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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023	L\$185.4728/US\$1.00	L\$187.3361/US\$1.00


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

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 163 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

Who imported RIA drugs?



-Fake documents spread, as LRA handover narcotics to LDEA



Cummings's CPP takes over Margibi

CPP Leader Mr. Alexander Cummings

-As Thousands showed up for rally

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Continental News

US Military Resumes Drone, Manned Counterterrorism Missions in Niger

The U.S. military has resumed counterterrorism missions in Niger, flying drones and other aircraft out of air bases in the country more than a month after a coup halted those activities, the head of U.S. Air Forces for Europe and Africa said Wednesday.

U.S. negotiations with the junta, said General James Hecker, the top Air Force commander for Europe and Africa.

"For a while we weren't doing any missions on the bases. They pretty much closed down the airfields," Hecker said. "Through the diplomatic process, we are now doing - I wouldn't say 100% of

out, some missions are "not getting as much data, because you're not overhead for as long" because of the amount of fuel it takes to get out and back, he said.

The U.S. has made Niger its main regional outpost for wide-ranging patrols by armed drones and other counterterror operations against Islamic extremist movements that over the years have seized territory, massacred civilians and battled foreign armies. The bases are a critical part of America's overall counterterrorism efforts in West Africa.

The U.S. has also invested years and hundreds of millions of dollars in training Nigerian forces.

In 2018, fighters loyal to the Islamic State group ambushed and killed four American service members, four Nigeriens and an interpreter.

West Africa recorded more than 1,800 extremist attacks in the first six months of this year, which killed nearly 4,600 people, according to ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States.

The Islamic extremist group Boko Haram operates in neighboring Nigeria and Chad. Along Niger's borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara and al-Qaida affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin pose greater threats. VOA



U.S. and Niger flags are raised at the base camp for air forces and other personnel supporting the construction of Niger Air Base 201 in Agadez, Niger

Since the July coup, the 1,100 U.S. forces deployed in the country have been confined inside their bases. Last week the Pentagon said some military personnel and assets had been moved from the air base near Niamey, the capital, to another in Agadez. The cities are about 920 kilometers apart.

In recent weeks some of those intelligence and surveillance missions have been able to resume through

the missions that we were doing before, but we're doing a large amount of missions that we're doing before."

Hecker, who spoke to reporters at the annual Air and Space Forces Association convention at National Harbor, Maryland, said the U.S. was flying manned and unmanned missions and that those flights resumed "within the last couple of weeks."

The significant distance between the two bases also means that while the flights are going

Cameroon, CAR Blame Rebels for Kidnappings

Government officials in Cameroon and the Central African Republic say the number of civilian kidnappings has spiked along their borders, with armed gangs and rebels demanding as much as \$50,000 in ransom.

In addition to the abductions, the rebels and armed gangs loot markets and ranches and send villagers fleeing for safety, said officials in Cameroon's eastern border with the Central African Republic, or CAR.

Abdoulahi Bobo, a cattle rancher, said his two wives, three children and elder brother have yet to be found a week after they were taken to the bush by armed men. He said the abductors called him and demanded payment of about \$10,000 to secure his family's freedom.

Bobo spoke to VOA by messaging app on Thursday from Cameroon's eastern district of Ngaoui, which borders Mont Ngaoui, the highest point in the

Central African Republic. He said his family may have been taken to the mountain or neighboring forests.

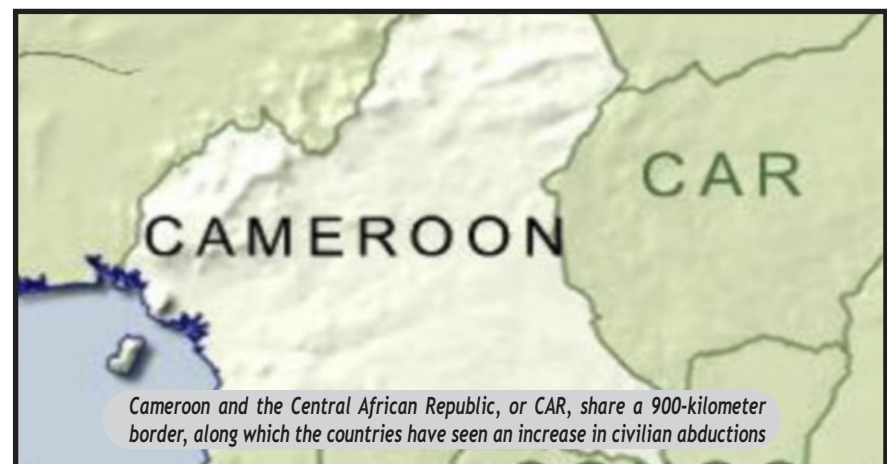
Cameroon and CAR said rebel attacks are reported on both sides of the border almost daily.

Oumarou Abbo, mayor of Nyambaka, the capital of Cameroon's Nyambaka district, said the rebels and armed gangs also attack remote communities throughout the district, so he has created militias in all the villages of his district to help government troops fight hostage takers. The militias are expected to report

strangers as well as places where rebels and armed gangs hide, he said.

Cameroon and CAR officials said that some armed rebels disguise themselves as people displaced by the ongoing armed conflicts in CAR.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission to CAR, known as MINUSCA, which has troops from Cameroon, this week said forces were deployed to border regions to fight the rebels and seize weapons the rebels abandon when attacked. VOA



Cameroon and the Central African Republic, or CAR, share a 900-kilometer border, along which the countries have seen an increase in civilian abductions

Malawi Extends Polio Vaccination to 15-Year-Olds

Malawi is extending the maximum age of children eligible for the polio vaccination from 5 to 15. Since the discovery last year of its first polio case 30 years after the country eradicated the disease, the number of cases has increased to five this year - the latest victim being 14 years old.

Malawi health authorities made the announcement Tuesday at the launch of the nationwide polio vaccination campaign that is targeting about 9.7 million children.

Beston Chisamile, the

secretary of health in Malawi,

said the children will be vaccinated on their doorsteps. "Our health workers will be visiting parents' homes and vaccinating [children]," said Chisamile. "We are aware that some of them were skipped in the previous vaccination phase, and we want to try and reach the majority."

Chisamile said the maximum age of children to be vaccinated was extended from 5 to 15 years of age after the discovery of another case this year of a 14-year-old.

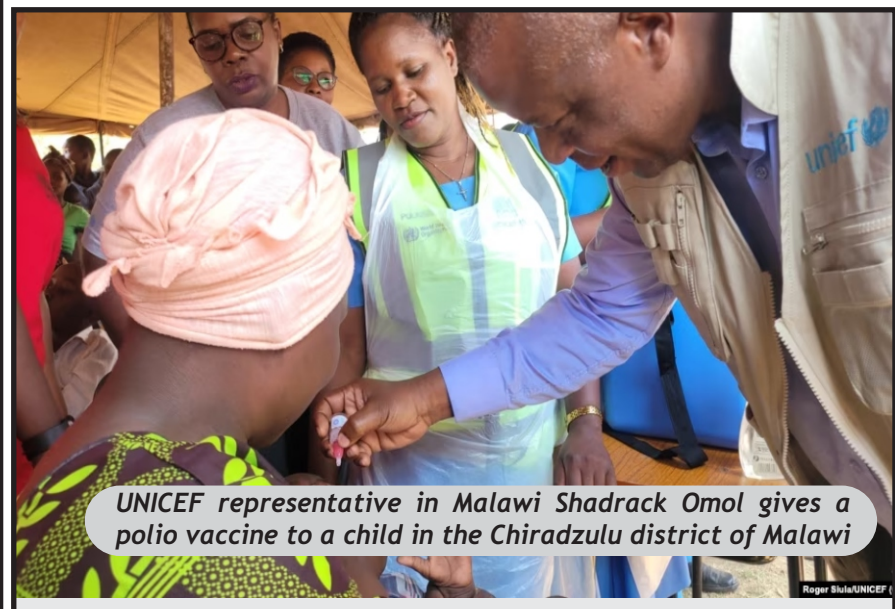
Polio resurfaces

Polio is a viral disease that causes irreversible paralysis and has no cure. The disease can be prevented, however, by the administration of effective vaccines.

Thirty years after it eradicated the disease, Malawi confirmed its first polio case in February 2022. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has increased to five.

Malawi is among several countries in Africa that have registered confirmed cases of polio in recent years.

The World Health Organization said in a statement released on August 30 that 187 confirmed cases of circulating variant poliovirus have been reported in 21



UNICEF representative in Malawi Shadrack Omol gives a polio vaccine to a child in the Chiradzulu district of Malawi

United Nations' children's agency so far has procured and distributed 10.2 million doses of the polio vaccine across all 29 districts and 865 health facilities in Malawi.

Omol also said UNICEF has installed 250 new refrigerators, repaired 125 broken ones, and distributed essential cold storage equipment.

Health authorities in Malawi have noted with concern, though, that some parents refuse to have their children vaccinated because of cultural and religious beliefs.

Authorities say this will impede efforts to meet vaccination targets.

George Jobe, the executive director of the Malawi Health Equity Network, told VOA that his organization has been educating people about the importance of vaccinating children against polio.

