during the civil war that followed President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on mass protests against his rule. Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad had a meeting with Tunisian counterpart Nabil Ammar shortly after his arrival on Monday evening. No details were disclosed about the talks and Mikdad's schedule for Tuesday or Wednesday. The visit is meant to help restore bilateral relations, the Tunisian Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The move is a glaring example of how things have changed in the region over the past decade: Tunisia was the birthplace of the Arab Spring pro-democracy movements that spread as far as Syria in 2011, and was long among Assad's strongest critics. But today, Tunisia's leadership is

the level of Tunisian diplomatic representation in Damascus, while stressing that the crisis facing Assad's government was "an internal matter that concerns only the Syrian people." The move was made at the same time Tunisia was sending urgent humanitarian aid to Syria following the earthquake that killed tens of thousands in the country and neighboring Turkey. Mikdad's visit to Tunisia is the second leg of a trip that began in Algeria.

Earlier this month, Tunisian President Kais Saied ordered the appointment of an ambassador to the Syrian capital, Damascus. It followed the decision of the Syrian government to reopen its embassy in Tunis and appoint an ambassador.

In February, Saied had announced his decision to raise



A handout photo provided by the Tunisian Foreign Ministry shows Tunisian Foreign Minister Nabil Ammar

## Two generals fighting over Sudan's future

A soundtrack of explosions, a skyline dominated by bitter, black smoke, a daily existence of fear and uncertainty as bullets, rockets and rumours fly. Life in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, and in many other parts of the country, has taken a sudden, very dramatic turn for the worse. At the heart of it are two generals: Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the leader of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The two worked together, and carried out a coup together - now their battle for supremacy is tearing Sudan apart.

The relationship between the two goes back a long way.

Both played key roles in the

helping the military", while Gen Burhan was a career soldier, though "with all the ambitions of the Sudanese officer corps, anything was possible".

The military has been running Sudan for most of its post-independence history.

The government's tactics in Darfur, once described by Sudan expert Alex de Waal as "counter-insurgency on the cheap", used regular troops, ethnic militias and air power to fight off the rebels - with little to no regard for civilian casualties.

Darfur has been described as the first genocide of the 21st Century, with the Janjaweed accused of ethnic cleansing and using mass rape as a weapon of war. Hemedti eventually became the commander of what could be described as an offshoot of the Janjaweed, his RSF. Hemedti's power grew massively once he began supplying troops to fight for the Saudi-led



Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (L) and Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (R) both lead powerful forces

counter-insurgency against Darfuri rebels, in the civil war in Sudan's western region that began in 2003.

Gen Burhan rose to control the Sudanese army in Darfur. Hemedti was the commander of one of the many Arab militias, collectively known as the Janjaweed, which the government employed to brutally put down the largely non-Arab Darfuri rebel groups. Majak D'Agoot was the deputy director of the National Intelligence and Security Services at the time - before becoming deputy defence minister in South Sudan when it seceded in 2011.

He met Gen Burhan and Hemedti in Darfur, and said they worked well together. But he told the BBC he saw little sign that either would rise to the top of the state. Hemedti was simply a militia leader "playing a counter-insurgency role,

coalition in Yemen.

Sudan's then-military ruler, Omar al-Bashir, came to rely on Hemedti and the RSF as a counterweight to the regular armed forces, in the hope that it would be too difficult for any single armed group to depose him.

In the end - after months of popular protests - the generals clubbed together to overthrow Bashir, in April 2019.

Later that year, they signed an agreement with the protesters to form a civilian-led government overseen by the Sovereign Council, a joint civilian-military body, with Gen Burhan at its head, and Hemedti as his deputy.

It lasted two years - until October 2021 - when the military struck, taking power for themselves, with Gen Burhan again at the head of the state and Hemedti again his deputy. Siddiq Tower Kafi was a civilian member of the Sovereign Council, and so regularly met the two generals. He said he saw no sign of any disagreements until after the 2021 coup. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Liberia's rising abortion cases are worrisome

**ABORTION** IN Liberia is illegal, but study that the country performs nearly 40,000 abortions annually, destroying innocent lives that have formed in fetuses is pure murder that should claim immediate concern of government and rights campaigners, including religious institutions.

**ACCORDING TO** the Liberia National Abortion Study, a total of 38,779 induced abortions occurred in Liberia yearly, translating to an induced abortion rate of 30.7/1,000 involving women (15-45 years) and induced abortion ratio of 229/1,000 lives birth.

**"THERE WERE** regional variations in the regional abortion rates, with North Central having the lowest abortion rates (6.6/1000) and South-Central having the highest 49.7/1000. Also, 14,555 women received care for abortion-related complications in facilities. 67% went to public facilities and 74% went to primary level facilities", says the report.

**THE STUDY** concludes that induced abortion is common in the country with most of the cases linked to unintended pregnancies.

**SOMETHING SEEMS** to be missing here. There appears to be limited education on early sex and associated risks by schools, churches and mosques, and homes, not leaving out hospitals and health facilities.

**REPRODUCTION HEALTH** needs to be taught in schools and religious institutions across the country to address issue of unwanted pregnancy that the report says is driving the prevalence of abortions in the society.

**THE REPORT** stresses full dissemination and implementation of the Revised Public Health Law of Liberia in all communities, health facilities with the involvement of policymakers to ensure community education and awareness on the danger of unsafe abortion, while considering existing legal status of abortion and current access point, like hospitals, stigma reduction, and awareness on a wide range of available family planning methods.

**PARENTS AND** guardians or homes have their share of responsibility in this unsanctioned practice because it seems that discipline has been thrown out of the window and children, both girls and boys are left on their own to experiment sexually or practice early and uncontrolled sex. It should not be so. Lest we forget, the family is the first unit of society, and if discipline is compromised there, the society loses balance.

**IN SHORT,** we need to limit the number of unwanted pregnancies thru vigorous and sustained sex and reproduction health education in all sectors of society in order to reverse the annual abortion cases.

**THIS WOULD** require government support, working with partners. The sooner we begin, the better it would be for our population, for the report did not disclose how many deaths occurred during these abortions.

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# COMMENTARY

By Mariana Mazzucato

## Getting Drug Development Right

**L**ONDON - As political theater, it would be hard to beat US Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders' recent grilling of Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel, who was forced to explain why his company has quadrupled the price of its COVID-19 vaccine. But while Sanders is right that Moderna owes its vaccines to billions of dollars of US taxpayer support, its decision to raise the price should come as no surprise. As I warned in March 2020, drug companies will always make a killing from crises like the pandemic, and US taxpayers will always be gouged, until we fix an obviously broken system.

In those early days of the pandemic, the US federal government could have set a powerful precedent by aligning its vaccine investments with common-good principles such as equitable access and affordability. But it chose "business as usual" instead, and now we are witnessing the predictable results: Moderna is doing everything it can to maximize profits and shareholder value, even if that comes at the expense of public health. It claims that it is raising the price for its vaccine to make up for lost revenues; but its vaccine is the fruit of collective intelligence.

The US National Institutes of Health not only invested billions in the discovery of the vaccine; it also holds patents for the foundational mRNA modifications on which the Moderna vaccine relies. After several years of patent disputes, the NIH agreed to license its technology to Moderna for \$400 million. From Moderna's perspective, it was a great deal. That \$400 million returned \$36 billion back in global sales, a windfall reflected in enormous compensation packages for its executives. During the pandemic, Bancel himself sold \$400 million in shares, and his golden parachute (what he will receive if the company is sold and he is ousted) was raised to almost \$1 billion, a 100-fold increase from 2019.

Sanders is right to highlight the \$1.7 billion in government assistance that Moderna received for developing its COVID-19 vaccine, and to condemn the company's unjustified price hikes. Drug and vaccine pricing should reflect the full costs of research, development, manufacturing, and supply, and in this case, that includes substantial public contributions to R&D.

But the problems with business as usual do not stop at excessive CEO pay or the privatization of gains funded by taxpayer dollars. Moderna has also refused to share its technology with others, including the South African mRNA Technology Transfer Hub, an initiative aimed at accelerating vaccine development in middle- and low-income countries. While Moderna did pledge to refrain from enforcing patent protections during the pandemic, excessive patenting is still a massive potential barrier to the development and distribution of treatments for other diseases, such as HIV and cancer.

Concrete measures are needed to ensure that lifesaving vaccines are available and free at the point of use in all health-care systems. Protecting public health requires a fundamentally different innovation environment than the one we have, because it depends on all players working together in dynamic ways to share knowledge and accelerate progress. Health-sector governance should promote collaboration and solidarity between countries, not encourage competition and gatekeeping in the development of lifesaving products. The pandemic has already demonstrated why we need such a shift in perspective.

