

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

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

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

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023	L\$185.5071/US\$1.00	L\$187.3689/US\$1.00


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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

Vote #4
FIXING LIBERIA FOR ALL LIBERIANS






2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 165 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

'No higher-up linked' to RIA drugs

-GoL says

Stephen Daniels

Samuel Freeman, Head of Security

All eyes on Liberia

-says ECOWAS



ECOWAS Amb. Josephine Kkrumah

MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3
Da your time to win!

Join over 10,000 winners over the last 2 years!

Dial *156*2#

To buy a **50LRD** bundle and above to enter the draw!



MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

Continental News

A uniformed group of activists is targeting foreigners in South Africa

South African anti-migrant group Operation Dudula has become notorious for raiding businesses belonging to foreign nationals and forcing shops to close. BBC Africa Eye has gained rare access to members

says, explaining how her son often goes out to steal things to feed his habit. One day he had tried to take some power cables to sell when he got electrocuted and burned. Her son uses crystal meth and nyaope, a highly addictive street drug that has devastated communities

the country's most-prominent anti-migrant group.

With one in three South Africans out of work in one of the most unequal societies in the world, foreigners in general have become an easy target. But the number of migrants living in South Africa has been grossly exaggerated. According to a 2022 report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), an independent research organisation based in the capital, Pretoria, there are about 3.95 million migrants in South Africa, making up 6.5% of the population, a figure in line with international norms. This number includes all immigrants, irrespective of legal status or where they come from.

The xenophobic rhetoric used by some public officials, politicians and anti-migrant groups has helped fuel the myth that the country is overrun with migrants. The South African Social Attitudes Survey for 2021 found that almost half of the population of 60 million people believed there were between 17 and 40 million immigrants in the country.

Current polling suggests support for the governing African National Congress (ANC), the party once led by Mr Mandela, could fall below 50% for the first time.

Operation Dudula has ambitions to fill that vacuum and has now transformed itself from a local anti-migrant group into a national political party, stating its aims to contest next year's general election. BBC

Can Civil Society and Private Organizations Combat Russian Propaganda in Africa?

As Russia makes significant gains in its disinformation campaigns in Africa, experts say civil society groups and private organizations may hold the key to counter such propaganda. Since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine two years ago, analysts say the Kremlin has been using disinformation spread through social media to court other nations as it faces global isolation.

Dan Whitman, a foreign policy analyst and fellow at Philadelphia-based think tank Foreign Policy Research Institute, told VOA that Moscow has recently made "tremendous successes" in its disinformation campaigns on the continent, exploiting political instability in regions like the Sahel and Central Africa, and in nations like Mozambique. "I would say (in) two or three years, (Russia) has made the most rapid propaganda successes in the

Studies, or CSIS, trade between Russia and Africa has nearly doubled to \$17.7 billion by 2021, but Africa's trade values with other regions are significantly higher: \$295 billion with the EU, \$254 billion with China, and \$65 billion with the U.S.

Whitman also highlighted the worry of possible Russian interference in the 2024 U.S. elections, as in previous elections, emphasizing the need for a mechanism to hold the Kremlin accountable for its disinformation activities. He suggested empowering civil society groups and private organizations, with support from the U.S. government and Western European governments, to counter Russian disinformation.

"I believe that small start-ups, private organizations and community groups like debunk.org in Lithuania, should be empowered to counter Russia's disinformation. I hope they have open and transparent support from the U.S. government and



of the country's most-prominent anti-migrant street movement. In a school kitchen in Kwa Thema, a township east of Johannesburg, Dimakatso Makoena is busy making sandwiches. The 57-year-old single parent of three has been a cook there for more than 10 years.

"To tell you the truth, I hate foreigners. How I wish they could just pack and go and leave our country," she says, fighting back tears. It is hard to understand the strength of this hate until Ms Makoena pulls out her phone to show a picture of her son. Emaciated with a glazed look in his eyes, angry burn scars spread over his body, up his arms and across his face. "He started smoking drugs when he was 14 years old," she

across South Africa. It is not until she blames foreigners for selling the drugs that her reasoning and support for Operation Dudula becomes clear. "Dudula, that's the only thing that keeps me going," she tells the BBC.

Operation Dudula was set-up in Soweto two years ago, the first group to formalise what had been sporadic waves of xenophobia-fuelled vigilante attacks in South Africa that date back to shortly after white-minority rule ended in 1994. It calls itself a civic movement, running on an anti-migrant platform, with the word "dudula" meaning "to force out" in Zulu. Soweto was at the forefront of anti-apartheid resistance and home to Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president. Now, the township has become the home of

Mayor of Juba sacked after 'slapping woman'

The acting mayor of South Sudan's capital city, Juba, has been sacked after he was caught on camera apparently slapping a member of the public.

Emmanuel Khamis Richard had refused to resign despite mounting pressure from fellow politicians since footage of him appearing to assault the female street vendor went viral a week ago.

His dismissal was announced by the governor of Central Equatoria state on Friday evening, then more widely reported over the weekend. The governor acted after MPs had sent him a letter unanimously calling for the mayor's removal.

Mr Khamis Richard hasn't admitted or denied slapping the woman. Before his sacking

he had been summoned to appear before councillors in Juba to answer for his actions, but he didn't appear and instead requested a two-week reprieve.

No successor has yet been

appointed. But the head of Juba city council, Martin Simon Wani, has been ordered to supervise the general activities of the municipality for the time being. BBC



Emmanuel Khamis Richard appeared to slap her with his right hand while holding a pistol in his left



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi shake hands during a photo shoot at the Russia Africa Summit

history of propaganda," Whitman said, adding "instability is the Garden of Eden for disinformation."

Whitman says Russia doesn't cause instability but takes advantage of existing instability, unlike other major powers. He said the difference is that "Russia is much more systematic, consequential, and much more strategic in the way they do this," he said questioning Moscow's true intentions in Africa. "Less than 1% of commercial exchange comes from Russia. So, in terms of material wealth, infrastructure, or really anything else, they have nothing to offer Africa."

Trade between Russia and Africa has increased, but it remains relatively small compared to trade with the European Union, China, and the United States.

According to Washington-based think tank the Center for Strategic and International

governments of Western Europe," Whitman told VOA.

Neil Melvin, director of International Security Studies at the London-based Royal United Security Institute, or RUSI, says while Russia seeks to advance its propaganda narrative, describing its efforts as the "biggest propaganda victory ever," may be an exaggeration – even as Russia takes an opportunistic approach in regions with instability, aiming to establish partnerships with military groups seeking power.

"We saw that in Sudan, we've seen it recently in parts of Sahel and West Africa. Historically, they (Russia) have done it with Ethiopia," he said. "I think that's certainly part of the model, that's quite disruptive, because, of course, it just accelerates instability." Melvin says the primary objective of these partnerships in Africa is to secure resources, and Russia, through its paramilitary, the Wagner Group, seeks access to these resources. VOA

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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Gordon Brown

British Conservatives' Contempt for Human Rights

EDINBURGH - For centuries, Britain has prided itself on being a bastion of liberty and the rule of law. British leaders have talked in glowing terms of the "golden thread" that connects the Magna Carta of 1215 and the Bill of Rights of 1689 to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) of 1950 and the Human Rights Act of 1998. Thus, the United Kingdom's human-rights record has been central to successive governments' efforts to exercise soft power globally.

No one has boasted more about Britain's global leadership in human rights - and its rule-of-law credentials more broadly - than the five Conservative prime ministers who have held office since the 2016 Brexit vote. Yet, in practice, these very ministers have been systematically undermining the rule of law, and the "law and order" party is now contemplating abandoning the ECHR - a framework that British leaders, beginning with Winston Churchill, pioneered over 70 years ago and persuaded Europeans to accept.

According to The Telegraph, a newspaper close to the Conservative Party, more than one-third of the cabinet - at least eight ministers - along with other senior Tories, are pushing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to place a commitment to withdraw from the ECHR at the center of the coming election campaign. Their justification is that judges at the European Court of Human Rights are blocking the deportation of illegal migrants from the UK to Rwanda, which has agreed to accept them (for a hefty price).