"We still maintain our plea and health education to those who don't believe in medication that they should be mindful of the right to the good health of their children," said Jobe. "The children will make their own choices when they grow up. But at the moment, parents must not apply whatever they believe in on their children." VOA

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EDITORIAL

Govt. must get to the bottom of the RIA drug bust

Ongoing investigation by the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency on the recent importation of several boxes of harmful drugs at the Roberts International Airport should not end up in another fiasco like separate consignments of cocaine valued at US\$100 million and \$45 million respectively that were imported in containers at the Freeport of Monrovia lately last year and early this year.

Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.

It takes the form of a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol.

Despite earlier denial by airport authorities that the boxes didn't contain harmful drugs, the Government of Liberia subsequently confirmed during the week that the consignment of boxes intercepted by a contingent of the Armed Forces of Liberia assigned at the airport actually contained illicit drug called Methamphetamine, not Moringa leaves, as the airport management had said.

Accordingly, the chief of security at the RIA Samuel Freeman, who reportedly took delivery of the consignment, has been suspended, pending full investigation.

However, given separate experiences from the cocaine case in which jurors found three key defendants not guilty and subsequently released by the court only for the government to go after them the next day without any trace of their whereabouts in the country will not be repeated.

Government stated in its statement that the Minister of Justice has, with immediate effect, ordered the Joint Security of Liberia including the LDEA, LNP and the NSA, to expand their investigations on the importation of Methamphetamine that is banned by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes, UNODC.

The State wants all those involved with importation of the illegal drugs to be brought to justice, but given experiences of the past, we take this call with a pinch of salt, as there seems to be lack of political will to get to the root of the matter, which is not good for the image of our dear country. The youth of Liberia are drowning in addiction to dangerous drugs that are decimating their future.

THE LATEST DRUGS, and the previous consignments of cocaine were smuggled at the country's main seaport and airport separately. This is disgusting! There has been a collusion in making such illegal importation right before the eyes of relevant authorities.

IT IS IN this light that we call for a well-intentioned, thorough investigation to bring out the real culprits rather than a cosmetic exercise that will sweep the actual issues under the carpet, only to present to the public, meaningless and inconclusive findings.

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COMMENTARY

By Wangari Muchiri,
Senyo Adorisha

Investing in Africa's Green Transition

BERWYN, ILLINOIS/NAIROBI - African leaders and global policymakers recently gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the inaugural Africa Climate Summit to discuss the challenges of funding climate solutions. The summit showed that private-sector investments, in particular, could go a long way toward accelerating the continent's energy transition.

Efforts are already underway to attract more foreign capital, especially from the United States. When US Vice President Kamala Harris visited Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia earlier this year, she announced nearly 30 private-sector and philanthropic commitments to support climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation across Africa. But the continent's needs are far from being met. An estimated \$700 billion will be required to develop green energy in Africa, and yet it received only 2% of the \$2.8 trillion invested globally in renewables between 2000 and 2020.

The main barrier to increasing green financing is risk perception: many private-sector actors are concerned about Africa's investment climate. It is no secret that many African countries are contending with inadequate infrastructure and bureaucratic red tape, both of which could deter foreign investors. But these countries are also working to remove such obstacles. Kenya, for example, is in the process of pursuing structural reforms to enhance private-financing mechanisms.

Moreover, the economic mismanagement and internal strife that have come to characterize some African countries are not representative of the entire continent. Africa is open for business.

Countries such as Morocco and Kenya, in their efforts to spur the green transition and drive sustainable development, have introduced financial incentives, including tax breaks, and implemented policy reforms to attract and mitigate risk for private investors from the US and elsewhere.

Perhaps more importantly, Africa's energy sector has already put itself on the path toward a carbon-free future, rather than waiting on foreign capital.

Kenya is one of the top global producers of geothermal energy, and Morocco is home to the world's largest concentrated solar power plant.

Next year, Egypt is set to build a wind farm that could generate enough electricity to meet domestic needs and export to Europe and Saudi Arabia.

Alongside large-scale projects, numerous privately funded micro-grids are supplying much-needed power to hospitals and even entire villages.

Many of these renewable projects have been funded by both the public and private sectors, although investment from the former tends to be higher. Africa's success in creating clean-energy markets, despite relatively low levels of foreign private investment, is a testament to local officials' dedication to building a more sustainable future.

With an abundance of solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro energy resources, Africa has immense investment potential and can offer reliable returns to private investors. And many African countries are eager to create the conditions that will allow investors to tap into their clean-energy markets. For example, in Namibia, which averages 300 days of sunshine per year, the state-owned power utility attracted foreign capital by authorizing independent power projects and holding solar-energy auctions at competitive rates.

Scaling up clean-energy investments in African countries will bring additional benefits, including more sustainable economies and faster progress toward development goals.

The biggest benefit, though, is that clean energy addresses the root cause of climate change:

burning fossil fuels. Africa is bearing the brunt of the crisis, despite accounting for the smallest share of global greenhouse-gas emissions.

As a result, by 2050, global warming could cost the continent \$50 billion annually. It would be wiser to invest in renewables today, rather than pouring billions into adaptation down the line.

Until private investors recognize Africa's abundant renewable-energy potential, funding will continue to pour into oil and gas. Expensive fossil-fuel assets would serve only to increase African economies' dependency on volatile energy prices and imports and accelerate global warming.

There is another option: over the past decade, African countries have created sustainable and efficient clean-energy markets that protect investors and drive development on the continent's terms.

Private investors in the US and elsewhere should take advantage of this momentum to capitalize on the growth potential of renewables, expedite the green transition, and create a healthier future for all.



Lord, Uncle Sam Paa-da eat and worry lol

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmm, Uncle Sam Paa, they just leh to spoil people party too oo. Weh play they na come from again with sanction bisnay again?

People here enjoying all the vibes coming from all over the place. You see somer the partisans themsef, you want join, then they come bring sanction bisnay inside again-ay lor.

Da this one they can call putting sand in people gari oo. Da only putting sand in gari, dis is what they called eat and worry. So leh all lor them just be there.

Father, da small thing, you na hear the Footballer and him people say they will win first round, the Oldman and him owner people say they will win first round, then Taxi Driver say, yor say whatin-I will win first round too. Can you imagine? Da weh play all lor them will win first round eh?

Hmm, Father, you asking me? No wonder Uncle Sam coming to put sand in their gari to spoil the party.

So, my son oh, the way Uncle Sam na talk na, I wonder if all lor them will still be passing around here with chopping one round.

Uh, Father, Uncle Sam na stopping them from saying they will win first round oo. Uncle Sam just saying, they mon make sure da no cheating wahala come inside it. Wen they put cheating bisnay inside na, da the time Uncle Sam say, they will release the dragon in the room.

Hmm, I know dis one will scare them small.

Ayaka, Father da it you talking slow leh da? Da one can't stop the sun from shining oo. The Old man and him people say they na joking oo, they will eat the thing one round. Taxi Driver say loka this Oldman ay, da me chopping first round. You joking! I wonder where they coming from with their one round bisnay?

But Father, you na hear the Footballer and him people too? They were the first people to bring dis chopping first round bisnay, so the orlor people na joined them.

Um, this one da na small wahala oo. No wonder Uncle Sam na put mouth inside.

Yes, oo Father, because the way people who want to chop president are running around with dis first round bisnay in dis highly forested village with plenty people fighting to chop president, I wonder how somebody will chop one round-aah my name oo.

Bor da it you talking slow leh da so. Hmm, but leh talk so and talk so oo, ay look leh Uncle Sam smelling something ooh. Father, da it you talking slow leh da so.

Bor wait oo, so you want to tell me all the noise people making around here, they sitting on town bomb? Da Fire! No bush shaking.

You na know da somer the noise people causing that so, so vlah. Ley people say, yor na hear it before, yor will hear it, hear it, till it stick. You na copy code, I tire ya.

OP-ED

By Jan-Werner Mueller

The Siren Song of Climate Authoritarianism

BUDAPEST - This summer - with its record temperatures, deadly floods, and raging wildfires, which in Canada alone destroyed the equivalent of all the trees in Germany - might have felt like a final warning: without urgent and drastic action, the current climate emergency will become an inescapable climate disaster.

Some might be tempted to think that we have reached a point when our only chance of mounting a sufficiently rapid and potent response to the threat is to embrace decisive state authority, even outright authoritarianism. But the notion that ecologically minded authoritarians will outperform democratic leaders on climate is a dangerous fantasy.

Concerns about democracies' capacity to act swiftly and efficiently are nothing new. Government that allows all to participate (in theory, if not always in practice) makes for an imperfect and slow-moving system. Influential players can often veto actions that the majority supports. On the other hand, the view that irrational masses wield too much power - long expressed sotto voce - has become entirely salonfähig in the age of Donald Trump. For example, voters tend to punish politicians for taking measures to prevent catastrophes, and reward them for appearing heroic during a disaster, even though disaster relief is far more expensive than prevention.

In addition to well-known prejudices - many as old as Plato's writings - one can argue that some of democracy's benefits do not count for much in the climate emergency. Democracies pride themselves on the fact that every decision can be revisited - that policies can be updated and improved, and that the losers in one election can become winners in the next (and thus have reason to keep playing the democratic game). But climate-related decisions have major, irreversible consequences, so even if bad choices - such as doing too little - are revisited later, serious damage will have been done.