With a common-good approach, the state, businesses, and communities would come together to agree on the rules and obligations pertaining to ownership and knowledge-sharing, guided by the goal of maximizing the benefits to global health. This calls for an entirely new governance framework that systematically steers innovation and knowledge toward attaining specific societal goals.

Guaranteeing affordability and access is essential. There is little public value in creating vaccines that are so expensive that only a limited number of people can access them. To prevent vested interests from unduly influencing policymaking, equitable access should be established as an explicit objective of the health-innovation process from the start.

Delivering on ambitious public-health missions will require governments to restore some balance between private incentives and the public interest, which implies the need to devise new legal blueprints for patents and other intellectual property. And to create more symbiotic partnerships, governments should redesign the foundational contracts on which public-private partnerships are built. Patent pools, pledges, or new licensing opportunities can all be used to foster more knowledge-sharing, and compulsory licensing could help countries make the best use of the knowledge that emerges from research.

More broadly, when companies benefit from public investments, those subsidies, guarantees, loans, bailouts, or procurement contracts should come with conditions designed to achieve the greatest public benefit. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, for example, had to meet the condition of being storable at normal temperatures, which made it far easier to transport and distribute globally. By contrast, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine came with the market-discriminating feature of requiring storage between -80° and -60° Celsius.

Likewise, procurement contracts can be made conditional on knowledge-sharing, reinvestment of profits, or better working conditions for a firm's employees. As the "strings" attached to public funds, such conditions are the key to ensuring concrete social returns on investment.

The spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19 highlights the interconnectedness of the modern world and the importance of international coordination in achieving shared goals like health for all. Governments around the world should join efforts to impose firm rules on pharmaceutical companies' intellectual property, pricing, and manufacturing.

As the world's largest funder of health innovation and purchaser of medicine, the US government is uniquely positioned to steer the global economy toward a more inclusive and healthy future. But it will have to do more than just publicly shame pharma executives. They are operating in a system that has been designed for their benefit. When the system changes, so will their behavior.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All and a co-author (with Rosie Collington) of *The Big Con: How the Consulting Industry Weakens Our Businesses, Infantilizes Our Governments, and Warps Our Economies* (Penguin Press, 2023).

# OP-ED

By Jon Hyman, Shannon Kellman

## Mitigating Mozambique's Humanitarian Nightmare

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - Since 2017, Islamic State-affiliated insurgents have wreaked havoc on Mozambique. Terrorizing the northern province of Cabo Delgado, the militants have killed more than 6,500 people, ravaged infrastructure, recruited child soldiers, and committed sexual and gender-based violence. All told, the conflict has displaced nearly one million people.

The World Food Program Representative and Country Director for Mozambique has called the resulting humanitarian crisis a "catastrophe beyond epic proportions." Chief among the challenges facing the population is reduced access to health care. The insurgency has forced the closure of nearly half of Cabo Delgado's health centers. As thousands of Mozambicans move south to escape the violence, their basic health-care needs are straining the infrastructure in other provinces, thereby weakening the country's overall health security.

The international response has been substantial: the United Nations has appealed for \$437 million in humanitarian aid to address the massive internal displacement in northern Mozambique, and the United States, in particular, is funneling considerable resources into the country. In addition to the sizeable US development assistance allocated to Mozambique each year, USAID announced a plan last July to provide \$116 million in supplemental aid - mostly for food and nutrition purposes, though some funds are intended to meet health-care needs.

But President Joe Biden's administration would be wise to make health security and infrastructure a central focus of its Mozambique strategy, using the new direction and flexibility offered by recent legislation. Guided by lessons from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress passed the Global Fragility Act (GFA) in 2019 to prevent violent conflict and promote stability around the world. Enacted with broad bipartisan support, the law mandates officials to rethink US foreign policy in conflict-prone areas and to deepen engagement with civil society and local partners.

In April 2022, the Biden administration designated Mozambique a priority country under the GFA. Over the next ten years, the administration plans to transform US government agencies and pursue partnerships at all levels as a means to tackle instability and prevent future outbreaks of violence in Mozambique and other target areas.

But crafting an effective response to displacement is difficult, and many efforts to reach Mozambique's most vulnerable have been hindered by logistical challenges like flooding from cyclones and widespread destruction of infrastructure. Poor health systems, in particular, are a roadblock to recovery and development, and the State Department's 2020 strategy for implementing the GFA makes clear that health - alongside education, food security, and other factors - is a critical and necessary component of a stable country. On this front, Mozambique falls short.

Mozambique faces the current crisis from an already precarious position in terms of public health. It has an alarmingly high infectious-disease burden: HIV affects 13% of the adult population, and the country has Africa's second-largest HIV+ population. Moreover, annual tuberculosis (TB) cases increased by 35% between 2011 and 2021, and around one-third of the population contracted malaria in 2020. Since both HIV and TB require continuous and often supervised medical treatment, hospital and clinic closures and forced displacement make it even more difficult for patients to access the necessary care. The combination of existing health challenges and the ongoing insurgency has only intensified the country's fragility.

To be sure, Mozambique has made great strides in addressing its many public-health concerns, which could provide a helpful model for interventions under the GFA. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria estimates that, through grants totaling more than \$2.2 billion to fund infectious-disease programs and efforts to strengthen Mozambique's health system, nearly three million new HIV infections and 220,000 TB deaths were averted between the Global Fund's founding in 2002 and 2021.

Such successes illustrate for US policymakers the importance of civil-society engagement in a long-term strategy. Together with the Mozambican Ministry of Health, three organizations - Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade, Centro de Colaboração em Saúde (CCS), and World Vision International - implement the Global Fund grants in Mozambique. These organizations perform essential functions, like providing medicine, educating community groups on prevention techniques, and funding community health workers.

Building ties with local partners isn't a foreign approach for the US, making the Biden administration's strategy to address the causes of fragility that much more attainable. In fact, under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the US partnered with CCS in 2010 to begin the transition to a country-led HIV- and TB-response model. Since then, CCS has expanded its clinical work from Maputo, the capital, to eight other provinces, including Cabo Delgado.

USAID also works with civil-society groups like PIRCOM, an inter-religious organization that mobilizes leaders from several faiths to improve communication about pressing public-health challenges. Through local-level and individual engagement, programs like PIRCOM can help mitigate widespread distrust of health workers and medical professionals - a significant barrier to health-care delivery. By broadening this engagement with actors on the ground as part of a comprehensive strategy toward fragile states, the Biden administration can emphasize local ownership.

Mozambique's record of successfully integrating civil society into its health system shows that targeting this area can save lives while improving the country's economic-development prospects. The Biden administration should focus on health aid to capitalize on this record, and the GFA is a valuable tool for doing so. Although fighting in Cabo Delgado has subsided, the urgency to act has not. The US must make its move in Mozambique. The right approach there will save lives and could serve as an important example for mitigating future crises elsewhere.

# OPINION

By Ilona Szabó, Tasso Azevedo

## Our Climate Future Hinges on Forest Preservation

**R**IO DE JANEIRO - Even before taking office in January 2023, Brazil's president Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva promised to end illegal deforestation in the Amazon. He also revived partnerships to amplify financing of forest protection and announced a presidential summit of Amazon Basin countries to be held in Belem in August. Lula is determined to accelerate global cooperation to protect the world's largest tropical forest, including by leveraging the newly capitalized Amazon Fund which is supported by Norway and Germany. President Lula and his environment minister, Marina da Silva, have made the protection and preservation of the Amazon a priority.

They have a point. The value of intact forests, especially the vast tropical biomes in the Amazon, Congo, and Indonesia, is immense. And without them, there is no hope of keeping global warming below 1.5° Celsius. To protect them (and, by extension, the Earth), we believe a new incentive mechanism that provides direct compensation for forest conservation can help.

Most climate scientists agree that the only way to reverse global warming is by phasing out the use of fossil fuels and ensuring that more greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere than are emitted. Reducing emissions is simply not enough.

The key is to protect forests, which cover 31% of the Earth's land surface (around four billion hectares) and are a net carbon sink, absorbing an estimated seven billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year even after discounting all emissions from deforestation and other land-use change. Tropical forests, in particular, have a global cooling effect of 1° C when both carbon-locking and biophysical effects are considered.

One solution for safeguarding our forests involves planting trees to compensate for those that have been felled. Several bold initiatives, including the Trillion Trees initiative and platform and the so-called Great Green Wall stretching across the width of Sub-Saharan Africa, are focused on restoration efforts.