Renouncing the Convention is no idle threat. Already, the government has positioned itself to defy the Court. With the just-passed Illegal Migration Act, the government has - for the first time since the ECHR was concluded - claimed the power not to comply with the Court's "interim measures." In other words, the UK government can now ignore any European order to stop flights of migrants to Rwanda. This provision directly breaches the UK's obligations under the ECHR.

The Illegal Migration Act is the latest development in a downward spiral that has undermined basic rights. The government now boasts it is housing asylum-seekers in inferior accommodation, including massive barges more reminiscent of the prison ships Britain used in the nineteenth century than modern amenities.

The Act also strips asylum-seekers of their right to remain in the UK while their application is considered, and provides for deportation of applicants before any effort is made to determine whether someone is, say, a victim of modern slavery. The United Nations' humanitarian agency, UNHCR, has condemned the legislation, stating that it "effectively extinguishes the right of refugees to be recognized and protected in the UK."

These actions follow prime ministerial rulings that renounced the government's explicit duty, enshrined in the ministerial code, to comply with international law. Government lawyers are now operating

under unprecedented new guidance to proceed with drafting legislation that dismisses international conventions, even if there is a high chance of successful legal challenge. (Fortunately, the opposition has promised to reverse such actions.)

As for the ECHR, Conservative prime ministers have been targeting it for at least a decade. In 2013, David Cameron told the BBC that leaving the Convention might be necessary for security reasons. In 2016, Theresa May said that, while the UK should remain in the EU, it should exit the ECHR, which can "bind the hands of Parliament."

May's successors, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, echoed this call to abandon the ECHR, as did their far-right home secretaries, Priti Patel and Suella Braverman. Braverman claimed earlier this year - with little evidence - that "100 million people around the world...could qualify for protection under our current laws," making an immigration crackdown essential.

According to a statement from 10 Downing Street in February, Sunak is considering "whether being a part of the ECHR is in the UK's long-term interests." And a few days ago, Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, said that the government would do "whatever is necessary" to stop small boats from crossing the English Channel, even if that meant pulling out of the ECHR.

This wholesale Conservative attack on the ECHR reflects the view that UK sovereignty must be unlimited, unrestricted, and accountable to no one, especially not a European court. Even after Brexit, apparently, the UK does not enjoy enough "independence" to privilege the "us," who deserve basic rights, over the "them," who do not. It is a prejudice that is out of touch with any concept of human rights and unsuited to our interconnected world, in which each country's independence is qualified by all countries' interdependence, and where prosperity, to be sustained, must be shared.

For the time being, under Attorney General Victoria Prentis, the UK may refrain from choosing non-compliance with interim European Court judgments. But the mere fact that the UK statute book now includes a provision allowing for defiance of the Court's rulings undermines the entire ECHR system.

By weakening the Court's authority to interpret the Convention and turning its judgments into political footballs, the UK is setting a precedent that other countries will invariably follow. Indeed, the UK's alignment with "illiberal democracies" such as Poland, Hungary, and Turkey on any issue relating to human rights betrays its historical record and reputation. Should the UK leave the ECHR altogether, it would become an international outlier, alongside Russia and Belarus.

Anyone who stands for the advancement and protection of human rights must keep this in mind, knowing that rights are on the agenda when the next UK election comes. History and a sense of who we are should convince the British people not to empower leaders who show such contempt for human rights.

OP-ED

By Jennifer Clapp, Phil Howard

The Hunger Profiteers

WATERLOO/EAST LANSING - The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have caused commodity prices to soar in recent years, severely undermining global food security. Now, global food prices are down from the peaks of a year ago, but no one should be complacent: the world's food woes are far from over. The risk of additional price volatility remains high.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin's annulment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and attacks on export infrastructure in Ukraine, grain prices have ticked upward again. But dysfunctional food markets are the long-term risk. Wheat remains more than twice as expensive as it was before the pandemic. Moreover, food-price inflation is still running above 5% in most developing countries, and as high as 30% in Rwanda and Egypt. Another global food-price spike is likely.

The real problem is that the growing market power of major agribusiness firms is raising the risk that extreme food-price swings will become the norm.

Consider the fertilizer sector. The tripling of fertilizer prices in 2020-22 - which drove up food prices - was partly fueled by higher costs for nitrogen fertilizer, which reflected the rising price of natural gas. But new data from GRAIN/IATP show that leading firms hiked fertilizer prices well beyond what was needed to cover increased production costs, increasing their operating profits to 36%, even as they sold less product. The resulting profit ratios were three times higher than before the Ukraine war began, and well above the 13% average posted by S&P 500 firms.

Global grain traders have similarly been able to translate tighter supplies into record profits. In mid-2022, grain multinational Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM) recorded its highest-ever quarterly profits. Its rival Cargill also banked record profits, with total revenues soaring by 23%.

Such profiteering is made possible by growing corporate concentration in the food and fertilizer sectors. ADM and Cargill are two of the four "ABCD" firms - along with Bunge and Dreyfus - that control an estimated 70-90% of the world grain market. Just four firms account for 75% of nitrogen-fertilizer production in the United States, and 72% of the potash-fertilizer market globally.

Through decades of mergers and acquisitions, such firms have been able to expand their influence up and down the supply chain, while amassing huge amounts of market data. Now, a proposed \$34 billion merger between Bunge and Viterra - the grain arm of the commodity giant Glencore - would mean further concentration of soybean and canola processing and distribution across the Americas.

Leading agribusiness firms enjoy huge supply-management and price-setting power, akin to the role of OPEC in oil markets. And they are not afraid to use it: previous episodes of market turbulence - in the 1970s and in 2008-11 - also led to higher profits in the fertilizer and grain-trading sectors. In a 2021 filing to US regulators, Nutrien, the world's largest fertilizer company, admitted that its "higher selling prices more than offset higher raw-material costs and lower sales volume."

For the world's poor, who spend as much as 60% of their incomes on food, every percentage point of food-price inflation can be devastating. Skyrocketing import costs for food and fertilizers are also one reason why many low- and middle-income countries are now facing their worst debt crisis in 60 years.

Farmers, meanwhile, are mostly unable to benefit from soaring food prices, largely because the costs of inputs - supplied largely by major firms with huge market power - are rising even faster than commodity prices. With farmgate prices now plummeting, and debt rising (owing to interest-rate hikes), many farmers are struggling to stay afloat.

As Russia's actions in Ukraine prompt wheat futures to surge again, it has become clear that food prices can spike without warning. There is little doubt that more shocks will come. The consequences are likely to be compounded if a few companies still hold such inordinate power over the world's food systems. That is why governments must act to change incentives before the next crisis arrives.

Compelling calls have been made to tax agribusinesses' windfall profits and re-invest the funds in climate-resilient food systems. Government scrutiny of fertilizer price-gouging - as farmers' groups have demanded - is also needed, along with stronger enforcement of competition policies to curb excessive mergers and acquisitions. Governments need to consider doing what for decades they have been reluctant to do - stepping in to break up monopolies.

The Bunge-Viterra merger offers an ideal opportunity to assess what kind of consolidation is really in the public interest and to send a clear message: profiteering from food crises will no longer be tolerated.

OPINION

By Biniam Bedasso,
Susannah Hares

A Well-Being Agenda for Poor Students

LONDON - There is growing concern that children in developing countries are not learning enough in school. Even before pandemic-related school closures, 57% of ten-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries were unable to read and understand a simple text - the definition of "learning poverty." The COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated the situation, leading large donors and global institutions to launch a program aimed at improving foundational skills.

But if well-intentioned efforts to tackle learning poverty do not account for the complex and interrelated challenges that prevent children in poor countries from achieving academic success, they risk reproducing existing inequalities in educational outcomes.

For the more than one billion children worldwide who live in multidimensional poverty - lacking access to adequate nutrition, health care, safety, and sanitation - the barriers to learning extend far beyond the school gates. They may suffer from the psychological stresses of poverty or be hungry at school, both of which impede learning. Perhaps violence threatens them inside or outside the classroom, or they are at risk of being married off young and dropping out of school.

Overreliance on technical solutions designed to address the proximate causes of learning poverty from the supply side could leave many of these children behind.