Other contemporary criticisms are blunter. Democracies are based on compromise, but bargains often turn out to be incoherent, especially in multi-party systems, because too many different political players want to get their way. Germany's current governing coalition would appear to be a case in point. Correcting such incoherence takes time, which democracies might have under normal circumstances, but certainly do not have when the planet is becoming hotter and more apocalyptic practically by the day.

Another key concern stems from the de facto dominance of business interests in capitalist democracies. Given that climate action will inevitably harm at least some capitalists' interests, these interests seem likely to prevent the necessary steps from being taken in time - or perhaps ever.

Now, with the climate crisis escalating fast, unabashed calls for more authoritarian decision-making are increasing. Some advocate a more technocratic approach, and hold up China as a shining example. (The irony that China is the world's largest greenhouse-gas emitter is apparently lost on them.) Others - notably, the Swedish thinker Andreas Malm - envision a novel form of Leninism-cum-War Communism.

These proposals raise obvious questions, which their proponents never quite address. If, for the sake of climate action, power is concentrated in the hands of a state that does not answer to the people, what would prevent abuses of that power? Why, in the absence of any mechanisms of accountability, would an authoritarian regime actually tackle climate change at all? Does one really expect the powerful interests that are currently impeding climate action not to be just as powerful, if not more so, under a climate-autocracy?

Authoritarian regimes are notoriously corrupt. So, the notion that such a system would be free of "special interests," and run by neutral, rational technocrats, is implausible. In fact, far from bolstering climate action, a shift toward authoritarian-style decision-making would likely make things worse.

Climate authoritarianism might also backfire in less obvious ways. In a polity with any amount of freedom, opposition is inevitable. If the authorities deem new restrictions necessary to quell criticism or resistance, they may well end up eroding other basic freedoms, including the freedom to produce and exchange potentially transformative ideas.

Imagine this. A group of climate scientists decry the climate dictator's policies as insufficient and try to mobilize others to demand stronger action. In an attempt to restore "order," the dictator imposes measures that curtail academic freedom and freedom of association. Now, not only are experts less able to influence the state's climate response; they might not have opportunities to develop or share ideas and innovations that could enhance our collective ability to meet the climate challenge.

True, none of this necessarily means that democratic systems are particularly well-equipped to advance climate action. Instead, one might conclude that there are no good political instruments at all. But this neglects a key point: the obstacles to effective climate action in today's democracies are not inherent. On the contrary, they are inconsistent with democratic ideals, and in a well-functioning democracy, should be removed.

The fossil-fuel industry's disproportionate influence on the political process, for example, is not only damaging to the environment; it is also fundamentally undemocratic. Even without the urgent need to address the climate emergency, citizens would have good reason to demand change. The conclusion is clear: if we do not get serious about the climate emergency, we will not save democracy, and if we do not take democratic ideals seriously, we will not save the climate.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Archbishop Jallah pledges to lead by honesty

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

He notes that if Liberia as country must get developed, integrity must be high on the agenda of every Liberian, including people in both the public and private sectors.

He urges Liberians to take a sober reflection and uphold their integrity despite challenges they may encounter

had been praying for Liberia for years but will not involve in acts that will undermine the promotion of integrity, accountability, transparency.

Dr. Jallah, who officially took over as Archbishop of the Grace Outreach Ministries over the weekend, lauded the Grace Outreach Ministries and his family members for the opportunity given him to serve, calling on them to keep him in prayers as he continues to maintain the spirit of improving the Ministries.

At the same time, the Archbishop hails members of the A.M.E Church of Liberia for the training imparted into him during his early days in Ministries something, he notes, got him up to the task for ministry work. The ceremony brought together family members, top religious leaders and organizations including the Liberia Council of Churches. Also consecrated during the ceremony include Rev. George G. Davies, Founder and General Overseer of the Word of Faith International Ministries as Bishop, Rev. Timothy B. Gibson, Founder and General Overseer, Miracle Praise International Ministries, as Apostle; Rev. Lionel M. Smith, Resident Pastor, Grace Outreach Central Church, as Bishop, and Rev. Zazama Killie, as Bishop, respectively. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

The newly consecrated Archbishop of the Grace Outreach Ministries in Paynesville, Dr. Ola W.B. Jallah, has promised to practice honesty in the discharge of his duties. Addressing the enthronement,



consecration and affirmation ceremony as Archbishop of the Grace Outreach Ministries in collaboration with the Liberia Ministries Network, an ecumenical Christian organization that comprises several churches and other religious groups in Liberia, Archbishop Dr. Ola W.B. Jallah said his work in Ministries will go beyond just offering prayers for the nation, but making decisions that will not compromise his integrity.

along the way. The newly consecrated Archbishop Jallah emphasizes that the churches of Liberia have a major role to play in putting the country on par with countries across the globe in terms of socio-economic growth and infrastructural development by highly upholding honesty, self-integrity and standing against corruption. Archbishop Jallah further promises that he will use his position as Archbishop to respect other archbishops that

Lofa Superintendent blames Boakai, others

-for county's deplorable roads

By Kruah Thompson

The Superintendent of Lofa County, Mr. William Tamba Kamba, blames former officials, including Unity Party Presidential Candidate, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, the late PRC Secretary General Abraham Kollie, and former Vice President Harry Moniba, for the underdevelopment of Lofa, a situation that has been a source of frustration and concern for citizens there.

In a recent interview at his residence in Mount Barclay, Montserrado County, Supt. Kamba did not mince his words while lamenting the

Joseph Boakai. These three individuals collectively held the presidency, and they should have played a significant role in advancing development and providing opportunities for sons and daughters of the county", he pointed.

According to him, the people of Lofa have endured treacherous road conditions for far too long, and it is only right that they hold those who held positions of power accountable for the situation.

He notes that what Lofa County received from the former Vice-Presidents were primarily unfulfilled promises. However, he says the CDC-led government of President Weah has broken that pattern by empowering citizens of Lofa, who according to him, occupy key governmental positions more effectively than any previous administration. Providing a historical account of the neglect of Lofa's roads, he explains, "Under the stewardship of President Weah, 70 kilometers of road have been paved from Gbarnga to Salayea. Now, people can complete the journey in five hours, whereas in the past, it used to take 12-13 hours to travel from Monrovia to that particular area."



deteriorating road infrastructure in the county.

"By this time, Lofa should not be struggling for paved roads because the county has produced three vice presidents, including the late Abraham Kollie, Harry Moniba, and Amb.

He underscores that it is imperative to shed light on those responsible, including Ambassador Boakai, who he observes, held significant political positions in previous administrations, but did nothing to address the county's poor infrastructure. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Give Weah a red card

-Cummings tells voters

By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr.

The political leader of the Collaborating Political Parties or CPP, Mr. Alexander Benedict Cummings says Liberian Voters should give President Weah a red card for playing intentional foul on the political field of play. He said this should be done during 2023 elections.

Cummings made the call while speaking at a locked down Nancy B. Doe Sports Pitch in Kakata, Margibi County during the official launch of the CPP Campaign on Thursday September 14.

He indicated that George Weah is a footballer who knows that if a player intentionally plays a foul and causes serious injury, the person will get a red card.

He cautioned supporters and sympathizers that for a better Liberia, they should vote him for the presidency and vote candidates that are contesting on his party's ticket.

The CPP supporters locked down Kakata as they marched to the stadium in a very huge crowd. They paraded from the Bookers Washington Institute or BWI to the Barcolleh Health Center Junction in Kakata as they proceeded at the Nancy B. Doe Sports Pitch.

Our reporter said the turnout for Cummings in Margibi is far larger than any recent rally hosted in the county.

During the program, Mr. Cummings was endorsed by the folks from the People's Liberation Party or PLP claiming to be the majority block of the party in Margibi.

He was also given a key of Margibi by the county leadership of the CPP declaring him as the political godfather.



CPP Leader Mr. Alexander Cummings

Weah's off to New York

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Amid ongoing campaigns for the 2023 Elections, President George Manneh Weah is off to New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly. President Weah and delegation left here Thursday, September 14, 2023 via the Roberts International Airport in lower Margibi County to honor the annual global assembly, the last in his first term. Mr. Weah, who is seeking a second term amid huge criticism, for his government's poor performance, ranging from insecurity, economic hardship to frequent importation of drugs, among others, faces 19 other candidates for the Presidency. Despite mounting criticism from the opposition, Mr. Weah has been vigorously campaigning across the country, telling electorate that he's the most suited for the job, having already served nearly six years and wants a second term to leave behind what he terms a lasting developmental legacy after his

exit. President Weah fresh from campaign trail in Bong County, Central Liberia, wasted no time in heading for the airport for New York.

The 78th UNGA is being held under the theme, "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and the sustainability for all." President Weah is expected to address the General Assembly on Wednesday, September 20th to make a case for Liberia's evolving democratic process. He is also expected to have sideline discussions with strategic bilateral partners in the interest of the people of Liberia. While the President is away, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs G. Wesseh Blamo, will chair the cabinet in close consultation with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

President Weah is expected to return home on September 28, 2023, at the conclusion of campaigning activities. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Electricity regulators take outreach to Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) has embarked on an extensive community outreach in

Melchizedek Toe, youth, women, and LIB-Energy Incorporated, among others.