But equally important is the conservation of old-growth tropical forests, which can serve as an important carbon sink when they are well preserved. Conversely, unprotected forests can start degrading and become a source of net emissions, as is occurring in parts of the Amazon Basin.

One increasingly popular approach is to place a monetary value on keeping trees in the ground. While investment in carbon credits, biodiversity credits, and similar instruments is expanding, these market-based approaches are still not deployable at the speed and scale required to slow the degradation of the world's major tropical forests.

All of these strategies - from planting trees to carbon offsets - are necessary to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. But reducing emissions, reversing global warming, and regenerating natural systems requires a bolder and more comprehensive plan that guarantees, at a minimum, halting deforestation by 2030 and adding a billion hectares in forest cover by 2050.

The question is how to accomplish such ambitious objectives. We believe that a global incentive mechanism - in short, paying individuals, entities, or even states to preserve forests - is the best way forward.

To have an impact at scale, this innovative source of financing should encourage accelerated investment by ensuring that conservation yields tangible returns. The incalculable value of forests needs to be acknowledged, and investment on a truly unprecedented scale must be mobilized immediately.

The basic premise is to create a system that pays annually per hectare of forest preserved. To fast-track implementation, the mechanism's design must be simple and intuitive. For example, an individual, community, company, or government entity could register a private lot or publicly owned land in an accessible registry, after which land tenure and forest integrity can be verified.

Payment would be made if a registered hectare of forest is still intact the following year - a relatively easy outcome to monitor using remote sensing. Penalties should be steep: for every registered hectare that is deforested, the beneficiary would lose the equivalent of payment for 100 hectares, for example, or even the total registered area.

Obviously, funding a project along these lines requires global buy-in and coordination. One idea is to implement a type of carbon tax - a fee on every barrel of oil, ton of coal, or cubic meter of gas produced on the planet.

Despite the difficulty of executing such a scheme, we can't afford to throw up our hands. Every day, the trees in the Amazon rainforest release 20 billion tons of water vapor into the atmosphere. To put this in perspective, the amount of electricity required to turn the same amount of water into steam would, according to one estimate, equal to the output of 50,000 power plants, or roughly a trillion dollars a day.

We must not view tackling deforestation as a long-term goal, as though we could afford to emit now and capture later. Climate change won't wait. If we get the incentives right and act quickly, we can preserve more than 1.8 billion hectares of existing tropical forest while also accelerating the regeneration of an additional one billion hectares. Preserving our existing forests is the right choice, because it is the only way to safeguard our collective future.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Just give it a thought: Is Ms. Gbowee alone?

(A repeat from our files)

Forget the politics and sycophancies which have characterized the reactions to the Leymah Gbowee's recent resignation and comments. Forget the reports that she has parked her personal belongings from her base in Accra, Ghana and has moved her entire family to the United States.

You know what, just don't think of the fact that her remarks against President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Paris, France during the launch of the French Edition of her book, was to raise her profile and add value to her book. Just forget that for now.

Okay, if you don't want to be a little decent, consider her comments at one of these important events in her life, especially at the launch of her book as a marketing strategy that would fuel the rush for a big sale and heightens curiosity about her persona.

Hey, think about it this way too, she was also marketing herself and you will not like to miss such an opportunity to turn the world's cameras on you. No, I don't think so.

Now, after you have given this saga all the negative and positive interpretations, do a self examination of some of the condemnations or tongue-lashing she continues to receive..." she is unpatriotic...."

Go ahead; ask yourself; do Liberians understand what it means to be patriotic? If they do, can anyone point to just one patriotic Liberian out there? Somebody who will not seize the moment out there even if it means condemning the entire nation to public ridicule just to win the hearts and minds of people most of whom do not understand the socio-political dynamics of the Liberian society to get international ovations?

Plain and simple, Ms. Gbowee thought she had the opportunity and she made the best use of it, period. She felt at that point it was the best time to tell the entire world what she felt about her nation and president.

President Sirleaf, Ms. Gbowee claims has not done enough to tackle corruption. She voiced out her disgust about President Sirleaf appointing her sons to lucrative jobs, and the president's failed action on national reconciliation among several reasons for her resignation from the government's reconciliation commission.

Even though, the government will argue that the situation is not as Ms. Gbowee has said. But don't worry about that, the government will always put a little polish on things to make them look as though they were sparkling.

Come to think of the criticism of Ms. Gbowee being "unpatriotic." I think it is very unfair because there is not one patriotic Liberian out there. Everyone here puts self-interest first.

Think about it this way, do you know how many Liberians went on resettlement abroad, basing their stories on falsehoods and narrating events which did not occur here and implicating individuals they never saw?

Do you know that some of these accounts equally contributed to this nation being branded as a failed state, even though for a second there, the power that be at the time bore 99.9% of the reasons for such classification because they did do some of those devilish things to most people.

Come on, go ahead, think of it, patriotism is not just in words it is shown in love for country. People here pretending to be patriotic are only doing so because of what they can get from the country, not what they can give to the country.

Look, the evidence is all around us here today. Those who had trumpeted the patriotic song are the ones today "putting self interest above country." But don't forget, they were just yesterday commanding jobless boys and girls on the streets.

You know what, you can criticize Ms. Gbowee inside out, but leave the aspect of patriotism out, because there is not one in this nation of ours. We see ourselves as total strangers here who believe our loyalties are to a foreign nation, which is while most of the leaders here will first buy or mortgage property abroad and choose to stay at rented premises.

You don't believe this, do you? checklist your leaders; see the properties they have here and compare that to what they own abroad and see whether any of them would not do just what Ms. Gbowee did in terms of turning her back on her country. Where do you think those extra millions are being siphoned to?

They are government officials, but bulk of their resources is expanded abroad where they get their wives and kids. No wonder most of their policies are rhetoric and would not stop at any opportunity to stir up trouble.

"Oh, why you can't send your child right here Ghana to go to school," they would argue, while complaining of poor education standard here. But who should improve it? When your kids are not here you don't mind.

Walk down the streets of Monrovia and interact with the street vendors; those who are not even in school all they wish is to seek greener pasture abroad. There are many who have told me in the face, if I were you, I would never have come back to this country.

Do yourself the good, leave the aspect of patriotism out of this debate, because she is not the only guilty person on this count; we see this country as a farm and are willing and ready to say anything that will get us off this plantation.

Don't give me that look, it's the fact. When most of your officials are here to hustle and pay mortgages and rental fees elsewhere, what loyalty do you enjoy from them? They will steal and continue to do so, because the minute they are out of job, they are out of here! - Nothing to keep them here.



By Jones Mallay

## LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## Can Former VP Boakia Truly Unseat Incumbent Pres. Weah alone?

The pending removal of incumbent Pres. Weah from office through the ballot box by Former VP Joseph Nyumah Boakia should not be associated with any form of political sympathy, feelings, or thoughts; it is an earnest business that involves practical and well calculated political steps, vigorous action, and pragmatism, if the former VP is taken this political dual very seriously.

VP Boakia and UP participants should know that incumbent Pres. Weah is not slumbering. He is fully awake and strategizing to stop VP Boakia and the rest in the political queue. But incumbent Pres. Weah knows that the second term, from an African President's perspective, is a do-or-die ritual.

The understanding here is that if Pres. Weah still fails to complete his second term he would be classified as feeble, unfit, and weak in the eyes of some of his colleagues Africa's Presidents especially those in West Africa who are closely watching Pres. Weah with eagle eyes whether he will bring them disgrace by failing to win his second term in office.

Another dark cloud currently hanging over Pres. Weah's head is the countless utterances made by most Liberians at home and abroad, that Pres. Weah is a footballer with no presidential experience or qualification to be President.

Ironically, these words still reverberate in the ears of Pres. Weah up today's date with some levels of annoyance on his part. Nonetheless, Pres. Weah failure to secure his second term in 2023, would strengthen Liberians' argument that indeed Pres. Weah did not qualify then, and he does not now.

In such unbearable political circumstances, Pres. Weah would untangle all his political strategies to secure his second term as practical political evidence to his fellow Liberians that their utterances about him being a footballer and unable to manage the Presidency of Liberia were undoubtedly a comprehensive and unproven political hypothesis against him.

With the aforesaid political variables, it could be possible for the election pendulum to swing in VP Boakia's direction sincerely. But the question remains: Can VP Boakia work this out alone as he did in the 2017 election? The defeat of Pres. Weah would undoubtedly come with a complex political price tag from VP Boakia. Nonetheless, VP Boakia must go beyond the concept of feeling and political sympathy as it now the norms.