Policymakers in low- and middle-income countries and aid organizations tend to decouple education policy from the underlying issues of poverty and social vulnerability. This can partly be attributed to the fact that the Washington Consensus advocated small government in developing countries, limiting their ability to implement broad-based social policies in conjunction with expanding schooling. The advent of New Public Management reforms, which emphasized quantifiable performance based on narrowly defined organizational objectives, also likely discouraged education ministries from addressing well-being more broadly or encouraging intersectoral collaboration.

As for donors, their laser focus on channeling resources to cost-effective projects with specific and measurable outcomes has seemingly diverted attention from more complex problems that extend beyond the classroom. An overview of the education strategies of major multilateral and bilateral aid organizations shows that their inclusion and well-being agendas are too often limited to girls' education and children in fragile states or marginalized regions, leaving other forms of deprivation unaddressed.

Consider, for example, school meals, an area where education policies and anti-poverty measures intersect. Since the start of the pandemic, lower-middle-income countries have expanded their school-meal programs by an average of 12% - three times higher than their wealthier counterparts. This contrasts sharply with the 4% contraction, on average, in school-meal coverage in low-income countries, which usually have the neediest children but lack the fiscal space to expand meal programs.

The prevailing view in Uganda, a low-income country where the provision of school meals is patchy, is that the government has only a narrow role to play in education - a view enshrined in the country's legislation. As Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the minister of state for primary education, puts it,

"Education is a shared responsibility. The government and parents have different roles to play. The government ensures that there is a conducive environment for learning by providing infrastructure, teachers, and learning materials. Parents have the core responsibility of sending learners to school, ensuring the learner is appropriately dressed, and that the learner is well fed, even at school."

This narrow view of the state's role in education prevails among donors and policymakers and has been ingrained by the neoliberal notion of minimal government intervention.

The tendency to draw an artificial boundary between a child's education and overall well-being is also evident in the "smart buys" report. Produced by a panel of high-profile international experts and sponsored by many of the largest donors in global education, the report classifies school meals as an "effective, but ... relatively expensive" way to deliver learning outcomes. In the panel's view, "education systems face budget constraints, and they need to allocate scarce resources toward whatever interventions will deliver the most learning gains for the most children and youth on a given budget."

In fact, providing school meals - a form of transfer to households - is less of an economic cost to society than a direct fiscal cost to government. Moreover, spending on programs with multisectoral benefits does not necessarily have to be constrained by the education budget.

By the same token, some donors are fixated on the false dichotomy between intervention in early childhood and during school attendance. The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, for example, notes that feeding children before the age of two is more effective than feeding school-age children. Apart from the moral issue at stake, it is unclear how allowing school-age children to go hungry can be cost-effective from an educational perspective. When examining the evidence, it makes little sense to separate the educational, nutritional, and safety-net benefits of school meals for children and their families.

Breaking through such conceptual silos in governments and donor bureaucracies could be the first step toward adopting a much more holistic approach to education policy and resource allocation. More fundamentally, better learning outcomes requires greater comprehension of the realities of school life for poor children. Like all children, they will learn best when they are free from hunger, illness, and violence.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

A response to Lofa Superintendent Kamba

By John Kpehe Boimah

The Superintendent of Lofa County, Mr. William Tamba Kamba made statements to Journalist Kruah Thompson that were published in The New Dawn Newspaper on Friday, September 15, 2023. This article provided me an insight into why Lofa County is underdeveloped. It is very simple. Our superintendents have never provided the leadership required to have an impact on the county. In my opinion, they have just been leaders with no vision, they lack innovation and the skills to provide leadership.

Superintendent Kamba, you are the Chief Executive Officer of Lofa County. Stop playing the blame game and become our leader; the leader of Lofa County. What are your achievements since you became the CEO of Lofa County? What have you done to enhance education and health care and ensure that Lofians have a year-round road network? Superintendent Kamba, have you championed this cause? Did you push our legislative Caucus to achieve your agenda? I am wondering what you have been doing in Voinjama.

Superintendent Kamba, please go through the list of Presidents of our country. Did you find the names of any of the Vice Presidents you mentioned? I want to believe that you understand how the leadership of our country functions. The president has absolute administrative authority in decision-making. I would like to believe they must have tried with their efforts in vain because the president may have seen it differently.

And note that the only person alive from your list is Joseph Nyumah Boakai. He is vying for the presidency of Liberia. I want to strongly believe that he will do better for all Liberians. Instead of you rallying the people of Lofa County to support him, you are



trying your utmost best to show that he has done nothing for your county. What a shame! Please note that JNB is not the superintendent. You are the superintendent of Lofa County. You have failed the people of Lofa County. You have not used your office to network and address the problems so dear to you.

As a kid, I traveled the Lofa road to St. Joseph Catholic School in Voinjama on the road to Kuruka. I used this same road while attending St. Augustine High School of the Holy Cross Mission in Bolahun. Even today, I am still traveling this treacherous road.

WOW!!!!!! Superintendent Kamba, you stated that Lofa County received "Primarily Unfulfilled Promises" from Liberia's former Vice Presidents from Lofa County. And you went on to state that the CDC-led government of President Weah broke the pattern by employing Lofians to KEY positions in his government. I wonder "WHY" these Lofians in KEY Government positions are not helping you deliver on this project so dear to your heart.

For your information, Superintendent Kamba, my company in association with a Kuwaiti engineering firm submitted bidding documents for this project. Documents from my archives, I am presenting a few documents to help you ask critical questions.

Superintendent Kamba, as I close, have you wondered why this road project so dear to your heart is overdue? Its anticipated date of completion was at the end of 2019. This September 2023 makes it four years since it was anticipated to be completed. I wonder WHY you are not asking questions.

Is it because you do not care about it, but you want to play politics during this election season? I just hope this problem that you have unearthed does not take a big bite out of you. For the few months you have as CEO of Lofa County, PLEASE DO SOMETHING WORTHWISE. Many of us have been watching for long.

UP denies purported blacklist



September 18, 2023-Monrovia, Liberia: A list containing names of 67 individuals including politicians and senior journalists purported to be released by opposition Unity Party or UP banning these individuals from ever holding public positions in a potential UP-led government has been denied.

UP in a press release issued Monday, September 18, described the list as a frivolous creation by the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led government.

The purported "blacklist", which has been making rounds on various platforms on social media, according to the UP is being circulated by mainly CDC-zealous and collaborators and it claims to have names of people the Unity Party-led government plans to eliminate as well.

"The Unity Party categorically distances itself from such malicious lies orchestrated by the CDC for propaganda purposes," UP said.

"We are not surprised that a day after the Liberian people defied torrential rain and assembled to affirm their support for the Presidential bid of H. E Joseph Nyuma Boakai and the Rescue Team, the CDC has gone in panic mood and as such; have resulted to using desperate propaganda to taint the democratic image of the Unity Party," UP added.

The UP notes that the only post war targeted list was created by the CDC immediately after they assumed the Leadership of Liberia and has since been targeting, eliminating and generally harming Liberians.

"The mysterious deaths of Albert

Peter, Gifty Lama, Matthew Innis, et al are all clear examples of what the CDC has done and still desirous of doing to coverup their devilish activities against the poor masses of our people," it added.

The Unity Party said it believes all Liberians are equal and will be equally protected and included in the new government led by a responsible and experienced public servant, Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai. No government has employed more opposition than the Unity Party-led government.

"We recall the appointments of George Weah as Peace Ambassador of Liberia, Nathaniel McGill as Assistant Minister while still serving as Secretary General of the CDC, Samuel Tweah as Consultant at the Ministry of Finance and later on at the AFDB and host of others.

Unlike the CDC which has skewed opportunities away from the people and made them strangers in their own economy, the Unity Party provided the platform for every Liberian to participate in the administration of their own affairs. Liberian businesses were on the horizon during the UP administration.

The UP calls on the CDC to campaign on its record of service if there is any and desist from childish propaganda that has the proclivity to undermine the peace and stability of the country. The UP is calling on all partisans, members of Alliance parties and supporters of the rescue mission to continue with the door-to-door campaign and ultimately come out in their mass to vote against the CDC-led government on October 10, 2023." The release concluded.

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Moniba pledges food production in each county

Presidential candidate Dr. Clarence Moniba has pledged that his administration will have every county in Liberia produce food responsible for food production for this country," he continued.