The exercise was aimed at providing the Commission an opportunity to listen to consumers' concerns and

of Commissioners, Lawrence D. Sekajipo, stressed that the primary job of the Commission is to protect customers and service providers across the country and the operators especially, LEC to ensure that electricity is safe, stable, reliable, and accessible.

He said the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission is a statutory body created by the 2015 Electricity Law to oversee and regulate the electricity sector in the country.

He said the aim of the outreach is to provide information on the works of the Commission, complaint guidelines, tariffs, customer service and procedure for issuance of licenses to operators.

Dr. Sekajipo noted that electricity is life, and the Commission has a responsibility to give back to Liberians through electricity regulation with the gull knowledge that services are not free, users must pay.

He pointed out that the dream of the commission cannot be achieved if consumers of the electricity are by-passing meters and stealing current in their



Maryland County following a daylong engagement with citizens.

The daylong engagement held in Harper City and Pleebo respectively on Wednesday, September 13, brought together cross section of citizens, including local authorities headed by Superintendent George A. Prowd, Harper City Mayor

to interact with them. Concerns range from quality services, electricity, pricing and news of a new company seeking license from LERC.

Harper City Mayor Melchizedek Toe welcomed the Commission and urged citizens to listen keenly and get a clear understanding of the LERC's working.

The Chairman of the Board

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Koijee upbeat about CDC victory

By Lewis S. The

The Secretary General of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, Mayor Jefferson Koijee, says no member of the opposition bloc is capable to take Liberia back to the 14 years of civil unrest that took over 250,000 lives. "These elections must be won on the basis of hard work and not on the basis of applying scare tactics and intimidation because absolutely, nobody has the capacity to take Liberia back to Butuo", he said. Mayor Koijee spoke late Tuesday, September 12, at the ruling CDC headquarters in Congo Town when one of Liberia's best performing musical artists, Kpanto and his entire A4 Record endorsed President Weah's reelection bid and donated 250,000 Liberian dollars as his contribution to the ongoing campaign of the President.

"They're bluffing and they need to understand that all those comments are scare tactics; these elections must be won on the basis of hard work, not by using scare tactics and intimidation", he said.

"We in the CDC are far bigger than scare tactics and

intimidation, We've been down that road on numerous occasions and never fell; imagine those people who created your could not intimate us, what makes you think you can do such."

He reiterated nobody has the capacity to obstruct the democratic process because the owners are the Liberian people, and they will do all they can to protect it.

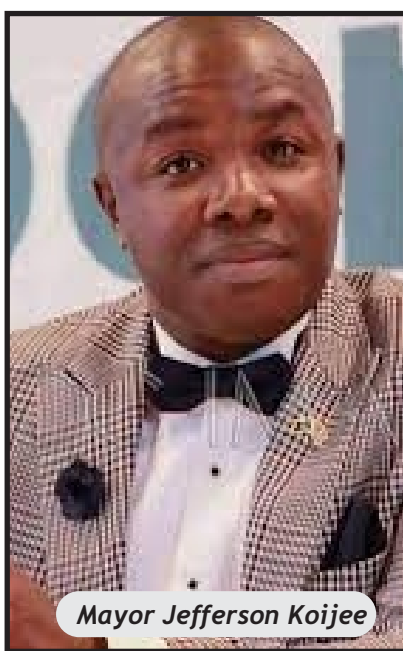
Receiving the cash donation on behalf of President Weah, CDC Chairman Mulbah Morlu, thanked A4 Record Empire especially, skinny boy Kpanto for the donation.

Mr. President of the street, we are in campaign, this money is a surprise to us; we will not play around this money that you have donated, he said. "We will turn over every dime and nickel to the President and your contribution, this money represents every street person in this country, and this is how we're going to win in the first round. I'm also a street person and today's endorsement is for every street person."

Speaking earlier, Musician Skinny boy Kpanto said, he

was moved by President Weah's style of leadership since coming to power in 2018. "Despite making some critical songs against this government, I'm still alive; it's against this backdrop that I have thought it wise to fund his campaign and to endorse his reelection bid", he said.

He thanked God for all He has done in his life and declared his membership for the CDC, saying "I'm here today to join the CDC. I chose to be a musician because it's my calling."



Mayor Jefferson Koijee

New Health Coalition urges Liberia not to Pay for Malaria and other drugs donated by U.S

A coalition of nine civil society organizations is creating awareness and promoting accountability and transparency in the public health drug supply chain system, to ensure that essential drugs donated by USAID and other international partners are free.

The coalition, which was created under the USAID funded Liberia Civil Society Activity (CSA), seeks to address why public health facilities around the country run out of essential drugs such as malaria pills, family planning and medicines for HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis.

Since its formation in June, the coalition has met with key stakeholders in the health sector, citizens, and the private sector to address the root causes of the stock-out of essential health commodities at service delivery points in the country.

Participants at inception meetings, focus group discussions and one-on-one engagements complained about the lack of vehicles to transport

aware that some of the drugs are free. Our advocacy is to find out how long the drugs will last when they come to the facility."

The coalition's advocacy is centered around three projects: Integration of Citizen Charters for Health Facility Development Committees; Drug Stock-out Mapping and Supply-Chain Management Advocacy; and Civil Society Advocacy and Monitoring of Revolving Drug Funds (RDFs). The projects are implemented in six counties: Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba and Lofa.

In addition to CHES-Liberia, the other coalition members include Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL); Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO); Efficient Research and Development Institute (ERDI); Humanity Above One-Self Foundation (HAOSF); Volunteers United for Development (VUD); Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER); Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD); and Rural Human Rights Activists



drugs from county drug depots to rural areas; health facilities gave patients prescriptions to buy malaria medicines at local pharmacies or charge them for contraception; and drugs expire because they are stuck in warehouses. Some participants alleged that the drugs are stolen from health facilities and sold on the streets. The donated drugs are distributed quarterly, but some citizens and health care providers say the drugs often run out before the end of the quarter. In addition to engaging stakeholders, the coalition will develop messages through jingles, drama, flyers, billboards, and radio talk shows to educate the public that the drugs are free of charge, not for sale. They also want to enlist the public's help in reporting sale of donated drugs. "We want citizens to be aware that the donor drugs that come to health facilities are free," said Siah Sam, community engagement and research coordinator for Community Health Education and Social Services (CHES-Liberia), one of the coalition members. "Many citizens are not

Programme (RHRAP). Jocee M. Tuazama, project manager for Efficient Research and Development Institute (ERDI), said her organization will train the citizen-led Health Facilities Development Committees (HFDCs) about their roles and responsibilities, so they can monitor the drugs supply system, tracking the drugs when they arrive and its distribution in the community. The HFDCs were created under the National Community Health Policy to empower citizens to ensure health facilities are meeting the needs of the community. Under the National Community Health Policy, HFDCs are charged with providing feedback from citizens to the health centers. However, HFDCs are inactive in most communities because of the lack of support from county health teams, Tuazama said. HFDCs are required to have monthly meetings, but they hardly meet because members say they receive no money for transportation. HFDCs, she said, are more active in the quarterly meetings that are supported by partners such as Last Mile Health.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AMP Terminals' Freeport modernization gets boost

As part of its modernization program at the Freeport of Monrovia, APM Terminals has brought in two gigantic mobile Harbor cranes

impact on the Liberian economy.

AMP Terminals Liberia Commercial Manager Thomas Moore says the arrival of the cranes is an indication that the port's have come good on a promise made to the National Port Authority (NPA) last year.

The equipment is known as a Mobile Harbor Crane.

"As you can see, there is ongoing work here at the terminal as we have taken delivery of these two latest generation Liebherr Model 600 Mobile Harbor Cranes, a few days ago. We've had this project ongoing for over a year now. We ordered the cranes in January, but due to some unforeseen delays, we just managed to take delivery of them. The team is working hard to get them into operation in the next month or two. We will keep you posted on the developments." Mr. Moore added. The new world class equipment imported from Germany will significantly increase the cargo handling capacity at the port, increase the productivity of the Port and reduce the waiting time of vessels. This means the reduction of prices in the market for goods imported into Liberia and a direct boost for the economy.



to increase the cargo handling activities at the port.

The two latest generation Liebherr Model 600 Mobile Harbor Cranes, which were offloaded over the weekend

The sighting of the cranes at the port has heightened hope and is expected to reduce the turnaround time of vessels visiting the nation's gateway, which will have a positive

Ballot boxes, gray precinct kits arrive

The National Elections Commission (NEC) reveals here that materials for the October 10, 2023 Presidential and Legislative General Elections have started arriving in the country.

According to a press release issued on Tuesday, September 12, ballot boxes, yellow and gray precinct kits have arrived at the NEC Central Warehouse. Additionally, the NEC has received mock (sample) ballots for all categories of election (Presidency, Senatorial and Representative) for training purposes. Tactile ballot guides for the visually impaired and assorted stationery materials for the conduct of the polls have also arrived. The release says additional

materials will arrive in coming days. Also, the Commission has produced and is distributing "Know Your Candidates" posters as part of its civic and voter education exercise.