The VP will need to intertwine his political activism with analytical facts, social hypotheses, political variables, and the re-examination of past political errors made in the then October 10, 2017, general and presidential elections and make an effective corrective change now rather than later for the 2023 elections.

VP Boakia should not sit supinely and relax on the belief that the entire country is in deep political sympathy with him to unseat President Weah; therefore, he should do nothing but wait on October 10, 2023. October could surprise the VP either positively or negatively if he sits doing nothing.

The former VP should understand that the Liberian people's feeling and political sympathy will work for him if they translate it into votes but he must wake up to enforce that. Feelings and political empathy cannot unseat President Weah in the 2023 elections.

In this breath, the former VP must be proactive, energizing, and crisscrossing remote villages' towns, and cities in Liberia, starting with Monrovia. He will need to have persistent political rallies in slums such as New Kru-town, Slipways, West Point, sitting with those oppressed masses, and meeting with the Yanna-boys and market women in the market to rekindle their hopes for the 2023 election. He must begin making political proclamations by making some political slogans to energize his hopefuls.

The former VP looks reserved, diplomatic, and politically introvertive. He appears to be very excellent at translating policies into action and enforcing them, but that is not needed now what is needed now is political action on the road.

The former VP turned out to be more of a pragmatic technocrat rather than a traditional politician having rallies and moving with the masses from street corners to the football stadium. One analytical fact is that the former VP seems to be very overconfident that Pres. Weah will be defeated.

However, the former VP Boakia did make four significant errors in 2017 which he must correct before October 10, 2023 general and Presidential elections: First, he handpicked James Emmanuel Nuguay as not marketable VP in 2017, who did not have a substantial dependable constituent. Second, VP Boakia never campaigned extensively outside Monrovia to identify with the suffering masses.

Third, the UP was virtually inactive and with irregular funding. Fourth, the VP had always come to the US and staged fundraising for his foundation rather than his UP party. Fifth, in 2017 the VP failed to build a political coalition, the UP went alone in 2017. Would UP make changes?

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## FAO encourages more responsible private sector investment

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has encouraged private actors to ensure that they make their investments more responsible, responsible, and sustainable to the people, the planet, and their profits in the agriculture sector.

FAO Representative in

"[While] governments have the primary responsibility to provide such an enabling environment through the development or reform of policies and laws ... FAO encourages private actors to ensure that they make their investments more responsible, responsible and sustainable to the people, planet, and their

Njie added. Njie continued that governments have the primary responsibility among other things to provide incentives that promote, facilitate, and regulate investments. Mariatou noted that the government while acting as a gatekeeper on behalf of her citizens, may wish to ask if it wants a particular investor to invest or operate in the country.

"Do we want this particular investment in our country? Is it aligned with our overall goals for sustainable development?" Njie continued.

To build back better, Njie stated that FAO is committed to contributing to a more equitable, resilient, and performing post-COVID-19 economic growth, enabled by an enhanced investment screening process that will facilitate more responsible investment in the agriculture sector of Liberia. "This will make the private sector more viable to lead the much-anticipated growth."

In Liberia, said the FAO official, "building back better" requires more responsible investments in agriculture and food systems, which are the principal sources of income and employment. Njie said noteworthy, is the fact that investment that is responsible does not occur in a vacuum.

"It requires a strong enabling environment that "sets the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Liberia, Mariatou Njie challenged the private sector at the start of a high-level strategy engagement meeting held on 13 April 2023 in Margibi County on boosting responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in Liberia for sustainable development. The meeting focused on results, lessons learned, and ways forward.

profits," said Njie.

The FAO official said complementarily, one of the many critical roles governments have in the context of agricultural investment is that of a gatekeeper. "Governments can decide which investors are allowed to conduct business in their country and what types of investments are permitted,"

## We will close the leakages

-Alphonso Gaye vows to revive LWSC

The newly appointed Managing Director of the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC), G. Alphonso Gaye, has pledged to close "all leakages" that are retarding the corporation's revenue-generating capacity.

Speaking Monday, April 17, 2023, to a cheerful workforce, friends, relatives and colleagues, Senator Gaye promised to do all he can, working with his management team, to ensure the LWSC truly functions as a major income-generating State-Owned-Enterprise, to make the entity viable and boost government's financial capacity.

He warned employees, both top and junior managers and directors to stay in their lanes and refrain from facilitating any unwholesome acts such as conniving with customers to cheat the corporation.

Gaye also urged the employees to improve their work habits and resist temptations that could put them in rocky ways with

management. Amid cheers, Senator Gaye promised to improve the working conditions of employees and bring the LWSC on par with other viable public corporations such as the LPRC, NASSCORP, and the NPA, in terms of financial viability and employees' welfare.

Managing Director, Mr. Duannah Kamara, thanked the employees for their time together and urged them to give their unflinching support to his successor to move the entity forward.

Deputy Managing Director for Administration, Mosearay Momoh, described Senator



LWSC new MD Gaye pictured first from left

He commended President George Manneh Weah for the confidence reposed in him and promised to justify the President's trust and expectations. Earlier, outgoing

Gaye as a long-time professional father whose appointment he believes, would turn the entity around in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

## Book review for Dance of My Father- A new collection of short stories

The master storyteller comes afloat again. Nemen M. Kpahn takes us down memory lane. In this his newest work we find ourselves in the heyday of the Liberian civil war; where prominence, education and dignity were trashed down and replaced with arrogance, illiteracy, bravery, and revenge. We see in his eclectic mix of characters Woto who refused to go to school but was given an opportunity for social advancement and power by the AK-47 Rifle to experience pseudo dignity for the first time in his life. With the cheering of his boys and the influence newly found power he now possesses, he decided to humiliate his childhood friend,

boy was acting on the orders of an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) soldier who came to loot Vahn Town. What transpired between Ma Wready, the sassy grandmother, the young man chasing her chicken and the soldier we keep your holding your sides from laughter. Away from the cruelty and hilarity of war time Liberia behind rebel lines, the great storyteller then takes us away to a faraway land. Flying from Conakry through Paris and Honk Kong, Kpahn takes us to Australia. Australia, a strange country that is a country and continent at the same time is a unique land of its own. Going to Brisbane to be reunited with his long-lost love, Miatay finds a shocking revelation that will keep you on your toes,



Flashback: Liberia civil war

Dahn by mercilessly flogging him almost to death. Dahn chose the path of education early in their childhood and even got a University Degree. This paved his way into becoming a principal of the prestigious mother high school in Tappita district. This is an enviable position in life that the likes of Woto would never taste. Thus barbarity, defiance and arrogance is his only way out. Nevertheless, Nemen is not only interested in writing about injustice he also deftly handles the complexity of human relations during difficult times in West Africa.

Even though in the time of war we mostly cry, however, there is so much to make us laugh our traumas away. So, Ma Wready in Vahn Town spiced our spirits up with her chicken drama. She was ready to pounce on a local boy for grabbing her chicken only to find out that the

The thing that hurt us most are the things and people closest to us. Nemen writes about the pains of Miatay and the disappointment of Veronica in a poignant way that readers can identify with. In this book stories like "It all ends Good, "And will he come back to me?" plus more will make your day. Thank you again my best friend for serving us a wonderful meal in a great read I find the characters in the book believable and real almost jumping off the page. Nemen could do more by increasing the number of stories in the book. If you have read Nemen's previous collection of stories called A Naked Lie & other stories which chronicles life in postwar Liberia, you will not be disappointed in the writings of one of Liberia's emerging writers of his generation. Grab a copy of this great anthology today by Nemen M. Kpahn available on Amazon or Village Tales Publishing website.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Ex-boyfriend stabs woman to death

By Thomas Domah /Nimba County

A senior female student of Geolinda Community School in LMPC Community, Ganta City, Nimba County has been

A mother of one, she was stabbed multiple times in her chest and on her neck by 34-year-old suspect Jefferson Yeakeah Boyer.

The action is believed to

station.

The death of the late Lucelia Gonleseh brings to ten, the number of women who have died at the hands of their lovers from domestic violence.

According to an eyewitness, suspect Jefferson Yeakeah Boyer abandoned the deceased in Ganta for Monrovia for a year without any concern or communication.

However, upon his return, he saw his ex-girlfriend walking with another man.

A few months ago, a 33-year-old male resident of New Barracks Community in Sanniquillie, Ernest Gbatoe, stabbed his wife Yei Gargbay, 35, to death, while Grace Menlor, who was a senior student of Youth Academy High School, was also stabbed to death by Prince Tokpah, who later killed himself.