Kru, and say you will produce all the pepper, bitter balls, and okra; Grand Bassa, River Cess, and River Gee, could produce fruits and vegetables for our people," he suggested.

He noted that his ultimate priority will be to turn Liberia into a self-producing nation where the price of food will decrease, while good paying jobs in this country will increase.

In education, he vowed that no student will graduate from high school without earning a technical and vocational certificate in their three years of high school.

"As President, we will graduate people from high school who are also carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and caterers, among other skilled professions," said Dr. Moniba.

In the healthcare sector, Dr. Moniba said his government will build this country district by district.

According to him, each district in Liberia will have a modern, functioning hospital that the people of that district can go to.

Further, he noted that JFK

▶ CONT'D page 11



Dr. Clarence Moniba

if he wins the elections. The youthful opposition candidate is seeking Liberia's highest office on the Liberia National Union (LINU) ticket along with former Superintendent Madam Grace Kpaan as his running mate.

"Nimba and Grand Gedeh, for example, will produce all the cassava, yams, and eddoes for this country," he stated.

"[Then] you go to Margibi, Sinoe, Maryland, and Grand

CDC Islamic Affairs recommits to Weah's re-election

By Lewis S. Teh

A group of Muslims under the banner the CDC Islamic Affairs has recommitted itself to the re-election bid of incumbent President George Manneh Weah. The group endorsed Mr. Weah's second term bid Monday, 18 September 2023 at a colorful program held at the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) party headquarters in Oldest Congo Town.

The group encouraged its members to keep treading on the path of supporting Mr. Weah's re-election.

"We're asking every Muslim that it's good for us to sit on the old mat before we think about plaiting the new mat," the group said. "We the CDC Islamic Affairs for the re-election of President Weah have come to encourage all of [our] brothers and sisters as we get closer to the election to vote President Weah," said Mr. Ousma Jalloh.

He narrated that for the first time in their history, it took President Weah to select someone from the Islamic religion to serve as advisor.

Ousma T. Jalloh, the Religious Advisor on Islamic Affairs to President Weah, said in 2017 he had encouraged his fellow Muslims that President was the best candidate in the race. According to him, to see Muslims coming out in their numbers to endorse the re-election bid of President Weah was brilliant and timely. Jalloh encouraged every Muslim in Liberia to campaign in their various districts for the re-election of President Weah.

"Today I ask you to go out in the trenches, encourage every

Muslims to vote President Weah because he's the best among his contenders," said Jalloh. He believes that CDC is the best way out, encouraging Muslims to continue the work and re-elect Mr. Weah. For his part, CDC Chairman on Islamic Affairs Mr. Mohammed A. Swaray said the program was impromptu, but the fact that Muslims abandoned their activities to gather to endorse President Weah, it

▶ CONT'D page 7



Judge Peabody urges LNBA to lead judicial rebranding

By Lincoln G. Peters

Civil Law Court Judge J. Kennedy Peabody has charged the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) to be the voice of positive change and take the lead in rebranding the judiciary. Judge Peabody delivered a charge Monday, 18 September 2023 at the formal opening of the September Term of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court at the Temple of Justice. He said the Bar has a special responsibility to set the pace for the speedy disposition of ejectment cases.

"This is not just the Judiciary's problem, this is our problem because our clients are the direct victims of the delay in disposing of ejectment cases due to jury trials," the Judge stated.

According to him, lawyers have a special responsibility to advocate to change laws and practices that are ineffective and are not conformity with present-day realities. He urged lawyers to continue to fight to

some of you may have a different viewpoint regarding investigative survey reports being used as prima facie evidence to dispose of ejectment cases," the Judge explained. He welcomed lawyers' views that will help citizens to have speedy access to their properties. Meanwhile, The Judge has said that he believes that the establishment of a procedure where ejectment cases are ruled based on the investigative survey report would enable a judge to dispose of more than ten to fifteen ejectment cases per term.

He suggested that the disposal of more than ten to fifteen ejectment cases per term will alleviate the burden of overcrowded dockets and long years of cases pending for more than fifteen years or more undisposed.

The Judge said one other way to enhance speedy trial of ejectment cases is to do away with the jury system and maintain trials by judges sitting alone as



Hon. Judge J. Kennedy Peabody

advance the rule of law and the cause of justice, reminding them that this is the values they believe in as lawyers.

"Change is needed in our legal system, reform is the platform and change we must. Everyone needs to be at the forefront to achieve what we believe is long overdue regarding our legal system and access to justice," Judge Peabody narrated.

The Judge revealed that to have access to justice, lawyers must be willing and must exert all efforts to have their constitution and statutes reflect present-day realities to expand legal services to more Liberians and residents.

The Civil Law Court Judge called on lawyers to work to narrow the procedural technicality in the statutes.

"In my view, this is clearly a substantial issue for the Bar and Bench to seriously consider. Certainly,

both judge of the law and judge of the facts. "The jury as we know it today is basically a legal institution in which a group of laymen participate in a trial to make a determination." "Of course jury service is a national obligation of every citizen. But the issue is the caliber of people who are providing jury services in ejectment cases, the lawyers, and the judges are not trained engineers, they don't understand the technical nature of the case," Judge Peabody indicated. Civil Law Court Judge said that resources directed towards jurors could be used for important areas of the judiciary. "We are living in the past, Liberia is behind, and countries around us have gone far ahead. We have been told that laws are made based on the prevailing realities and conditions at a particular time," he argued. He believes that today's realities do not require a jury trial in ejectment matters.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Starts from page 11

All eyes on Liberia

Vote for ability, not celebrity

-Candidate Frank Artus

By Kruah Thompson

Liberian film artist-turned politician, Frank Artus, known for his remarkable performances on the silver screen, says he is not using his

connect with the people of District#7 on a personal level, to understand their needs, and to represent them to the best of his ability.

"If I had the ability to pass my first bill in the House of

supporting local tailors.

He wonders if Liberian culture is similarly embraced in other countries like it is being done here.

The Representative Candidate says his approach underscores his commitment to representing residents of District 7 with a focus on their well-being and the district's unique cultural heritage.

Artus achieved widespread fame in Nollywood, the Nigerian film industry, with numerous movie appearances that garnered him a substantial following across Africa and the African diaspora.

Despite his Nollywood success, Frank maintains a strong connection to his Liberian roots.

Returning home, he became a pivotal figure in the burgeoning Liberian film industry, both as an actor and producer, significantly contributing to the growth of the local movie scene.

He has received numerous awards and nominations for his acting prowess, cementing his status as a highly respected African movie icon. Beyond his acting career, he has actively engaged in philanthropic endeavors, leveraging his platform to support various causes within Liberia and beyond.

He currently runs as an independent candidate under the "Movement for Frank Artus 'Da Our Own' ticket in District 7, Montserrado County.

The shift from entertainment to politics according to him, underscores his desire to extend his influence into the realm of governance and public service, marking a new chapter in his remarkable journey.

However, on September 7, 2023, Artus was spotted alongside his wife at the CDC campaign launch, showing support for incumbent President George Weah's second-term bid. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



celebrity status to secure votes in Electoral District#7, Montserrado County, but rather his capacity to genuinely represent the people, not on the basis of stardom.

"I want you to look at me as someone who has brought pride to the country and I'm willing to also make this district proud that other lawmakers will see the difference", he notes.

The Liberian artist well known in the entertainment industry in West Africa, has decided to embark on a political journey in Liberia, but unlike some celebrities, who use their fame as a campaign strategy, Artus says he is taking a humble and down-to-earth approach.

In a recent interview, he stated that his goal is to

Representatives, it will be a bill on the protection, preservation, and provision of our cultural norms and values." He added.

He recalls that when Liberians found joy in television programs like 'Balawala' and 'Three is a Crowd,' they celebrated their own culture with pride. But today, their increased consumption of content from Nigeria and Ghana has reached a point where it affects their marriages.

"There's no marriage in Liberia that does not portray a Nigerian or a Guinean culture, we need to prioritize Liberian culture", he underscores.

Artus laments that Liberians seem to have adopted foreign customs to an extent that even school uniforms are being imported, rather than

importance of media, in this regard, can therefore not be overemphasized as it is core to the electoral processes of every democracy."