Meanwhile, packaging of training materials for the

In a related development, a Training of Trainers (ToT) for magisterial staff will commence on September 13, 2023, at the Commission in preparation for the October 10 Polls. In addition, the NEC has commenced a series of Training of Trainers workshops for agents



elections began on Monday, September 11, 2023, in the NEC Central Warehouse. of political parties and independent candidates. Press Release

Prosecution witnesses provide

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night of February 22, 2023, at her (Cllr. Scott's) Brewerville residence in Montserrado County. Meanwhile, as per the judge's order, granting the defense team approval to visit the crime scene today at the home of former chief Justice Gloria M. Musu Scott in Brewersville. The delegation was comprised of

members of the prosecution team, Sheriff and Clerk of Criminal Court A, police escort and media professionals. This visit enabled all members of the team along with the sheriff and the court to patrol and parade the entire compound wherein they were able to observe three gates on the 10 feet perimeter fence and observe that trees and

neighborhood fences are conjoined. The prosecution team and defense team observed there were several doors and windows at the residence and took copious notes since the judge of the criminal court proffered serious restrictions on camera photography and videotaping. The trial is expected to resume today Friday, September 15.

Don't vote on sentiments

Chairman Bility rallies Nimbaians

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

The Chairman for the Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP),

Musa Hassan Bility is calling on the people of Nimba County not to vote on the basis of sentiments, but rather to elect a candidate that will deliver Liberia from hardship and poverty.

Chairman Bility notes the pending elections that are just less than a month away, will be decided by Nimba therefore, Nimbaians should elect a leader that will impact lives of Liberians.

According to him, the Presidential Candidate of the CPP, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings is the best leader for Liberia come October 10th.

He notes that past records and workplaces of Mr. Cummings indicate that he is a good leader, who Liberians would boast of,

the county anything.

He urges them to scrutinize the track records of former Vice President Joseph Boakai of the opposition Unity Party, President George Weah of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and the CPP Candidate Mr. Cummings to see the difference, noting that the CPP is in direct contact with the people.

He asks Liberians to exhibit a peaceful posture during and after the elections and to respect the right of everyone, as the country goes to the polls to elect a leadership.

"I believe the CPP political leader Cummings is the best person to deliver this suffering nation, this county called Nimba, they are the people who will decide the fate of the Presidency, so don't support people who have spent 12 years like the Unity Party of Ambassador Joseph Boakai; if they made an impact, you can vote for them to get back, if six years of CDC government under President George Weah leadership is ok, reelect them. But I believe they have not impacted the lives



Musa Hassan Bility

he is elected President.

He promises that Nimba will benefit unprecedented development if the CPP Candidate, Cummings wins the polls.

"To do so, Musa Hassan Bility has been mandated by the CPP political leader Alexander B. Cummings to run roads throughout the 19 Administrative Districts in Nimba County as he wants Nimbaians to vote differently this time around", he adds.

Speaking at a CPP official kick-off campaign rally in Saclepea City, Nimba, Bility, who is also chairman of the opposition Liberty Party and Representative Candidate of electoral district#7, laments that Liberians' major problem is lack of sincerity and firmness, but under a Cummings Presidency, citizens will enjoy free health care, better living conditions, good roads, job opportunities, better education and agricultural program.

He cautions the people of Nimba not to vote based on tribes, saying it will not benefit

of Liberians, so Cummings is the only option", Chairman Bility maintains.

Also speaking, CPP Nimba County Co-chairperson Justin P. Zigbuo, urges Nimbaians to support and vote people, who can help them, not those, he says who have made no impact in their lives. He refers CPP Candidate Cummings, as one who has and continue to impact the lives of Liberians, including the people of Nimba. For his part, Clarence Kparyelee, head of coordinators, speaking on behalf of the district coordinators, reaffirms their commitment to electing Mr. Cummings. Edwin Dopoe Jr, Youth chairman and Tony Gonyor, head of Team Cummings pledges the people of Nimba full support, even in the midst of Fong Zuagele and others departure from the CPP. "If you want for your lives to change then vote for Cummings for a better nation and leadership. People will go for money but for us, we will remain here to make sure Cummings deliver this suffering country", Gonyor pledges. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

Le PNUD s'associe au gouvernement pour organiser une formation sur la gestion des catastrophes

Le PNUD, en collaboration avec le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie et l'Agence nationale de gestion des catastrophes

comtés de Bomi, Grand Cape Mount et Gbarpolu.

S'adressant aux participants, Moses Massah, spécialiste de l'énergie et de l'environnement du PNUD au Libéria, a affirmé que la formation visait à aider les

"Au cours des trois prochains jours, nous vous formerons afin qu'à votre retour dans vos différents comtés et communautés, vous soyez en mesure d'identifier et de signaler les cas liés aux catastrophes", a-t-il ajouté.

Il a également parlé des projets visant à établir un centre régional de gestion des catastrophes à Bomi qui desservira quatre comtés : Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu et Lower Montserrado, saluant les relations de travail harmonieuses avec le gouvernement du Libéria dans la gestion des cas de catastrophe à travers le Libéria depuis 2008, qui ont conduit à la création de l'Agence nationale de gestion des catastrophes du Libéria (NDMA).

« Actuellement, nous avons apporté du matériel à utiliser au centre régional de Bomi. Il s'agit notamment d'ordinateurs portables, d'ordinateurs, de mobilier de bureau et d'imprimantes destinés au bon fonctionnement du hub. Le PNUD est heureux de soutenir la formation de la NDMA destinée aux comités de gestion des catastrophes des comtés (CDMC) et aux mineurs artisanaux et à petite échelle. La gestion des risques de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

(NDMA), a formé le Comité de gestion des catastrophes du comté (CDMC) et les acteurs de l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle pour évaluer les risques de catastrophe.

La formation s'est tenue du 4 au 6 septembre 2023 à Tubmanburg, dans le comté de Bomi, a réuni des responsables locaux, des organisations de la société civile et des chefs d'agences gouvernementales des

institutions et les groupes à développer des systèmes d'alerte précoce et à garantir que les communautés comprennent les lois et les politiques élaborées pour évaluer la gestion des risques de catastrophe.

Massah a déclaré que la formation était axée sur l'identification et la gestion des catastrophes et des problèmes liés aux catastrophes dans les communautés, en particulier dans les zones minières.

La CEDEAO et ses partenaires se mobilisent pour renforcer la cybersécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et ses partenaires mobilisent des soutiens pour renforcer la cybersécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest à travers le lancement, ce mardi 12 septembre 2023, à Abuja, Nigeria, du Plateforme conjointe pour l'avancement de la cybersécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest. Cette initiative a été lancée par la Commission de la CEDEAO en collaboration avec la présidence allemande du G7 en 2022.

L'événement de trois jours servira de point de départ officiel pour la mise en œuvre conjointe du Plan d'action de la CEDEAO visant à accroître la résilience et les capacités régionales en matière de cybersécurité.

Les premiers axes de travail concrets du plan d'action à mettre en œuvre porteront sur (i) l'importance d'élaborer et

de mettre en œuvre des mesures de confiance régionales dans le domaine de la cybersécurité, (ii) le renforcement de la coopération régionale et des cyber-capacités au niveau régional, (iii) sur le développement des compétences ainsi que sur les mécanismes régionaux de cyber-diplomatie.

Pour sa part, M. Sediko Douka, le Commissaire chargé des

Infrastructures, de l'Énergie et de la Numérisation de la Commission de la CEDEAO, qui s'exprimait à l'ouverture de la cérémonie de lancement de la plateforme, a déclaré que l'avancement de la cybersécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest n'est pas seulement une nécessité ; c'est une opportunité. Une

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Éditorial

La mission d'observation électorale de l'Union Européenne est la bienvenue au Libéria

C'est avec joie et allégresse que nous apprenons la nouvelle du déploiement d'une mission d'observation de l'Union Européenne à travers le Libéria en vue des élections législatives présidentielles du 10 octobre.

Ces élections marquent une étape importante dans la consolidation de la démocratie au Libéria, a déclaré l'observateur en chef adjoint Jarek Domanski, qui est dans le pays depuis fin août.

Selon un communiqué de presse, la mission principale se concentrera sur le suivi des préparatifs électoraux et des activités de campagne dans les 15 comtés du Libéria.

L'observateur en chef adjoint Domanski a déclaré qu'un groupe d'experts, comprenant des spécialistes des procédures électorales, de la politique, du droit, du financement des campagnes électorales, des médias, des médias sociaux et de l'analyse des données, était présent dans le pays pour mener à bien cette mission.

La nouvelle devrait être bien accueillie par tous les Libériens qui souhaitent des élections pacifiques et la paix pour le Libéria.

La présence d'observateurs internationaux pour surveiller le scrutin dissuadera également les fauteurs de troubles potentiels qui envisagent de perturber le processus et de plonger le Libéria dans le chaos.

Cela indique que le peuple libérien n'est pas seul dans la recherche des élections transparentes et d'un processus démocratique. Pendant que des observateurs étrangers posent leurs valises dans le pays, il nous incombe, en tant que Libériens, de nous donner une bonne image, de faire savoir que nous sommes prêts à maintenir la paix et la stabilité de la nation.