The wife of a former district commissioner, Yei Bontuah, was stabbed to death by her boyfriend along Sanniquillie-Karnplay, while in Gbahn, a month-old baby was raped and subsequently died.

Police sources told the NEW DAWN that over seven women and girls have reportedly suffered death as a result of stabbing, among others.



stabbed to death. 20-year-old Lucelia Gonleseh was pronounced dead by medical Doctor after she was rushed to hospital.

The late student Lucelia Gonleseh met her demise in Ganta over the weekend after reportedly being stabbed multiple times by her former boyfriend.

have been triggered by jealousy after Suspect Boyer saw her walking with another man in the main street of Ganta towards her home.

The suspect is currently facing police investigation in Sanniquillie City, Nimba after angry mob threatened to set ablaze at the Ganta police

Starts from back page

## Nimbaians seek new political

President, we were the ones that make you president," said Dokie.

"So we are recommending to your Dr. Peter Weato to serve as one of the biggest doors that our people can pass through to have their problem solved," Dokie continued. He boasted that they have a medical doctor and a philanthropist that spends over two hundred thousand from his pocket to make things happen for the county. "We have over twenty hospitals in Nimba County and many developments through him. And so, there is a need to make Dr. Peter Weato the biggest door in Nimba County," Dokie said.

"We say no to one door. We can't be a county that is second in population and we

have just one ... door. So we are saying, we have come as 'Nimba for Weah 2023' to open more doors that tomorrow if you can't use the other, you can have options," he added.

According to him, Lofa County and several other counties are having numerous access and political contacts to the presidency and attracting developments and opportunities.

However, Dokie claimed that it's unfortunate that Nimba doesn't have a good relationship with the presidency.

"Today, if you leave from Lofa County and come to Monrovia, you have so many doors that are open from Lofa County that can link you to the presidency," he noted.

He stated that you can pass

through Monrovia Mayor Jefferson Koijee, Montserrado Representative Thomas Fallah, Montserrado Senator Saah Joseph, and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chairman Mulbah Morlu.

He also named the President's Chief of Protocol Madam Finda Bundo, among others, as Lofa County's links to the presidency.

"Each of those people serves as a gate to the opportunity of their county and citizens," he stated.

"But today, in Nimba County, we have just one door of opportunity to the Presidency. If you want something to happen for you and that one door can't do it, you are finished," said Dokie. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

Starts from page 6

## We will close

the right direction.

For his part, the Board Chairman of the LWSC, Bishop George Harris, recounted Senator Gaye's long years of experience in both the public and private sectors, a

guarantee that he (Gaye) would turn around the Corporation.

Before going to the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation, G. Alphonso Gaye served in the following capacities:

Commissioner of Customs &

Excise, Minister of Transport, Director General of the General Services Agency (GSA), and Senator of his native Grand Gedeh County for nine years.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

## VP Taylor rallies Southeasterners to participate in BVR process

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has been rallying citizens in Southeastern Liberia, calling on them to take advantage of the Biometric Voters' Registration (BVR) process which kicks off on April 21, in their counties.

VP Taylor made the rallying call as she acknowledged the deplorable road conditions in the region as a major challenge for the people.

Madam Taylor was quick to share her experience with the locals admitting that the most critical thing that she has experienced while traveling to the southeast is the condition of the roads.

She observed that people traveling through the interior part of the country do not need to be told about the bad road

However, VP Taylor boasted of ongoing developments and improvement under the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime, while urging southeasterners to put aside issues that could deprive them and take advantage of Phase Two of the voters' registration process which ends begins on April 21, and ends on May 11.

"My people, you are seeing what this government is during and the only way we can continue what we have started is for you to take advantage of the BVR in order to vote come October 10." VP stressed.

"We are working, and I am happy with the level of work I have seen. I want to encourage the people of Maryland to put away their differences and register to vote. I am also encouraging our local party leaderships to unite," Mrs. Taylor



condition. She emphasized that this is the reason why people in the region need to register to vote in the upcoming election to maintain the present administration to enable the government to continue doing good things, especially the Southeastern road pavement.

Bad road networks have posed problems for citizens in the Southeast, with the current government entirely comprising of southeasterners from the President, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Senate Pro-temp, Chief Justice, and dozens of high-profile members of the Executive Branch from the Southeastern region, it was thought that the situation would have been different 5 years on, but it remains worst off than it ever was. The Vice President recently toured Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru Counties. President George Weah, Senate Pro-temp Albert Chie, and Deputy Speaker Fonati Koffa all hailed from Grand Kru, one of the least developed counties in Liberia. Despite its flourishing vast savanna grassland, the county like many in the Southeast remains remote.

continued. She informed citizens in the area that the Weah-Taylor administration has put the construction of roads on top of its development agenda.

Madam Taylor narrated that there are several ongoing road construction projects in some parts of the country. She named the Ganta-Saclepea, Saclepea to Tappita, Ganta -Loguatuo, and Gbarnga-Mendikorma road constructions as some of the major road construction projects currently being undertaken by her government.

On other issues, VP Taylor expressed joy, saying it was the first of its kind to see more young Liberians taking advantage of education.

However, she said more needed to be done in terms of more scholarships and other forms of support for females at high school and university levels.

She announced several scholarships for students, especially females in High Schools in the county and at the government-run University in the southeast. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah

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# Français

## Plus de 1,4 million d'électeurs enrôlés à ce jour

Les résultats préliminaires issus de la phase un de l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs indiquent que plus de 1,4 million de personnes se sont jusqu'à présent inscrites

Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru et Maryland, devrait débuter le 21 avril.

Les résultats préliminaires de la première phase, publiés le lundi 17 avril, montrent qu'au moins 64 395 personnes se sont

ville portuaire autrefois en plein essor avec une population estimée à 293 557 habitants, a signalé au moins 157 712 électeurs inscrits. Bassa est classé au sixième rang des comtés les plus peuplés du Libéria, selon le recensement national controversé du logement et de la population LISGIS 2022.

Le comté de Grand Capemount, doté d'or et d'autres ressources minérales, avec une population estimée à 178 798, a enregistré 86 589 électeurs inscrits. Margibi, un comté qui s'étend massivement dans le comté de Bong et est largement connu pour abriter toutes les principales plantations de caoutchouc du pays, sur sa population estimée à 304 946, environ 184 425 personnes se sont inscrites pour voter.

Le comté de Montserrado, qui est considéré comme la «Banque mondiale» pour sa forte population électorale cosmopolite, avec une population estimée à 1 920 914 d'habitants, a enregistré 891 201 électeurs.

Selon la NEC, sur le nombre total d'électeurs enrôlés à ce jour dans les six comtés de la phase un, 711 410 sont des femmes, tandis que les hommes sont 723 799.

Des observateurs disent

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pour voter lors des élections générales et présidentielles prévues le 10 octobre.

La première phase a eu lieu dans cinq comtés dont Montserrado qui abrite la capitale Monrovia.

La deuxième phase de l'opération qui concerne les 9 autres comtés, à savoir les comtés de Lofa, Bong,

inscrites dans le comté de Bomi. Le comté, classé onzième comté le plus peuplé, compte environ 133 668 citoyens, dans l'enclave minière autrefois bruyante. Gbarpolu, un comté riche en diamants et en bois avec une population estimée à 95 995 habitants, a enregistré un total de 50 887 électeurs.

Le comté de Grand Bassa, une

## L'opposant Joseph Boakai dans le collimateur de la justice libérienne

Un tribunal libérien a convoqué le principal chef de l'opposition et ancien vice-président libérien, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, dans le cadre d'un affaire foncière.

Par voie d'assignation, le tribunal de droit civil de Monrovia a ordonné à M. Boakai de comparaître devant lui au plus tard le 27 avril 2023 pour répondre à une requête en suppression de nuage sur un titre de propriété déposé contre lui.

L'assignation du juge Kennedy Peabody fait suite à une plainte déposée contre M. Boakai par Arnold Kandakai qui réside aux États-Unis.

Kandakai a déposé la plainte par l'intermédiaire de son avocat en fait Reginald Bright pour une pétition pour la suppression des nuages sur le titre de propriété.

M. Boakai est le principal

rival du président sortant George Manneh Weah lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives d'octobre 2023.

L'homme de 78 ans a perdu l'élection présidentielle de 2017 face à M. Weah lors du second tour, et il est toujours considéré comme le principal candidat aux

élections cruciales de cette année.