She says with less than a month to the elections in a critical juncture where citizens are called to exercise their civic duties, it becomes imperative that the media ensures that information reaching citizens is accurate and meets ethical standards of the journalism profession with a gender sensitive perspective for inclusiveness.

"The media, as the Fourth Realm of the Estate, play a pivotal role in upholding these principles and strengthening democracy. Therefore, your role in fostering confidence in the electoral process is crucial through your objectivity, fairness and accurate reporting to sustain our peace. The two-day workshop marks another milestone in our collective efforts to strengthen the integrity and effectiveness of election reporting", she adds.

The engagement continues today, Tuesday, 19 September in Monrovia.

Starts from page 6

Moniba pledges food production

and Jackson F. Doe hospitals will be elevated to modern standards and become referral hospitals for West Africa. "Let Ghanaians and Nigerians have to come to Liberia for treatment, instead of us always going to them."

He also spoke against "a serious and destructive problem" threatening this country right now which he said is the issue of drugs. Unfortunately, Moniba lamented, there continues to be no arrest made and nothing said by leadership as to how they plan to stop this. "Our children are dying, but I refuse to accept the idea that we cannot save our Liberian children from this problem," he said. The LINU presidential candidate vowed a zero-tolerance policy on the issue of drug importation in this country.

"If you bring, or sell drugs in Liberia, through whatever means, you will face the full weight of the law with no exception and you will be in jail." Additionally, on the issue of corruption, Dr. Moniba said every single government official will have to declare their assets as required by law before ever stepping one foot in office.

"You cannot be in charge of millions of dollars of our people's money without first letting the country know your personal and financial worth," he said. Also, to fight corruption, he said Liberia has to do away with the culture of impunity where nobody is held accountable.

"Under the Moniba/Kpan administration, people who steal government money will go to jail and have their properties seized to pay back what was stolen: simple as that." To immediately jump-start the economy, in addition to the

educational, tourism, and agricultural policies, he said he would immediately seek to employ thousands of Liberians in the maritime sector. With over 4,400 ships currently flying the Liberian flag, he said he will have Liberians also working on these ships.

"Then, we will use our international relationships and connections to get companies to reinvest in this country again. And, you know what, they will because they know us," he said.

Moniba said he has worked with them or their colleagues before and they know him and they can trust him.

He cautioned Liberians that they cannot afford to go back to the failed past because it is simply not a recipe to make progress in this country. He wondered how can they continue to say they want change, yet when given the opportunity to get real, capable change, they reject it for the same two political parties that have led this country for almost 20 years.

"In 2005, it was the CDC and UP in the 2nd round; in 2011, the CDC and UP were in the 2nd round; in 2017, the CDC and UP were in the 2nd round," Moniba explained.

"How can we say we want change, when we continue to go to the same two groups for that change? We are suffering - go back and try again - the price of food is too high - go back and try again - the young people of this country are on drugs - go back and try again - there are no roads, no good hospitals, no good schools - go back and try again."

He argued that two things have been consistent in the last 20 years of elections: the same two parties in the 2nd round, and therefore the same result for the country today.

Starts from page 6

CDC Islamic Affairs recommits

was a sign of their readiness to vote the incumbent. "We want to ease the rumors that the Muslim Community isn't for President Weah. [It's] false. About fifty percent of our people are in support of President Weah's re-election," said Swaray.

According to him, since the establishment of the Muslim Community, they have been in full support of

the CDC, especially President Weah. Reading the endorsement statement, Oumu Sall said the Muslims of the CDC Islamic Affairs had gathered to show their support for the re-election bid of President Weah.

She added that since President Weah took office, things were shaking. But she noted that due to his astute leadership ability, he

stabilized things. Oumu noted that this has caught their attention. "Today we the Muslims are appreciative of the work that you continue to do for Muslims and the country at large," she continued. She extolled the CDC leader for identifying with Muslims during the time of Ramadan and Abraham Day celebration, donating rice and cow, among others.

Advertise with us!

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

Français

Les élections de 2023 sont un test important pour le Libéria, selon la Mission d'observation de l'UE

La mission d'observation de l'Union européenne au Libéria qui va observer les élections du 10 octobre 2023 croit que les élections

M. Schieder espère que l'autorité de l'État, les partis politiques et tous les candidats joueront leur rôle dans la promotion d'un processus électoral crédible, pacifique,

pratiques pour des élections démocratiques.

« Nous avons déjà déployé depuis la semaine dernière 20 observateurs à long terme partout au Libéria », a dit l'observateur en chef Schieder.

Éditorial

L'Etat doit mener une enquête approfondie dans cette affaire de trafic de drogue

L'enquête que mène actuellement le ministère de la Justice et l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue pour faire la lumière sur l'importation récente de plusieurs cartons de drogues nocives à l'aéroport international Roberts ne devrait pas aboutir à un autre fiasco comme ce fut le cas dans les affaires des lots de cocaïne évalués respectivement à 100 millions et 45 millions de dollars américains importés dans des conteneurs au port franc de Monrovia l'année dernière et au début de cette année.

Les autorités aéroportuaires avaient initialement fait croire que les cartons ne contenaient pas de drogues nocives, mais des feuilles médicinales appelées Morigan. Mais elles se sont fait contredire par les autorités sécuritaires du Libéria qui ont confirmé que les cartons interceptés par un contingent des forces armées du Libéria affecté à l'aéroport contenaient bel et bien une drogue illicite appelée méthamphétamine.

La méthamphétamine est un stimulant puissant qui crée une forte dépendance et qui affecte le système nerveux central. Il se présente sous la forme d'une poudre cristalline blanche, inodore et au goût amer qui se dissout facilement dans l'eau ou l'alcool.

En conséquence, le chef de la sécurité de la RIA, Samuel Freeman, qui aurait pris livraison du lot, a été suspendu, dans l'attente d'une enquête approfondie.

Cependant, compte tenu des faits auxquels nous avons assisté dans une affaire de la cocaïne où trois accusés clés ont été jugés non coupables et ensuite libérés par le tribunal, puis poursuivis de nouveau par le gouvernement alors qu'ils étaient cette fois-ci déjà hors du pays, tout le monde est septique. On craint que cela ne se reproduise.

Les responsables de la Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), par l'intermédiaire de son directeur général, Michael Zeyhou, ont déclaré que la drogue, évaluée à 37 millions de dollars, appartiendrait à un ressortissant kenyan non identifié.

En juillet de cette année, le gouvernement du Libéria a adopté une nouvelle loi sur les drogues, connue sous le nom de Control and Substance Act, afin de renforcer les lois existantes. En vertu de la nouvelle loi, la possession illégale de drogues ou le trafic de substances de contrebande constituent un délit ne pouvant donner lieu à une libération sous caution.

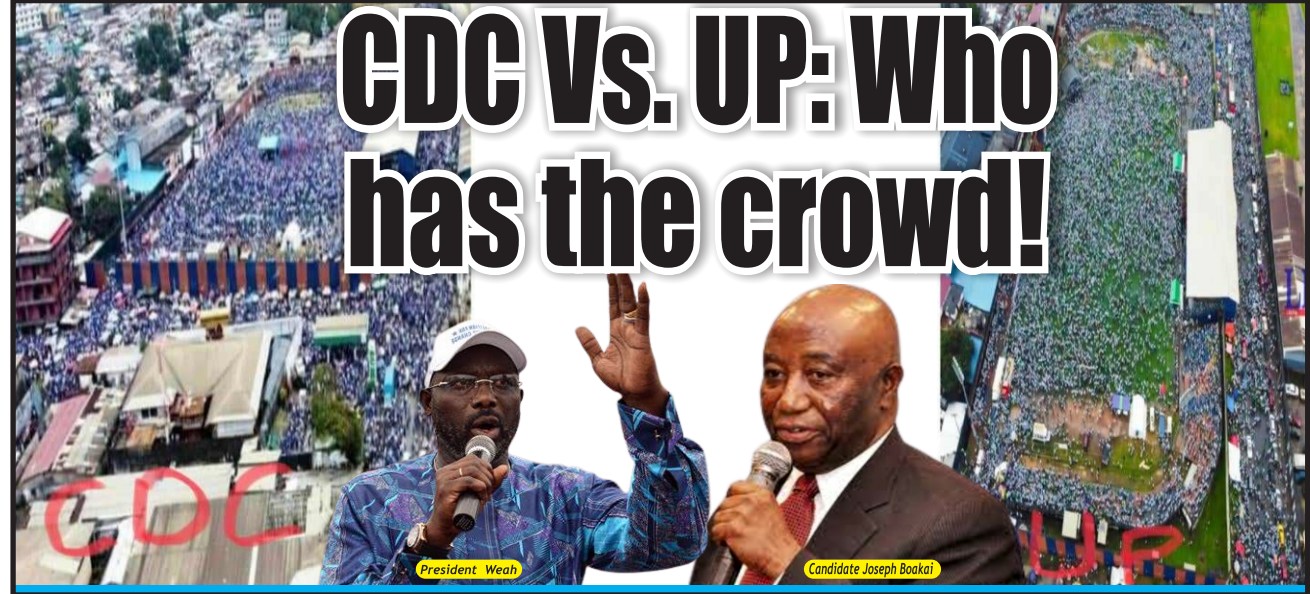
La nouvelle loi vise à restreindre, gérer, réduire ou éliminer l'importation ou l'exportation de drogues illicites. Il a cité les substances stupéfiantes et leur usage abusif et abus généralisé ainsi que la prolifération des substances de contrebande dans le pays. La loi indique en partie qu'un individu aurait commis une infraction s'il importait ou trafiquait intentionnellement ou sciemment des drogues ou des substances contrôlées au Libéria.