Les élections ne durent qu'une journée, mais une fois que les résultats commencent à tomber, c'est le moment crucial pour toutes les parties de faire preuve d'un haut degré de maturité et de tolérance jusqu'à ce qu'un vainqueur soit déclaré par la Commission électorale nationale.

Comme l'a révélé l'observateur en chef Andreas Schieder, la mission d'observation électorale de l'UE a répondu à l'invitation du gouvernement du Libéria, ce qui devrait indiquer que le gouvernement est déterminé à organiser des élections libres, équitables et transparentes.

Il incombe donc à tous les Libériens de veiller à ce que les élections soient non seulement libres, équitables et transparentes, mais également exemptes de violence, pour le bénéfice de la génération actuelle et des générations à venir. Nous sommes convaincus que cela laissera une bonne empreinte pour la postérité à venir.

Français

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catastrophe est un sujet de préoccupation compte tenu des taux de mortalité et d'autres formes de catastrophes provenant des mines artisanales et à petite échelle », a déclaré Massah.

S'exprimant également, le ministre adjoint de la Planification au ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, Johnson Wallabo, a appelé ceux qui sont engagés dans l'exploitation minière artisanale à renoncer. Le ministre Willabo a averti que la pratique de l'exploitation minière artisanale à travers le pays est l'un des facteurs contribuant aux cas de catastrophe au Libéria, ajoutant que l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle devient grave parce que les mineurs ne prennent pas de précautions.

« L'utilisation du mercure et ses effets à long terme présentent de graves risques pour la santé des mineurs. Nous voulons encourager tous ceux qui sont engagés dans l'exploitation minière artisanale à arrêter car cette méthode présente de sérieux risques de catastrophes dans nos communautés », a-t-il souligné.

Le surintendant du comté de Bomi, Amos Cooper, a assuré que les autorités du comté veilleront à l'utilisation efficace du hub en travaillant en étroite collaboration avec la NDMA.

Pour sa part, Henry

Williams, directeur exécutif de l'Agence nationale de gestion des catastrophes du Libéria, a souligné que le renforcement des capacités et la coordination restent le pivot de la gestion des catastrophes.

Williams a révélé qu'avec le soutien du PNUD, son agence a constitué des comités dans les quinze comtés pour travailler à signaler les cas de catastrophe à travers le Libéria. Il a mentionné le soutien du PNUD au groupe de travail technique de la NDMA dans l'élaboration de la politique qui a conduit à la création de l'agence.

« Le PNUD nous soutient dans la décentralisation de l'agence. Il a soutenu le développement de la politique en cas de catastrophe et de la stratégie de résilience, la création du centre régional central dans le comté de Bong où ils ont présenté du matériel de bureau, soutenu la rénovation du siège social de la NDMA, et nous sommes reconnaissants pour le niveau de soutien apporté à cette formation étant donné que l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle est devenue un sujet de préoccupation compte tenu de l'ampleur des catastrophes rencontrées », a souligné Williams.

La NDMA est une entité gouvernementale qui fournit une orientation générale pour l'intégration de la réduction des risques de catastrophe dans les politiques et plans de développement, de rétablissement et d'intervention humanitaire qui renforcent la préparation aux catastrophes pour une réponse efficace d'urgence et de rétablissement.

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opportunité de protéger nos économies, nos infrastructures et nos populations. Une opportunité de démontrer notre engagement en faveur d'un avenir numérique sûr, sécurisé et prospère pour tous. Une opportunité d'améliorer la vie et les moyens de subsistance des citoyens de notre communauté ouest-africaine, conformément à nos objectifs stratégiques 4x4, à la Vision 2050 de la CEDEAO et à l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine.

« La cybersécurité n'est pas seulement une question technique ; c'est une question de sécurité nationale, de stabilité économique et de protection de la vie privée et des droits de notre peuple. Il est important d'agir de manière décisive pour protéger nos infrastructures critiques, sécuriser nos données et garantir la

confiance de ceux qui utilisent les services numériques... », a déclaré la commissaire Sediko Douka. Il convient de rappeler que le plan d'action de la CEDEAO (2022-2025) en matière de cybersécurité repose sur quatre piliers thématiques (Développement des mécanismes et compétences en cyber-diplomatie, renforcement de la protection des infrastructures critiques, protection des groupes vulnérables contre les menaces de cybersécurité, notamment la cybercriminalité et le terrorisme), utilisation d'Internet, lutte contre la cybercriminalité et souveraineté des données). Il fournit des domaines concrets permettant à la Commission de la CEDEAO de structurer sa coopération avec des partenaires mondiaux, régionaux et nationaux pour mener des initiatives de renforcement des capacités dans le domaine de la cybersécurité.

La NEC annonce l'arrivée du matériel électoral



La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a informé les acteurs électoraux que le matériel pour les élections générales du 10 octobre 2023 a commencé à arriver dans le pays. Il s'agit des urnes

et des kits de circonscription jaunes et gris. Ils sont arrivés à l'entrepôt central de la NEC. En outre, la NEC a reçu des échantillons de bulletins de vote pour toutes les catégories d'élections (Présidentielle, Sénatoriales et législatives). Des guides de vote tactiles pour les malvoyants et du matériel de papeterie assorti pour le déroulement du scrutin sont également arrivés. Du matériel supplémentaire arrivera dans les prochains jours. En outre, la Commission distribue des affiches « Connaissez vos candidats » dans le cadre de son exercice d'éducation civique et électorale.

Pendant ce temps, l'emballage du matériel de formation pour les élections générales du 10 octobre 2023 a commencé le lundi 11 septembre 2023 dans l'entrepôt central de la NEC.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, une formation de formateurs (ToT) pour le personnel de la magistrature débutera le 13 septembre 2023 au siège de la NEC en préparation des élections du 10 octobre. En outre, la NEC a lancé une série d'ateliers de formation de formateurs pour les agents des partis politiques et les candidats indépendants pour les élections générales du 10 octobre 2023.

Sénégal : nouveau départ au sein de la coalition au pouvoir à l'approche de la présidentielle

Après la démission du ministre de l'Agriculture, Aly Nguille Ndiaye, samedi, c'est au tour du directeur général de la Caisse des dépôts et consignations, Mamadou Mame Boye Diao, de quitter son poste et la coalition au pouvoir Benno Bokk Yakaar pour être candidat à la présidentielle de 2024.

Maire de la ville de Kolda, dans le sud du pays, et directeur de la Caisse des dépôts et consignations depuis février dernier, Mamadou Mame Boye Diao n'est pas un poids lourd du parti du président Macky Sall. Mais cette deuxième démission fissure un peu plus la coalition au pouvoir, estime un observateur de la vie politique sénégalaise, dans un contexte électoral où il faut avancer unis.

D'autant que l'hémorragie pourrait se poursuivre, car un autre candidat déçu, Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo, l'actuel président du Conseil économique, social et environnemental, ne s'est pas encore exprimé. Ce pilier du parti du président, Alliance pour la République, a été reçu par Macky Sall dès lundi ; il lui aurait proposé le poste de chef de gouvernement dans une équipe remaniée.

Mardi, c'était au tour de l'ex-Premier

ministre Boun Abdalla Dionne d'avoir une entrevue avec le président sortant. Autant de tentatives pour éviter de nouvelles démissions et que la coalition au pouvoir ne vole en éclat à cinq mois de la présidentielle.



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Who imported RIA drugs?

Starts from front page

Conflicting documents purported to be pointing to the real importer of the recently seized boxes of narcotics at the Roberts International Airport have begun spreading on social media.

In one of the documents published by Spoon FM, the bill of lading carries a name suggesting being that of President George Weah's Chief of Protocol but with the names spelled wrongly, prompting many to describe Spoon's document as fake.

On the said document Finda whose full name is Nora Finda Bondoo, was spelled as just Finda Bondo, with a single "o".

The second document has Steven Daniels as the consignee of the said narcotics shipment which is now the subject of investigation.

On Thursday, 14 September, there were media reports which suggested that law enforcement

warehouse on October 1, 2022, following a tipoff.

Few months later in February this year, cocaine worth US\$37 Million was discovered in another container belonging to TRH Trading Company.

Officials of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) through its director general, Michael Zeyhou, said the drug valued at US\$37 million was linked to an unidentified Kenya national.

In July this year, the Government of Liberia passed a new drug law known as the Control and Substance Act to strengthen existing laws. Under the new law, an illegal possession of drugs or trafficking of contraband substances is a non-bailable offense.

The new law seeks to restrict, manage, curtail, or eliminate the import or export of illicit drugs in the country. It named narcotic substances and their widespread misuse and abuse as well as the proliferation of contraband substances in the country. The law indicates in parts that an individual would have committed an offense if he or she intentionally or knowingly imports or traffic controlled drugs or substances in Liberia.

It also described as serious offense, a first-degree felony, which is subject to a maximum imprisonment term of 10 to twenty years for serious offenders.

It remains to be seen how far this investigation will go to bring perpetrators to book as members of the opposition community will not be adding this to their laundry list of reasons why they think Liberians should not reelect incumbent President Weah.

A speedy probe and arrest of culprits could be a litmus test of the government's resolve to fight illicit drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, on Thursday evening the Liberian Revenue Authority announced that it had turned over the 10 boxes of narcotic drugs over to the LDEA for further investigation.