Bien que cela puisse sembler être un combat juridique entre deux citoyens privés, cette affaire foncière déposée contre Boakai quelques mois seulement

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## Éditorial

### L'augmentation des cas d'avortement au Libéria est in-quiétante

L'avortement est illégal au Libéria, mais selon une étude, près de 40 000 avortements ont lieu dans le pays par an, détruisant des vies innocentes. Cette tendance devrait attirer immédiatement l'attention du gouvernement, des militants des droits et des institutions religieuses, car ce sont des meurtres qui se commettent.

Selon l'étude nationale sur l'avortement au Libéria, en moyenne 38 779 avortements ont lieu au Libéria chaque année, c'est-à-dire 30 femmes âgées de 15 à 45 ans sur 1 000 avorte chaque année.

« Le taux d'avortement n'est pas homogène. Il varie selon les régions. Le centre-nord du pays a le taux d'avortement le plus bas (6,6 sur 1000), tandis que le centre-sud a le taux le plus élevé (49,7/1000). En outre, 14 555 femmes ont reçu des soins pour des complications liées à l'avortement dans les établissements. 67% ont eu lieu dans des établissements publics et 74% dans des établissements de niveau pri-maire », indique le rapport.

L'étude conclut que l'avortement provoqué est courant dans le pays, la plupart des cas étant liés à des grossesses non désirées.

Quelque chose semble manquer ici. Il semble y avoir une éducation limitée sur les rapports sexuels pré-coces et les risques associés. Les écoles, les églises et les mosquées et les maisons, sans oublier les hôpi-taux et les établissements de santé ne semblent pas jouer leur rôle.

La science reproductive doit être enseignée dans les écoles et les institutions religieuses à travers le pays pour résoudre le problème des grossesses non désirées qui, selon le rapport, est à l'origine de la prévalence des avortements dans la société.

Le rapport met l'accent sur la diffusion et la mise en œuvre complètes de la loi révisée sur la santé publique du Libéria dans toutes les communautés, les centres de santé avec la participation des décideurs politiques pour assurer l'éducation et la sensibilisation de la communauté sur le danger de l'avortement à risque, tout en tenant compte du statut juridique existant de l'avortement et du point d'accès actuel.

Les parents et les tuteurs ont leur part de responsabilité dans cette pratique non autorisée car il semble que la discipline a été jetée par la fenêtre et que les enfants, filles et garçons, sont laissés à eux-mêmes pour expérimenter sexuellement ou pratiquer des relations sexuelles précoces et incontrôlées. N'oublions pas que la famille est la première cellule de la société, et si la discipline y est compromise, la société perd l'équilibre.

En bref, il nous faut limiter le nombre de grossesses non désirées grâce à une éducation vigoureuse et soutenue dans tous les secteurs de la société afin d'inverser la tendance.

Cela nécessite le soutien du gouvernement, en collaboration avec des partenaires. Plus tôt nous commencerons, mieux ce sera pour notre population, car le rapport n'a pas révélé le nombre de décès survenus lors de ces avortements.



# Français

## Plus de 1,4 million d'électeurs

que le nombre d'électeurs enrôlés aurait pu connaître une augmentation spectaculaire, n'eurent été les problèmes techniques qui ont découragé bon nombre d'électeurs potentiels après être restés dans les longues files d'attente.

Dans le district #4 de Grand Bassa par exemple, un échange de SMS entre un aspirant représentant potentiel et un commissaire de la NEC qui a été vu par notre journaliste confirme le problème.

La première phase de l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs a commencé le 20 mars et s'est terminée le 9 avril, malgré les appels au prolongement du délai en raison des problèmes techniques qui ont caractérisé le début du processus.

La présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Brown-Lansanah, a reconnu les problèmes techniques, mais elle a déclaré que le problème est commun avec l'introduction de toutes les technologies.

"Il n'est pas rare que des pépins et d'autres défis surviennent lors des premières étapes de l'utilisation de nouvelles machines pour mener le processus, et nous en avons eu plusieurs", a-t-elle admis.

Cependant, elle a expliqué que "pour résoudre

les problèmes potentiels de la deuxième phase, la Commission a organisé le 13 avril un atelier interne d'une journée sur les leçons apprises pour comprendre les défis rencontrés lors de la phase un, tels qu'une mauvaise connexion et une mauvaise alimentation de l'équipement. Après avoir identifié les causes profondes des défis, la NEC, a-t-elle ajouté, prend des mesures correctives pour améliorer la deuxième phase.

Par ailleurs, la commission électorale a indiqué qu'elle a commencé la déduplication et l'arbitrage des fichiers des électeurs des six comtés de la phase un.

La présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Brown-Lansanah, a expliqué que le but de cette opération est de supprimer tous les cas d'enregistrements multiples et d'autres processus de nettoyage des données.

Selon elle, les portes de la Commission électorale nationale sont ouvertes à tous les observateurs et toutes les parties prenantes, y compris les techniciens des partis politiques dûment accrédités, pour observer le processus de déduplication et d'arbitrage.

Par ailleurs, la patronne de la NEC a ajouté que le déploiement des kits BVR dans les comtés de la phase deux a commencé le dimanche 16 avril. Elle a fait savoir que tous les kits et matériaux ont quitté l'entrepôt du siège de la NEC pour leurs destinations respectives dans le centre, le nord et le sud-est du

## L'opposant Joseph Boakai dans le

avant les élections peut susciter plus d'intérêt politique.

Et cela pourrait être dû à l'homme impliqué - un ancien vice-président et l'actuel chef du principal parti d'opposition Unity Party (UP).

Le lundi 17 avril 2023, le juge résident du sixième circuit judiciaire Kennedy Peabody a averti que M. Boakai risquait d'être arrêté s'il ne se présentait pas devant le tribunal comme mandaté.

« Il vous est par la présente ordonné de convoquer le défendeur nommé ci-dessus dans la [cause] ci-dessus intitulée d'une action à comparaître devant le trimestre de mars, A.D. 2023 [du tribunal], le même étant le 20e jour de mars A.D. 2023, à la heure de 10h00 ». En outre, le tribunal a averti qu'un jugement par défaut sera rendu contre M. Boakai s'il ne respecte pas le mandat.

L'assignation a été signifiée au porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité le jeudi 13 avril 2023.

## Les élèves commettent des crimes à Margibi



Des lycéens d'un certain nombre de lycées du comté de Margibi, y compris le Booker Washington Institute (BWI), sont impliqués dans des activités criminelles à la fois sur leurs campus et dans les communautés, rapporte la police du comté. Il s'agit des élèves d'environ quatre écoles secondaires de Kakata, Margibi.

Selon la police, des étudiants du Booker Washington Institute, du lycée Lango Lappaye, de la Giddings Polytechnic Academy et de la Shella Love Foundation, entre autres, sont impliqués.

Le commandant de la police de Margibi, Dixon Paul Kemokai, a nommé le vol de biens, la toxicomanie, le sexe juvénile et le vol de téléphones portables, entre autres, comme des crimes commis par les élèves. Le commandant Kemokai a déclaré que les plaintes des élèves sont généralement transmises au poste de police par les autorités scolaires, les camarades de classe et les résidents de la communauté et que le dossier avec la police prouve que les élèves viennent des écoles identifiées dans le comté. Lorsque ce journal a contacté séparément les autorités des écoles, elles ont toutes confirmé les rapports de police concernant leurs établissements.

L'IBB, par la voix de son porte-parole Sam Sumo Barber, qui est actuellement en congé annuel, a déclaré que bien qu'il n'ait aucun rapport à ce sujet de la part du bureau du vice-principal pour les services des élèves, souvent lorsque des problèmes de

ce type se produisent sur le campus, l'administration prend généralement des mesures nécessaires pour éviter une répétition.

Le directeur de l'école secondaire Lango Lappaye, M. Morris Farweneh, a raconté au NEW DAWN qu'ils expulsent normalement les élèves impliqués dans des activités criminelles.

Le principal Farweneh a révélé qu'en 2022, l'administration a expulsé environ trois élèves et cette année, quatre autres élèves ont été expulsés pour activités criminelles.

Il a dit que beaucoup de mauvais garçons s'inscrivent à l'école dans le seul but de voler et de ternir la réputation de l'institution.

Le directeur général de Giddings Polytechnic Academy, Sekou Kanneh, a déclaré que, conformément au manuel de l'école, l'administration a expulsé quelques élèves il y a quelque temps pour vol, et depuis lors, il n'y a jamais eu de récidive.