Il qualifie également de délit grave un crime au premier degré, passible d'une peine d'emprisonnement maximale de 10 à vingt ans pour les contrevenants graves.

Une enquête rapide et l'arrestation des coupables pourraient constituer un test décisif pour la détermination du gouvernement à lutter contre le trafic de drogues illicites.

C'est dans cette optique que nous appelons à une enquête approfondie et bien intentionnée pour identifier les véritables coupables. Nous ne voulons pas d'un exercice cosmétique qui balayerait les véritables problèmes sous le tapis, pour ensuite présenter au public des conclusions dénuées de sens et peu concluantes.

CDC Vs. UP: Who has the crowd!



prochaines constituent un test important pour la consolidation de la jeune démocratie du pays de George Weah.

« Je crois qu'il est important que l'Union européenne accompagne le peuple libérien dans ce processus », a déclaré l'observateur en chef, M. Andreas Schieder, lors d'une conférence de presse vendredi 15 septembre.

transparent et inclusif.

La mission d'observation de l'UE, à l'invitation des autorités libériennes, est arrivée à Monrovia le 27 août avec une équipe de 10 analystes pour observer et évaluer les élections générales au regard de la législation nationale, des engagements et obligations en matière d'élections démocratiques découlant des normes internationales et régionales, ainsi que des bonnes

L'équipe d'observation compte déjà diverses parties prenantes, notamment la Commission électorale nationale, le ministre de la Justice, le ministre d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles, la justice associée, les candidats à la présidentielle, des représentants de la société civile et les médias.

« Après plusieurs réunions à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Mali : les combattants du Cadre stratégique permanent se sont retirés de la ville de Léré

Au Mali, les combattants du Cadre stratégique permanent (CSP) se sont retirés de la ville de Léré. Cette coalition de groupes armés du Nord avait attaqué et pris le contrôle le dimanche 17 septembre après-midi du camp militaire malien de cette ville du cercle de Niafunké, région de Tombouctou. L'état-major des Forces armées maliennes (Fama) confirme l'attaque et évoque une riposte. Mais les assaillants ont quitté la ville pendant la nuit.

Au Mali, les combattants du Cadre stratégique permanent (CSP) se sont totalement retirés de Léré entre 2 et 3 heures ce matin, après avoir ratissé la ville. C'est ce qu'indique l'un de leurs porte-parole, qui précise que ce repli a pour but d'éviter d'éventuels bombardements de l'armée malienne. Le retrait des combattants du CSP de la ville de Léré est confirmé par plusieurs sources civiles locales. Le calme règne actuellement dans la ville. Aucun bilan n'a été

transmis par le CSP, ni par l'armée malienne qui a communiqué hier soir et ce 18 septembre au matin, dénonçant une « attaque des forces du mal contre le camp militaire de Léré », et assurant être mobilisée « pour défendre ses positions » et pour « maintenir la sécurité des populations ».

Dimanche après-midi, le CSP a pris d'assaut la ville de Léré et a pris le contrôle du camp militaire de la ville « après deux heures de combat », selon les groupes armés rebelles, qui affirment également avoir abattu un avion de l'armée malienne, images à l'appui. Des sources civiles locales et

sécuritaires ont confirmé que le CSP s'était bien emparé du camp militaire malien. Avant, donc de quitter les lieux.

Le 12 septembre, c'est la base des Forces armées maliennes (Fama) à Bourem, dans la région de Gao, qui avait été ciblée par le CSP. Déjà, les rebelles avaient mené une attaque rapide avant de se retirer. Les deux camps avaient évoqué des dizaines de morts, mais aucun bilan fiable et indépendant n'a pu être recoupé. Le CSP a par la suite diffusé la vidéo d'un soldat malien, capturé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

Starts from page 8 **Les élections de 2023 sont**

Monrovia, je peux voir l'état ou les préparatifs des institutions en charge des élections ainsi que les candidats et partis politiques. Nos observateurs à long terme déployés dans les 15 comtés ont déjà rencontré diverses parties prenantes et préparent et nous envoient des rapports complets et fondés sur des preuves provenant de leurs zones d'observation », a déclaré l'observateur en chef de l'UE.

Il a déclaré qu'à l'approche du jour du scrutin, 40

observateurs à court terme supplémentaires viendront renforcer la mission d'observation de l'UE qui comptera environ 100 observateurs sur le terrain, dont des membres du Parlement européen et des diplomates de l'UE accrédités au Libéria en provenance des États membres, ainsi que du Canada et Norvège.

Les Libériens se rendront aux élections présidentielles et générales le 10 octobre avec un total de 20 candidats en lice, dont une femme et président sortant George Weah.

Starts from page 8 **Mali : les combattants**

pendant cette attaque et depuis retenu prisonnier.

Le CSP estime que ses récentes opérations relèvent de la « légitime défense » et accuse l'armée malienne et ses supplétifs russes du Groupe Wagner d'avoir violé à de nombreuses reprises, au cours des derniers mois, l'accord de paix de 2015 et le cessez-le-feu qui était en vigueur.

Les autorités maliennes de transition n'ont quant à elles cessé de dénoncer, ces dernières semaines, des « attaques terroristes ». Elles ont créé le 16 septembre, avec le Niger et le Burkina Faso voisins, l'« Alliance des États du Sahel », qui prévoit une coopération élargie pour faire face au risque terroriste mais également à « toute atteinte à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale » de ces trois pays.

On ignore encore les moyens militaires concrets qui seront mobilisés par les États malien, burkinabè et nigérien, tous dirigés par des régimes issus de coups d'État militaires et engagés dans une difficile lutte antiterroriste contre les groupes jihadistes du Jnim - le Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans - lié à Aqmi, et de l'État islamique.

Le communiqué diffusé hier par l'état-major malien

affirme qu'« au cours des dernières semaines », « grâce à notre vaillante armée, la sécurité dans le pays s'est améliorée et la menace terroriste a été considérablement réduite ».

Officiellement, ni l'État malien ni les groupes armés du Nord signataires ne se sont retirés de l'accord de paix de 2015 qui, sur le terrain, est en train de voler en éclat. Chaque nouvel affrontement semble éloigner encore davantage toute perspective de marche arrière. La médiation internationale pour le suivi de l'accord de paix, menée par l'Algérie et fragilisée par la fin de la Minusma au Mali - la mission onusienne y jouait un rôle central -, n'a plus communiqué officiellement depuis le mois de juin dernier.

Les attaques des groupes signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015 pourraient se poursuivre. Elles s'ajoutent à celles des jihadistes du Jnim. Lié à Aqmi, le Jnim impose depuis plus d'un mois un blocus à la ville de Tombouctou et a revendiqué, il y a une dizaine de jours, les attaques du camp militaire de Bamba et du bateau « Tombouctou ». Il y a eu au moins 64 morts, selon un bilan officiel provisoire - le seul qui ait été communiqué par les autorités - et plus d'une centaine, selon de nombreuses sources civiles et sécuritaires locales.