In the statement, LRA said it had officially transferred custody of ten boxes of narcotic drugs to the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

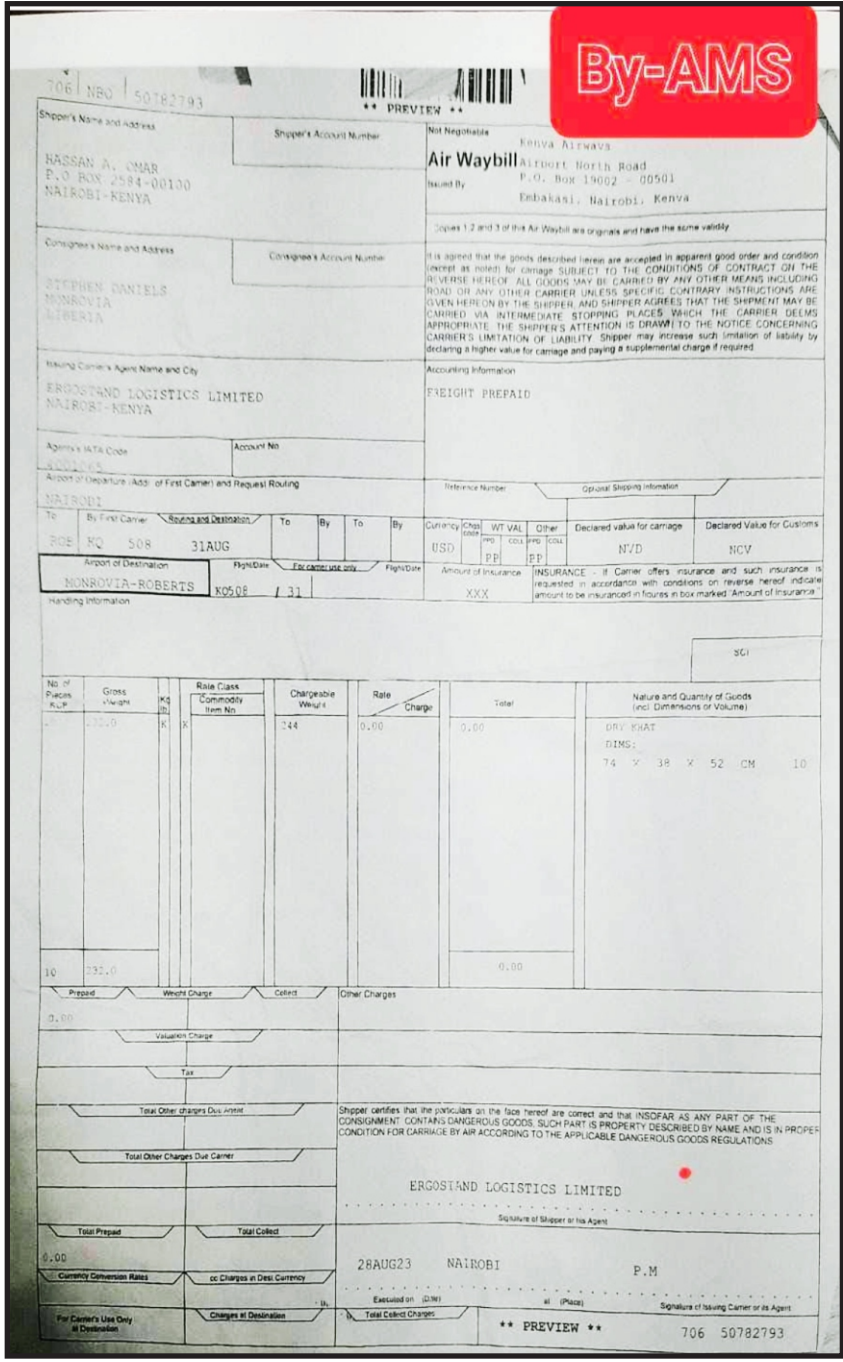
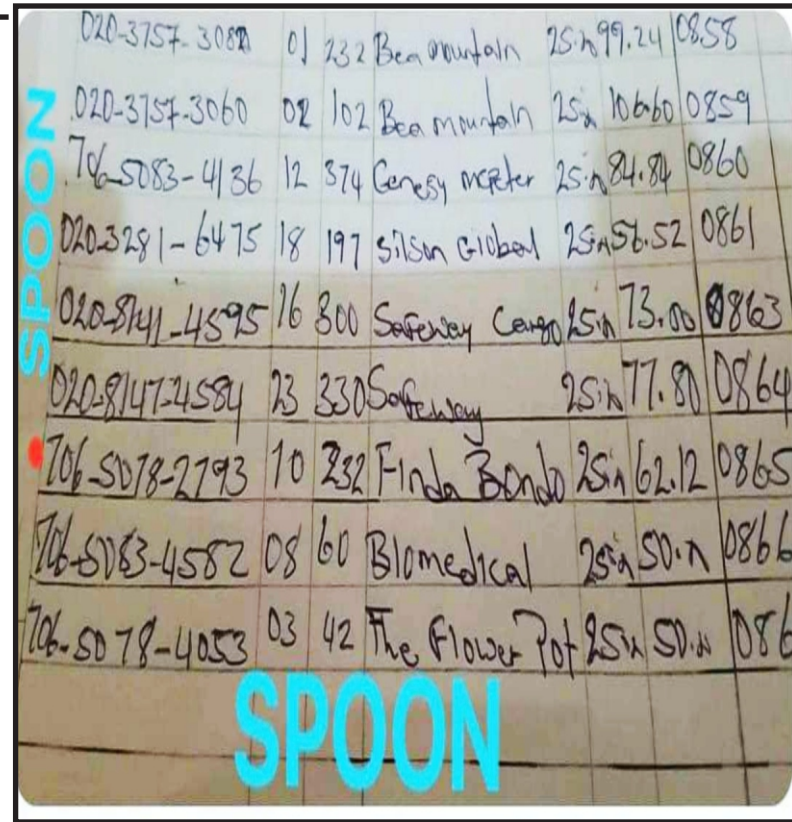
The LDEA is the to the statutory authority on drug enforcement.

The handover follows last week's seizure of illicit substances by the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) officers stationed at the Roberts International Airport (RIA).

The AFL officers seized and handed over to Customs authorities the consignment, allegedly being smuggled through an unauthorized gate.

A joint security inspection team initially suspected the content to be Moringa tea based on its packaging, but laboratory testing conducted by the LDEA conclusively revealed that all ten boxes contained narcotic drugs.

In line with standard operating procedures on border management coordination, Customs (LRA) on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, officially turned over the consignment of narcotics to the LDEA for further

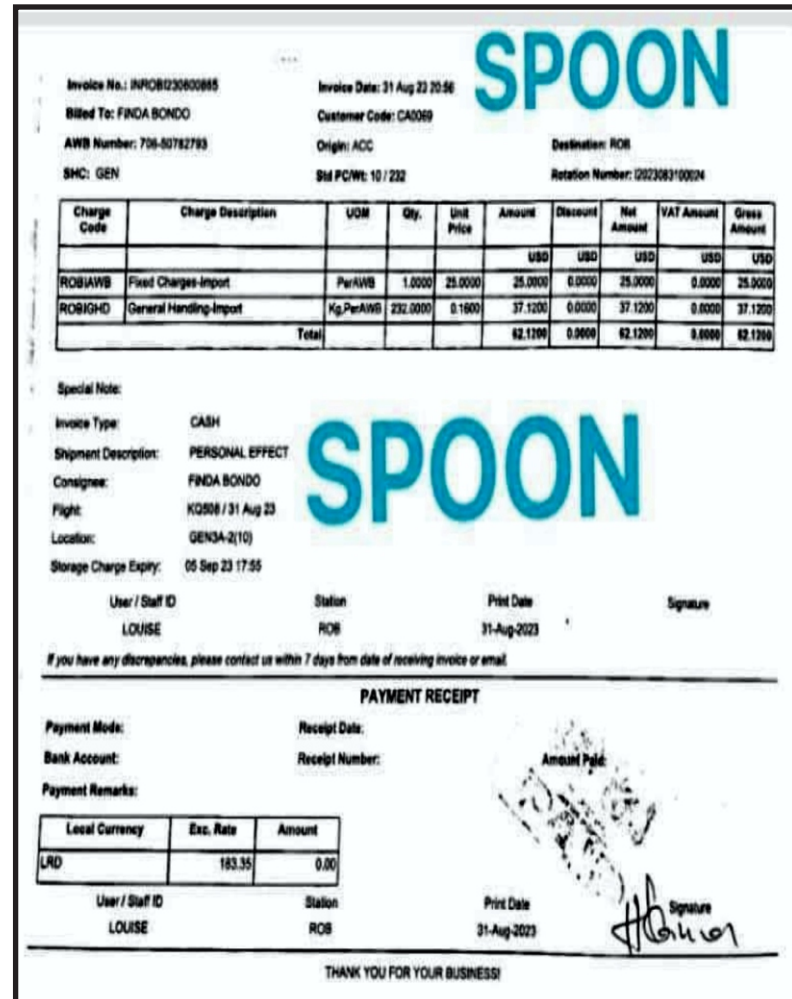


authorities had placed Mr. Danniels and RIA's Security Manager Samuel Freeman under investigation as the two suspects in the narcotics importation.