M. Kanneh a appelé les écoles de Margibi à embaucher des conseillers, qui seront chargés d'aider à parler aux élèves qui pourraient vouloir s'égarer comme le fait actuellement son institution.

L'administration de la Fondation Shella Love a déclaré quant à elle démenti le dernier rapport de la police. Elle a toutefois reconnu qu'il y a environ cinq ans un de leurs élèves a été impliqué dans un vol.

## Bénin : le président Patrice Talon remanie son gouvernement

Au Bénin, le président Patrice Talon a remanié son gouvernement, ce lundi 17 avril. Il s'est séparé du Garde des sceaux, un de ses proches qui a géré les dossiers sensibles de poursuites post élections de 2019 et de 2021. Deux autres ministres, celui de l'Énergie et celui des Transports ont été remerciés.

La sortie du ministre de la Justice était attendue, depuis la semaine dernière. La presse et les réseaux sociaux avaient donné l'alerte sur son limogeage. Samedi, Patrice Talon expliquait à la presse qu'il fallait attendre un acte officiel pour confirmer son départ. Il a pris le décret juste après le départ du président rwandais, Paul Kagame, en visite au Bénin.

Séverin Quenum, proche et fidèle des fidèles, est ainsi remplacé par l'avocat Yvon Detchenou, ancien bâtonnier. Le départ de Séverin Quenum est une surprise. Le président remanie, en effet, rarement son équipe. « On ne change pas une équipe qui gagne »,



dit-il souvent.

L'équipe gagnante a perdu trois joueurs dont le Garde des sceaux qui était la voix de son maître. Il assumait aussi ses actes, même quand les avocats des opposants de Madougou et Aivo le critiquaient. Les raisons de son départ ne sont pas évoquées.

L'autre surprise est le départ du ministre de l'Énergie, ancien haut fonctionnaire d'électricité de France. Il pilote, depuis 2016, les réformes du secteur. Patrice Talon a nommé, à sa place, un de ses collaborateurs comme secrétaire d'État.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Reducing maternal mortality in Liberia: The Tiawan Gongloe Prescription

By S. Karweaye

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Liberia is alarming. According to the recent Demographic and Health Survey, the MMR of Liberia is 742 per 100,000 live births, one of the world's highest rates of maternal mortality. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), has listed Liberia as having one of the highest rates of deaths for newborns in the world: 76 in 1,000 births under-five mortality rate. The lifetime risk of a Liberian woman dying during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, or post-abortion is 1 in 10, in contrast to the lifetime risk in developed countries estimated at 1 in 5300.

According to the 2023 Liberia National Abortion Report, about 38,779 induced abortion cases per year occurred in Liberia. The study focuses on measuring abortion, the magnitude of complications, cost, and quality of post-abortion care. A range of social, economic, health, and other family pressures and complications are responsible for these abortions. Hemorrhage is responsible for 25% of deaths among women that suffer from maternal mortality. Life expectancy in Liberia is currently established at 64 years according to the WHO 2022 data; specifically 64 for males and 66 for females.

Several studies have shown that there cannot be any meaningful development within a country without a robust health plan to cater to its citizens. Health is wealth. A healthy nation is a wealthy nation. However, in Liberia, it is a well-known fact, the country has problems with managing its healthcare delivery systems to the benefit of the majority of citizens. Due to poor management of available funds, the healthcare system in Liberia has fallen into even more dislocation and decay under the George Weah-led administration. What is more, the situation is complicated by systemic corruption, institutional inefficiency, and the lack of enough health facilities.

Our poor healthcare delivery system is complicated by our existing political elite who rather than develop the public healthcare delivery system in terms of good functioning health facilities, and services; concentrates on the construction of private alternatives and heavy reliance on foreign alternatives. In April 2001, the African Union (AU) countries met in Abuja and set a target of, at least, 15% of their yearly budget to improve the health sector. However, the Government of Liberia has failed for the umpteenth time to meet the Abuja Declaration by African leaders in 2001 and the WHO to allocate, at least, 15 percent of yearly national budgets to health.

While the public health delivery system decays in Liberia, the private sphere expands and gets all the benefits. The scarce resources are deployed to foreign trips for either medical tourism or to take advantage of better services. It is not unusual to hear of political elites that fly abroad for medical treatment and have their spouses go abroad for childbirth. For example, Finance and Development Minister, Samuel Tweah and his wife were flown to Ankara, Turkey for a medical checkup after a road accident. When the custodians of state power and the elite lose confidence in existing healthcare and other institutions, it usually culminates in a deeper disregard for health issues that affect the populace.

Based on these figures, it is obvious that Liberia's record is very poor. Liberia's record is below countries such as Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. Successive governments in Liberia have indeed paid less attention, to varying degrees, to improvements in the area of maternal and infant mortality. The inconsistency in government policy especially in the area of primary health care delivery, insufficient staffing of health facilities, and lack of the necessary infrastructure resulting in avoidable delays- lack of

beds, water, drugs, doctors, electricity, and other equipment to aid childbirth, high cost of well-equipped private hospitals, poor salary to hospital staff leading to a rather lukewarm or lackadaisical attitude of staff, and poor hospital or healthcare administration are the results of the high infant mortality & maternal mortality rates in Liberia.

## Tiawan Gongloe Prescription

.Tiawan Saye Gongloe, standard bearer of the Liberian People Party (LPP) and the presidential aspirant has listed priorities for fixing Liberia's ailing health sector. He promised to tackle lots of issues, including Liberia's degenerating roads, educational sector, national security, economy, women & youth empowerment, and most importantly to reform the country's failing health sector.

While discussing his 10 points agenda titled: "A Better Liberia Is Possible" during his recent visits to Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Sinoe, Grand Kru, and River Cess counties, Gongloe said his administration will tackle the

supervision and monitoring. There are instances where substandard, fake, and dangerous drugs and equipment have been imported at the expense of mothers and infants. Also, he mentioned the reliance on non-professionals to provide leadership in the health sector is equally a problem and that will never be tolerated when he is elected president of Liberia.

Gongloe's healthcare agenda includes supervision, coordination, and monitoring of healthcare delivery by agencies and institutions to ensure effective and efficient deployment of resources, implementation, and deliverables to all Liberians. He promises as president he will make surprise visits to hospitals and clinics around the country and request medical checkups and if medical supplies or pieces of equipment are not available to perform his exam due to theft or mismanagement, he will immediately fire the head of the hospital or clinic and send them to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) for further investigation and persecution. Gongloe emphasizes investing in health education to promote general



high infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in Liberia. Gongloe promised free healthcare services for all pregnant women, children under 5, and Liberian citizens 65 years above. He said under his administration, public health centers, clinics, and hospitals would become the best in the country.

According to Gongloe, Liberia's public healthcare system has virtually collapsed. He promised to facilitate the upgrading, equipping, and staffing of hospitals, clinics, and health centers all over Liberia. So how does the LPP's Standard Bearer intend to achieve this? Gongloe's plan includes increasing budgetary allocation to the health sector to meet the 15% recommendation for yearly health budget by African Heads of State (Abuja Declaration) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in order to adequately fund the healthcare delivery system so it can deliver effective, good quality, and affordable services to all Liberians including free healthcare services to pregnant women, children under five, and citizens 65 years above.

While in the southeastern region of the country, Gongloe told the people that corruption is impeding Liberia's growth and development and in the health sector it is not unusual for monies budgeted for healthcare projects to be diverted to other purposes in the national or personal interests of the official in charge or for approved funds to be poorly utilized due to poor

awareness of health rights, promote disease prevention and improve public knowledge on obligations on health services in Liberia.

The challenges to his healthcare agenda will be the implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism, availability of medicines and consumables in health centers; promotion/communication on free healthcare to targeted vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children under five, and citizens above 65 years old), and improved facilities and modernization of health structure, but Gongloe is determined. According to him, if the healthcare delivery system isn't suitable for the president then it isn't suitable for the citizens. He argued that the impact of his plan would include increased use of health services, increase in the number of assisted childbirths, a downturn in maternal and child mortality, improved health of women, children, and elderly as well as improved household living standards in Liberia.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe entering presidential politics in Liberia is a breath of fresh air. He is arguably the only presidential aspirant that has laid out a comprehensive agenda for revamping the healthcare delivery system while reducing Liberia's high infant mortality & maternal mortality rates. and orderly improving the quality of life and lengthening the life expectancy of the Liberian people.

# We wanted election, not coup

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe says it's heartbreaking for people to blame the Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL) and the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA) for Liberia's dark days, arguing that they wanted elections, and not a coup.

support or mastermind the overthrow of the Tolbert government. Cllr. Gongloe explained that President Tolbert told the country and the True Whig Party that elections would have been held in 1983.