Clôture de la réunion de consultation conjointe BAD-CEDEAO



régionale en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Au cours de cette séance de synthèse, les principales conclusions et recommandations de l'engagement de la Banque africaine de développement auprès de la Commission de la CEDEAO ont été présentées. Cette présentation a souligné les prochaines étapes à suivre pour assurer une mise en œuvre efficace du DSIR et atteindre ses objectifs.

Cette séance de clôture a vu la participation d'éminentes personnalités notamment le Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, S.E. Dr Omar Alieu Touray et le directeur général de la Banque africaine de développement, Lamine G. Barrow.

La Commission de la CEDEAO et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) ont conclu avec succès une série de réunions de consultation conjointes du mardi 5 au vendredi 15 septembre 2023, des réunions axées sur les revues à mi-parcours et les performances du portefeuille du Document de stratégie d'intégration régionale (RISP) pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest pour 2020-2025.

Ces consultations visaient à évaluer les progrès et les performances du DSIR et à discuter des interventions nécessaires pour promouvoir l'intégration et le développement régionaux. Divers départements ont été visités au cours des consultations de deux semaines, notamment les affaires économiques et l'agriculture, le développement humain et les affaires sociales, les infrastructures, l'énergie et la numérisation, les affaires politiques, la paix et la sécurité.

Les consultations ont fourni une plate-forme permettant aux parties prenantes d'échanger des idées, de partager des expériences et de proposer des stratégies pour faire progresser l'intégration

Le Président de la CEDEAO et le Directeur de la BAD ont décidé conjointement de poursuivre les actions de développement en cours et également de renforcer les investissements dans des secteurs tels que le Développement Humain, l'accès à l'éducation, les infrastructures économiques, la santé, la sécurité etc.

La Banque africaine de développement et la CEDEAO collaborent sur plusieurs projets dont le projet de corridor Abidjan-Lagos qui est un projet phare du Programme de développement des infrastructures en Afrique (PIDA). Cette route de 1028 km, actuellement en construction, reliera les villes d'Abidjan, Accra, Cotonou, Lagos et Lomé. Avec une population totale de plus de 35 millions d'habitants, ces villes sont considérées comme les plus grandes et, d'un point de vue économique, les plus dynamiques d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Une marée humaine inonde l'ATS lors du lancement de la campagne de l'UP

Une véritable marée humaine est sortie dans les rues de Monrovia le dimanche 17 septembre 2023 pour soutenir l'opposant Joseph Nyumah Boakai, candidat du parti de l'unité à la prochaine présidentielle, malgré les fortes averses.

La démonstration de force de l'UP pourrait faire douter le président sortant George Manneh Weah et les militants de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir qui se disaient sûrs de remporter la victoire au premier tour le 10 octobre 2023.

A noter que Weah avait battu Boakai au second tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2017. Mais les récits de cette année pourraient ne pas être les mêmes que ceux des élections de 2017, étant donné que Weah a déjà fait six ans au pouvoir.

Le président sortant fait face à des critiques. On soupçonne son gouvernement de faire triompher la corruption, de faciliter des importations des drogues illicites, d'être complice de la mort inexplicable de professionnels et des citoyens ordinaires, de ne rien faire

face à l'insécurité, et d'être incapable d'améliorer l'économie.

Principalement soutenu par les jeunes lors des élections de 2005, 2011 et 2017, M. Weah a souvent été décrit comme différent des politiciens libériens traditionnels, un Libérien d'origine qui a fait carrière au footballeur et qui aime son pays.

Mais aujourd'hui, beaucoup de ces jeunes, parmi lesquels des motocyclistes commerciaux, des tricyclistes, des chômeurs et des électeurs silencieux dans et hors de la fonction publique, veulent se tourner vers M. Boakai qui se fait passer pour le sauveur.

Les fortes pluies de dimanche n'ont pas pu décourager les milliers de militants surexcités qui se sont rendus au stade Antoinette Tubman (ATS) pour prendre part au lancement de la campagne de leur parti dans le centre de Monrovia.



Read the
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Drugs Importation

By Naneka Hoffman

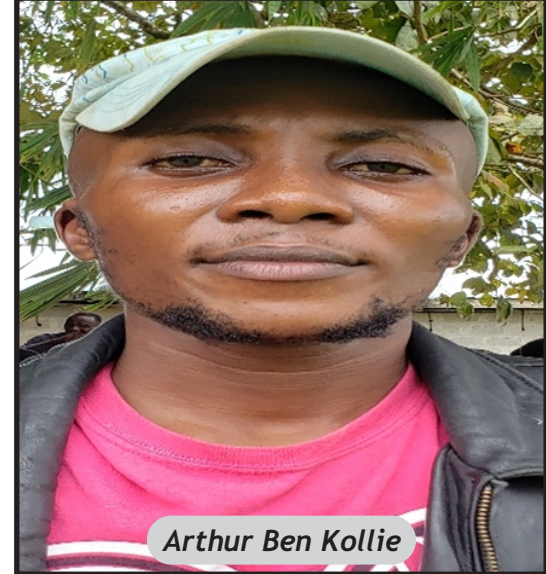
Liberia is witnessing increasing importation and consumption of dangerous, especially among young people. Last year, cocaine valued US\$100 million came into the country via the Freeport of Liberia. Early this year, another container of cocaine valued US\$45 million also docked the Freeport. About a week ago, drugs known as Methamphetamine, arrived at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County. Despite earlier denial by airport authorities, the Ministry of Justice finally confirmed that boxes brought at the airport actually contained drugs. Hence, Liberians have been randomly giving the views on the drugs situation in the country, as you may read below.



Prosper Varney Fahnbullah

“In my mind, I think drugs dealers are the ones bringing drugs to this country, I don’t think it is the government because even countries that have sophisticated security like the

great United States, drugs are still entering there. The border between Mexico and America is the transit point for drugs. And today, if you go on the internet, you will get to understand that the best drugs are being used in America, so for our country that lacks sophistication when it comes to security, I don’t think we should blame it on government.”



Arthur Ben Kollie

“There are normal trafficking of drugs and there are people living with drugs and in many times or at many times they will always try to engage a port that doesn’t have security system let you witnessed in previous years when President Weah said everybody should be security for themselves, which proves that there is no security in our system or country, so those people will use that as an opportunity because the Weah-led

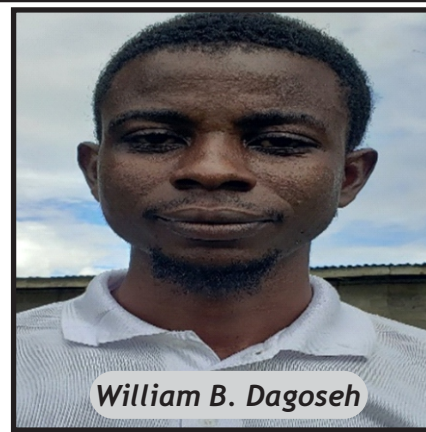
regime doesn’t have the ability to control or to provide security. I will surely tell you that President Weah is the cause for the drugs that were brought at RIA (Roberts International Airport) because he failed to provide security for the Liberian people.”

“There are normal trafficking of drugs and there are people living with drugs and in many times or at many times they will always try to engage a port that doesn’t have security system let you witnessed in previous years when President Weah said everybody should be security for themselves, which proves that there is no security in our system or country, so those people will use that as an opportunity because the Weah-led regime doesn’t have the ability to control or to provide



Darius Nathaniel Bueah

security. I will surely tell you that President Weah is the cause for the drugs that were brought at RIA (Roberts International Airport) because he failed to provide security for the Liberian people.”



William B. Dagoseh

“The flooding of drugs into our country, it is cleared that the government is responsible. The reason is very simple; it is

government’s responsibility to provide security and recently, the Liberian Legislature passed an amended drugs law to help in curtailing drugs from our society. And at the same time the RIA has been used as a conduit to transporting drugs in the country because they are not putting necessary security in place. So in my mind, the government is responsible for the importation of drugs.”