Mr. Freeman has denied any link to the drug importation claiming in a press conference that he was not even on the scene when said consignment arrived a week ago. He also denied admitting to AFL officers assigned at the airport that the consignment was for Madam Bondoo.

The latest drug bust comes on the heels of a US\$100 million drug bust which ended in a failed trial.

The cocaine valued at US100 million was discovered in a TRH Trading Company, importers of frozen food



Be robust and lead by example

--CENTAL urges LACC Commissioners

By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) has urged the new commissioners at the Liberia

According to him, the burden is on the new batch of commissioners to change these negative narratives and give hope to Liberians by making impunity for

to forge meaningful partnerships with stakeholders, including civil society and citizens, if it must succeed in its work.

"Additionally, we call on development partners to provide financial and logistical support to the Commission to be fully operational."

"We firmly believe that the success of Liberia's anti-corruption endeavors hinges on collective vigilance and collaborative efforts," he noted.

On 6 September 2023, the Liberian Senate confirmed the seven LACC Commissioners who were nominated by President George Manneh Weah on 8 June 2023.

Those confirmed by the Liberian Senate included Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe, Chairperson; Mr. Ernest R. Hughes, Vice Chairperson; and Mr. Randolph E. Tebbs, Commissioner for Monitoring and Investigation.

Others are Dr. Miatta Jeh, Atty. Samuel F. Dakana, Cllr. Oretha Snyder Davis, and Cllr. David Wilson.

CENTAL however commends the Government of Liberia, its partners, and Civil Society Organizations for their roles played throughout the process which led to the vetting of these Liberians, their nomination by the President, and subsequent confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

"We like to commend the outgoing leadership of LACC, especially Cllr. Edward Kla Martin and his team for bringing relative stability and sanctity to the Commission, after a turbulent past, as the Commission was largely in the media for the wrong reasons," Miamen continued.



Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to be robust and lead by example in the discharge of their duties.

"With the confirmation of these officials, the public expects to see a new, energized, and robust LACC, especially now that it has direct Prosecutorial Power, which has since been lacking," CENTAL executive director Mr. Anderson Miamen told a press conference Tuesday, 12 September 2023.

Speaking at CENTAL head office in Sinkor, a suburb of Monrovia, Mr. Miamen stated that the country cannot afford to waste any more time in decisively dealing with its worst enemy - corruption.

"While we acknowledge past efforts, they have not been enough to give Liberians the positive results anticipated, as public officials abuse public resources with so much impunity," said Miamen.

"CENTAL, the public, development partners, and other stakeholders will be keenly watching to see if this new LACC will live up to expectations by serving the Liberian people, instead of the appointing authority or so-called big hands in government and other places in society."

"We urge the new leadership to endear itself to the public by robustly, timely, and impartially investigating and prosecuting alleged incidences of corruption, including those involving "big hands" in the government," he added.

Miamen called on the national government to provide adequate financial and logistical support to the Commission to operate robustly and independently.

At the same time, the CENTAL executive director has called on the new Commission

Cummings's CPP takes over Margibi

Citizens of Margibi County turned out in their thousands with great jubilation on Thursday, September 14, and reaffirmed their unwavering loyalty and support to the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

The entrance of the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) in Kakata was the scene of cultural dance by masked dancers, massive jubilation and talent display by youth and women groups as the huge crowd awaited the arrival of the CPP Standard Bearer and entourage.

Cummings, accompanied by his wife Teresa, the Vice Standard Bearer Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, and CPP Legislative Aspirants, led the parade from the BWI campus to the Nancy B. Doe sports pitch where the official ceremony was held.

Thousands of citizens were already awaiting the CPP Standard Bearer and entourage at the Nancy B.

At the official program, the People's Liberation Party (PLP) Margibi County Chapter presented a statement of endorsement to the CPP Standard Bearer Mr. Cummings, pledging support to his Presidential bid in the October elections.

The CPP Margibi County branch also presented a statement of appreciation to the CPP National Chairman, Musa Bility for the Liberty Party's commitment to the unity of the Collaborating Political Parties.

The Alternative National Congress (ANC) and Liberty Party (LP) are constituent parties of the CPP. CPP Vice Standard Bearer Counsellor Charlyne M. Brumskine conscientized Liberians about the dire need for change and said the CPP is the best alternative to replace the inept ruling Coalition for Democratic Change of President George Weah. Counsellor Brumskine made a passionate



Doe sports pitch, as his convoy of dozens of vehicles drove to a stop. The CPP Executives were escorted under tight security by the Liberia National Police to the main podium mounted on a 20ft container truck which beautifully decorated with party emblems. Loud music could be heard from the four corners of the sports pitch, as citizens danced and chanted slogans for "change".

They denounced the inept leadership of President George Weah, saying, "Cummings is the man we want."

plea, especially to women and youths, who constituted the largest turnout, not to vote based on sympathy or popularity of candidates, but rather for Mr. Cummings, who she described as the best qualified and without blemish. The CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Cummings expressed gratitude for the rousing welcome and the huge turnout of citizens including partisans, supporters, sympathizers and well-wishers for the launch of the CPP campaign in Kakata, Margibi County.

Prosecution witnesses provide

Starts from back page

one boy was toting Chaloe on his back." When the defense counsel asked whether he could identify the person who was allegedly toting the victim, Moses responded that he didn't know the person, adding that he also did not know the driver who drove the car that took the victim to the hospital, but granted permission to the driver because he wore a mechanic uniform. "When they came out, I saw a boy in mechanic clothes, who I told to drive my boss to the hospital. I trusted him because he was in mechanic clothes", the witness adds. At the same time, Criminal Court "A" Judge, Roosevelt Willie, has ruled a motion in favor of prosecution, dislodging Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott from the defense council

bar, therefore, denying the former Chief Justice the privilege to represent herself in the ongoing murder trial.

Judge Willie's was triggered by prosecution plea before the court to deny Cllr. Scott from representing herself, as a lawyer in the case.

Prosecution argued that Cllr. Scott is being tried for murder, a crime of capital offense and as such, she cannot represent herself in court. However, Judge Willie provided that a lawyer may represent his or herself in a case irrespective of the trial, but not when there is a legal team representing said lawyer.

"Indeed, one can represent oneself, and it is called" you represent yourself but not along with lawyers. Once there is a team of lawyers representing you, you can sit in the dock and make contributions through your lawyers when the need arises.

On this note, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott is hereby disallowed to sit in the bar." The Judge rules. But the defense team excepts to the ruling. Cllr. Scott and three other defendants are on trial for allegedly murdering the late Charloe Musu on the

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Electricity regulators take

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respective districts and counties.

He disclosed that the commission has interacted with other electricity users in some parts of the country and Maryland is of no exception.

"Let me say; we have come this far to listen to you as LEC customers and to hear from a new company that was awarded contract by the Liberia Electricity Corporation in March 30, 2023 for the management of the current from Maryland to River Gee County", Dr. Sekajipo explained.

He said the sub-contracted company has not been awarded license yet, but from the hearing, the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission by law, will act within 20 working days.

LERC board chair assured that the hearing, which includes comments and recommendations, will be addressed

before licensing the LIB-Energy Inc to operate.

He called on citizens to be law-abiding and to desist from illegally using the services.

For his part, Acting Managing Director, Abu D. Sanso, said the Commission has developed lots of regulations to ensure smooth operation of service providers and customers, noting that it is important to reach out to the public.

He pointed out that the fight against power theft is a huge responsibility that every Liberian need to address. It is important for people to know that LEC reports to the Commission and can be held accountable, if they are not doing those things that are necessary, Mr. Sanso added.

Prosecution witnesses provide incoherent testimonies

-in the murder trial of former Chief Justice Gloria Scott

By Lincoln G. Peters

Prosecution witnesses in the murder trial of Ex-Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and others have provided contradicting testimonies here when they took the witness stand on

officer of the Genesis Security Service, who was assigned at the residence of Cllr. Scott in Brewerville where the murder occurred, testified that after the crime happened, he took surveillance around the house but observed no break-in, so

the palaver hut. Later, Cllr. Scott called me and gave me the keys through her bathroom window", Witness Wise narrates. His revelation to the court and before juries contradicts prosecution's first witness, who explained that when the crime occurred, he used cutlass and cut the iron bar at the window as a means of finding a place to enter the house.

But Moses continues that upon entering the house, he saw an unidentified boy toting the female victim on his back, coming out of the house. And there he assisted Cllr. Scott to enter her car, a statement that completely contradicts the first witness, who had told the court that upon their entry in the house, they met Cllr. Scott was confused and saw the victim lying in a pool of blood, so they assisted by rushing her to the car.

"When we opened the door, I saw Cllr. Scott and the others came out, but



Ex-Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

Wednesday, September 13, 2023. As the witnesses mounted the stand one by one, contradictions from one person to another continued throughout their testimonies over the murder of the late Charloe Musu in February this year. Witness Moses Wise of Barnesville, a private security

he returned to his sentry (a palaver hut) where he remained until Cllr. Scott called him and handed him keys to the residence through a bathroom window.

"I heard noise in the house, and as security, I went around the fence but did not see any break-ins. So, I went back to

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