Besides, Cllr. Gongloe said President Tolbert had promised that he was not running for office. Gongloe

some people were arrested and jailed," Cllr. Gongloe recalled. "MOJAL came up with a statement and told them that they were wrong. They were in jail on April 11, the night the coup d'etat took place. Also, MOJA was ... on their installation program," Cllr. Gongloe disclosed.

According to him, they got angry because they "wanted an election to unseat the government."

He said he could have worked in the government, but he was not satisfied. "We wanted to defeat the True Whig Party at the pool," he noted. Gongloe claimed that the True Whig Party knew that it would not have won the election because the progressive started defeating them on the campus of the University of Liberia and they wanted to take it to the national scene.

He disagrees with people who blame the progressive movement for Liberia's backwardness. Gongloe insisted that Liberians are aware that the progressives advocated and gave their lives for the peace, democracy, and multi-party system they are enjoying today.

He said the problem with Liberia is that the major change agents have been unfortunate to be elected to power.

"Actually, freedom is not free. During that time, we advocated for social justice, economic empowerment, multi-party democratic system, freedom of expression, and security, among others," said Cllr. Gongloe.

"If today, people see us as responsible for Liberia's backwardness, there is nothing wrong about that because even in the Bible the children said that to Moses," Cllr. Gongloe noted.

# Weah rallies first-time voters

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has inspired young Liberians to choose the right leader that will govern them, encouraging them to exercise their constitutional rights to register and vote this October.

Meeting with young Liberians on Monday, 17 April 2023 at his Jamaica Resort off the Roberts Filed highway, Mr. Weah described the first-time voters as a formidable force at the ballot.

He also told them that they are essential to his re-election bid, urging them to desist from violence and seize the opportunity to exercise their constitutional rights by registering to vote for a good leader that will better their lives and improve their future.

President Weah said the young potential voters have the power to make their voices heard in massive numbers once again and determine the fate of key issues at stake across the nation.

praising him for his love toward them.

They also thanked President Weah for the massive development across the country, including the payment of exam fees for Liberian students sitting the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) since his ascendancy.

In an interview with some of the participants, they expressed confidence in the leadership of President Weah, saying they are eager to participate in pending elections to ensure that he is re-elected on a one-round victory. They described President Weah as a selfless leader of the young people. Siafa Kamara, a 19-year-old first-time voter, told the New Dawn that he was eager to vote in the election.

He said he wants to make sure that President Weah is re-elected. He praised President Weah's leadership in improving the lives of young people, providing better education, improving infrastructural development, and sustaining peace.

"I'm eager to vote for President



Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe

Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Appearing on local broadcaster OK FM Tuesday, 18 April 2023, the renowned Liberian human rights lawyer gave his reflection on the 1980 coupe that killed then-president William R. Tolbert.

He said the progressives were very angry and disappointed when they heard the news that there was a coup and that Tolbert was killed and his government was overthrown.

"But for people to blame the progressive and MOJA members for the country's dark days and even accuse us of the overthrow of the government is very heartbreaking because we wanted [the] election to unseat the government, not through military means," Cllr. Gongloe said. According to him, at no time in history did MOJA and the PAL ever

argued that if the elections were held in 1983 as promised, either the late Gabriel Baccus Matthews or Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh would have emerged as the President of Liberia because they were extremely popular then.

He said the coup d'etat took place in 1980 and President Tolbert was killed while they were preparing for the 1983 elections.

Gongloe suggested that the 1980 Coup d'etat damaged the chances of Matthews and Tipoteh becoming President of Liberia.

"There were two progressive movements. We have MOJA and PAL. I was not part of the coup d'etat, but I still think that the coup d'etat was a rescue mission," said Gongloe. "I may be wrong but I think so. PAL, led by Baccus Matthew had a midnight march at the Executive Mansion and

## Starts from page 6 FAO encourages more responsible

scene" by providing clear rules, processes, and mandates for good of all the actors. For his part, German Ambassador Jakob Haselhuber said in Liberia, the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's unwarranted war against Ukraine have led to a further increase in the prevalence of poverty and hunger, estimated at 47.6% poverty and 38.3% hunger respectively. "We also learned yesterday that the children 0-5 years still suffer from stunting and wasting and the child mortality is still too high," said Amb. Haselhuber. He noted that even if these figures have come down, still 29.8% of children suffer from stunting and 3.4 from wasting. "I refer to children 0-5 years of age. That is a crucial age for the

development of a child and of a future citizen," he added.

Hence, the German Ambassador said it is critical to stimulate investments that will effectively contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger by creating decent jobs and conserving the environment.

According to him, stimulating such responsible agricultural investment requires strong institutional, legal, regulatory, and incentive frameworks, and requires the collaboration of all actors involved.

In particular, he said he was glad that this support has resulted in practical and actionable policy proposals such as the revision of the investment and investors

screening policy which is both critical to maximize opportunities and to minimize risks of investment.

He encouraged the Government of Liberia, FAO, and all other organizations, institutions, and individuals involved to further collaborate towards effective implementation of institutional policy reforms which will boost responsible investment that will benefit people, the planet and prosperity.



Pres. Weah

Most of the first-time voters meeting with President Weah were people who may have been ages 12-15 years when the incumbent ascended to the presidency in January 2018. In response to President Weah's plea, the young people reaffirmed their support for his re-election bid. The first-time voters overwhelmingly pledged support to President Weah,

Weah, who is down to earth leader, and for his goodwill towards us, and his heart for the country," said Fatu Flomo, a 21-year-old potential voter. "We want Liberia to be one of the best where the youth will have [the] smooth environment to learn and empower ourselves. We want someone who can build this country for us," said Philip Passawe.

### SURVEY NOTICE

Date: April 18, 2023

The general public is hereby informed that the Undersigned Surveyor has been authorized by Yamah L. Maltida to conduct re-survey one (1) lot of land lying and situated GSA Road, Zubah Town, Paynesville City, Montserrado County.

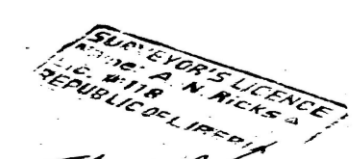
The resurvey will commence on Saturday, 22 of April, 2023, at the precise hour of 10:00AM.

Therefore, all adjoining and adjacent property owners are asked to be present with copies of their deeds, diagrams, and any title documents, to verify your claims in order to avoid encroachment.

This notice should claim the attention of:

1. Theophilus Kollimenie
  2. Yassah Kollie
  3. King Jauz
  4. James Teewon
  5. Mulbah S. Golanyon - Community Chairman
- And all concerned parties

Signed by  Registered Land Surveyor Lic: # 118



## Nimbaians seek new political godfather

By Lincoln G. Peters  
**L**ongstanding Nimba County political godfather and Senator Prince Y. Johnson is facing a political revolt by some of his kinsmen in their bid to crown a new political

their longstanding political godfather who had enjoyed their loyalty due to his rebel-era glory.  
 A former rebel leader, Senator Johnson is notorious for overseeing the gruesome murder of then-sitting

given presidential candidates, he faced accusations of allegedly trading Nimbaians' votes for his financial gains. Amid unsolved differences with Mr. Weah, Senator Johnson has broken political ties with the incumbent and has allegedly laid out some demands for his support to opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's presidential bid.

He is seen as the engineer to have his kinsman Senator Jeremiah Koung as a potential running mate to Amb. Boakai in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

But some of Senator Johnson's kinsmen appear to break away from him ahead of this year's elections as they project Dr. Weato as their political contact. The chairman of the group 'Nimba for Weah 2023' Mr. Shadrach G. Thomas Dokie said they are excited to announce Dr. Weato as the new political contact and gateway for the people of Nimba County.

"We have come to inform you, Mr. President, that after this election when Nimba County shall have given President Weah a resounding one-round victory, we can now walk to him and say, Mr.



Sen. Prince Johnson

godfather.  
 The Nimbaians, particularly members of a newly launched group named 'Nimba for Weah 2023,' has recommended Dr. Peter Weato as Nimba County's new political point of contact instead of Mr. Johnson.

Over the weekend, the group selected Weato as their political gateway to the county, disregarding Johnson,

president Samuel Kanyon Doe during Liberia's civil war.

Through the support of the majority of the voting-age residents of Nimba County, Johnson has served as kingmaker in previous elections that helped former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and incumbent President George Manneh Weah win their turns during run-offs. In each political support Johnson has

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