“I believe the investigation will tell who is responsible for the drugs that was brought at RIA. We should not hold anybody for the drugs that was brought at RIA until the suppose to know what is government can bad for us. You look at bad come up with its things and then bringing investigation. The them in the country, which government first, will really harm and we the citizens everybody.” second, because we



Adama Jah

Read the NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

Advertise with us!

'No higher-up linked' to RIA drugs

The Liberian government says an active investigation is ongoing into the discovery of drugs at the Roberts International Airport (RIA), but it," said Mr. Zehyoue. Mr. Zehyoue explained that the worth of the ten boxes that contained 120 kilo of drugs is US\$880,000. Earlier at the press

system stimulant. According to research, it is a synthetic drug that affects the brain and body, leading to increased alertness, energy, and a sense of euphoria.

Methamphetamine is chemically similar to amphetamine, a drug used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy, but methamphetamine is much more potent and has a higher potential for abuse.

Methamphetamine is typically sold as a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that can be ingested orally, snorted, smoked, or injected. Its street names include "meth," "crystal," "crystal meth," "ice," and "crank." Research has stated that the use of methamphetamine can have serious and harmful effects on a person's physical and mental health. Short-term effects may include increased heart rate, elevated blood pressure, decreased appetite, and a heightened sense of well-being.

The Ministry of Information in Monrovia said Tuesday, 12 September 2023 that the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency conducted an in-depth investigation, uncovering the illicit methamphetamine, a substance known for its high potential for harm. Under the signature of Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie, the release said Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musah Dean Jr. has taken immediate action in response to this alarming revelation.

The release said Cllr. Dean has issued directives to the Joint Security of Liberia including the LDEA, the Liberian National Police (LNP), and the National Security Agency (NSA) to intensify their investigations into the importation of these perilous drugs.



notes that no higher-up is linked to its importation.

The head of Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) and officials of the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) addressed the media over the weekend to provide an update on the drugs saga at RIA. At the press conference, Mr. Michael Zehyoue, the LDEA Boss, said there was no higher-ups involved in the importation of the methamphetamine, [recreational drugs taken for enjoyment rather than medication] seized recently at RIA. But he said an active investigation is ongoing regarding the drug burst.

Among those being investigated, he said, are the head of Security at RIA following his suspension and turning it over to the LDEA. He also said others being investigated are a supervisor of RIA security department, the consignee, Stephene Daniel, and Hinneh Kollie, an operative within RIA security department.

"So, like I said there is no higher-up connected to this drug saga at the airport. We have already told you the original consignee. We've reached out to Kenyan Airways, and the document Kenya Airways gave us is authentic. This is the consignee is Stephen Daniel. No higher-up linked to

conference, Mr. Boakai Fofana, Deputy Information Minister for Technical Services, explained that the shipper of the controlled substance is one Hassan Omar, referencing a document that government got from Kenya Airways.

He added that other authorities also can confirmed that the drugs were designated to be received by Stephne Daniels. Last week, Liberia's Justice Ministry confirmed that methamphetamine, [recreational drugs taken for enjoyment rather than medication], was present in the consignment of boxes intercepted at the RIA.

Through a press release dated 12 September 2023, the Liberian Government confirmed that the consignment of boxes containing herbal plants - packaged and in natural form - at the RIA reveals the presence of methamphetamine.

The boxes in question were initially believed to contain herbal plants in their natural form, though there was a public outcry against the initial account. Methamphetamine, commonly known as "meth," is a powerful and highly addictive central nervous

Starts from back page Drama at Cllr. Scott, others trial

where jurors are being sequestered late night after 9 pm and were accosted by judiciary security officers. Sources say it was the judiciary officers who promptly alerted the Marshall of the Supreme Court.

Observers believe that if these accounts are accurate then the judiciary officers are on high alert to protect the image and reputation of the judiciary.

There are calls for the Ministry of Justice to

conduct its own investigation as it being alleged that an MoJ pickup and official state prosecution were the ones who attempted to tamper with the jurors.

All eyes on Liberia

By Jonathan Browne

The Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, Josephine Nkrumah says the world looks to Liberia to showcase its growing democracy in the impending Presidential and General Elections slated for October 10th.

She made statement in Monrovia on Monday, September 18, 2023, at the start of a two-day engagement with the Liberian media to countering misinformation and disinformation during electioneering period.

Madam Nkrumah notes that misinformation and disinformation pose serious threats to democracy, as they have become instruments that can be used to manipulate public opinion, sow discord, and undermine the electoral process.

"The debilitating impact of misinformation and disinformation on elections can be seen in a number of recent elections around the world, particularly within our region, where lives were lost, properties destroyed, and the credibility of elections compromised. We have had four coups from post-election conflicts in the sub region and Liberia must stem

practitioners or journalists have the power to rightly inform and educate the public, to minimize the spread of fake news and hate speeches, as well as to hold those in power accountable, and to promote critical thinking by setting the agenda for informed, engaged and discerning civic discourse.

"We are therefore honored to have you here for the next few days to chart this course together. This workshop presents an important opportunity for us to come together and discuss how we can collaboratively work to counter mal-information, misinformation and disinformation in elections, as we recognize the pivotal role the media play in shaping public opinion, and fostering democratic processes, particularly in creating the conducive environments and conditions necessary for violent-free, inclusive, transparent, free, fair and credible elections."

The ECOWAS Resident Rep. notes that Liberia is faced with social and political issues arising from challenges of obtaining reliable information about the



ECOWAS Amb. Josephine Kkrumah

the tide", she emphasizes.

She says in partnership with the Liberian media, ECOWAS hopes to promote inclusivity by empowering the media to working towards eliminating fake news, resisting availing their platforms to people who devise and promote hate speeches and inciting statements, and to instead, ensure that the resonating voices of all Liberians are heard and adequately represented.

The engagement with the media is being facilitated by veteran journalists in West Africa, including Professor Kwame Karikari from Ghana, Sulemana Brimah, Executive Director of Media Foundation for West Africa also based in Ghana, and Madam Esther Tawiah, Executive Director, Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED), among others funded by international partners, including GIZ and the European Union.

Madam Nkrumah also stresses that the media, as gatekeepers of information, plays a vital role in countering misinformation, mal-information and disinformation, and

elections and their processes, so the media are expected to play a crucial role in bridging these gaps by ensuring equitable representation and fair coverage of all political activities and actors, devoid of misinformation, disinformation, hate speeches, incendiary statements and incitements to violence.

She says it is also important that the media use their platforms to provide voters with essential information about the candidates, political parties and their manifestos and programs, as well as election procedures and access to accurate and timely information that is crucial for citizens to make informed choices in order to actively participate in the democratic process of electing leadership.

"Through inclusive reporting, the media will help to promote social cohesion, foster understanding, and counter divisive narratives during electioneering periods. The

Advertise with us!

Drama at Cllr. Scott, others trial

-Amidst reports of attempted juror tampering

There was drama at the ongoing trial of former Chief Justice followed reports of attempted juror tampering by a senior member of the prosecution team.



Former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and three family members on Monday at Criminal Court "A" when presiding Judge Roosevelt of criminal ordered the sheriff to take the defendants out of the court room before holding a sidebar conversation with both prosecution and defend lawyers.

After the brief sidebar conversation, Judge Willie summoned the parties into his chambers, where reports of state prosecution attempt to tamper with the jurors were discussed, according to information filtering from the judge's chambers.

Heated arguments were heard as both teams walked into the hallway and outside

in the open. Our judicial correspondent gathered that the judge has conducted an investigation for which all the parties are concerned.

In the meantime, the trial is expected to resume at a date and time upon the notice of the clerk of court.

However, some senior lawyers were heard proffering various views as to the continuation of the trial given the potential gravity of what was being discussed as jury tampering.

There are those who see the issue of jurors being disbanded and hence the end of the case or a mistrial or the matter being taken up in certiorari for which the chambers of justice and subsequently the full bench taking seize of the investigation.

Our reporter further gathered that some officials of the Ministry of Justice visited the area

▶ CONT'D page 11

MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3
Da your time to win!

Dial *156*2#

To buy a **50LRD bundle** and above to enter the draw!

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

HOPE
You Can Count On

Vote #18

WEAH 2023 TAYLOR

@dahmetakeit

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

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

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

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