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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Who is benefiting from LISCR? (Pt1)



EDC backs Fonati Koffa

-Mulbah Morlu declares



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Continental News

Many dozens now dead in wake of Tanzania floods

The death toll from flooding and landslides in northern Tanzania has risen to 63. In order to deal with the impact Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28) has decided to cut her trip short and arrive in the country as soon as possible to deal with this disaster," Ms Yunus said.



The Hanang district extends up to Mount Hanang - the country's third-tallest peak

of the heavy rains, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is cutting short her attendance at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai. Homes, infrastructure and farmland have also been damaged. Massive floods are sweeping through countries across East Africa, with the El Nino weather phenomenon partly to blame. Tanzania's government said 400 rescue workers have been sent to the northern Hanang district.

However, rescuers are operating under challenging conditions, such as defective telecommunications and blocked, damaged roads, the president's spokesperson, Zuhura Yunus, said in a statement released on Monday.

"President Samia, who has been in Dubai for the United

President Samia was among the dozens of world leaders who gathered at the major UN summit to discuss tackling climate change. COP28 began on 30 November and will run until 12 December.

The president has ordered her government to pay for the funerals of those killed by the flooding and landslides, according to Ms Yunus. She also has directed the government to cover hospital fees for the wounded and temporary housing for those whose homes were "washed away". Dr Godwin Mollel, Tanzania's Deputy Minister of Health said: "We have a team of doctors and medical officers deployed. The services are much better and many of the patients are progressing well." Fanuel John, a father of four from a village

called Gendabi, has been searching for his missing wife and children.

He had heard the sound of water pouring when he went outside, what he said was "the roar of a ravine". Turning his head, he saw water rushing toward him. "I quickly told my wife and kids to hurry outside, and we climbed one of the big trees," he told the BBC. "As we ascended the tree, I realised that a flood was approaching."

"I was shocked to see all the trees falling. Different kinds of trees were down. I urged my family to pray," he added.

Then, waters reaching around six feet (1.8m) surrounded the family. "We were separated, and that was the last time I saw them," he said. Another survivor, Samuel Mtinda, heard "a sound like a car noise passing by" and looked outside.

"I saw our house and neighbours houses are flooded with water and rocks," he said. "I told my wife and kids to run to the school ground. We continue to run until we found a safe spot." Flooding is said to be the greatest natural hazard in Tanzania, affecting tens of thousands of people each year.

Last month, higher than usual rainfall resulted in deaths and destruction to property in the main city, Dar es Salaam, and some other areas. Crops in some parts of the country have been washed away, affecting people's livelihoods.

Tanzania's meteorology agency has warned that the rains will continue this month. BBC

South Africans evacuated from war-hit Gaza

Thirty years after the transition from apartheid to a democratic South Africa, Fergal Keane returns to a country experiencing increasing political violence in a key region to see what happened to the hopes and promises of a better nation. Thembinkosi Lombo may not have known the man who gunned him down - but he may well have known the person who ordered the hit.

The 35-year-old local councillor from South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) was shot dead in Greytown in the eastern coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal last year. He left behind a wife and nine children - the youngest at just two months old. His mother Lindeni Lombo, 75, tells us she believes the assassination was an inside job.

"He did tell me that from time to time there were cars that were suspicious that

positions in the municipality, in the councils, and they are fighting all the time, competing for turf. They want money." Police Minister Bheki Cele said most of the dead councillors had been victims of internal political battles. The majority were from the ANC. Elected office can bring access to local government budgets. Billions of rand have been lost through corruption involving officials and politicians. In one notorious case, the school nutrition programme in the province collapsed because of corruption, leaving thousands of children from poor families without school meals. KwaZulu means "place of the Zulus", and has a long history of violence - from the 19th Century wars of King Shaka, the struggle against the British Empire, then against apartheid, and the conflict between political parties that threatened to derail South Africa's transition to democracy in the 1990s.

But now the killings are frequently carried out by hitmen



Linden Lombo stands with a poster of her murdered son

would follow him around," she says. "My son told me that within the ANC there was some rivalry - those who were anti- and those who were pro-him."

A 20-year-old man was arrested and charged with the murder in March last year. In the past 12 months more than 20 councillors have been killed in the region - it brings the number of elected representatives and local government officials killed in over a decade to more than 150. Mrs Lombo keeps a big election poster of her son as a reminder of his life and of her pride in his election victory. She lives in the ward he represented, a remote rural community set in the undulating hill country of KwaZulu-Natal. Of the broader rise in political violence she says: "They're fighting for positions. "People want higher

for hire - "inkabis" in the Zulu language. It can cost anywhere between 10,000 rand (£420; \$535) to 500,000 (£21,000) to have a person killed. The higher the profile, the greater the price. Drive out into the remote rural districts around provincial capital Pietermaritzburg and there is apprehension that next year's elections will bring increased violence. Alpheus Mzolo is a traditional leader in the Table Mountain district - a landscape of acacia trees and small settlements dominated by a brooding flat-topped mountain, not to be confused with the more famous Table Mountain in Cape Town. Mr Mzolo is an "induna" (headman) for a powerful chief. In times of war the Indunas are responsible for raising and commanding the chief's regiments. But his area is peaceful at the moment and he aims to keep it that way, refusing to align publicly with any party.

Guinea-Bissau's parliament dissolved after 'coup bid'

Guinea-Bissau's president has issued a decree dissolving parliament after saying that he had survived an attempted coup last week. Heavy battles raged in the early hours of Friday in the capital Bissau between members of the national guard, which is linked to the interior ministry, and the presidential guard. At least two people died in the clashes. President Umaro Sissoco Embaló was at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai at the time, and returned home on Saturday.

He said he had been prevented from returning earlier because of what he called an attempted coup.

On Monday, he dissolved parliament, saying state institutions could no longer function normally because of

"complicity" between the national guard and "certain political interests", AFP reports.

"The date of forthcoming legislative elections will be set at the opportune moment, in line with the constitution," Mr Embaló is quoted as saying. His announcement was dismissed as unconstitutional by one of his main

rivals - Domingos Simoes Pereira, who was president of parliament and the head of the PAIGC party that won a majority in elections in June, Reuters news agency reports.

Several dozen people protested outside parliament against the president's decision. BBC



Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embaló has been in office since 2020

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Michael R. Bloomberg,
Yvonne Aki-Sawyer

A subpoena is not an indictment

At COP28, Cities Will Show Us the Way

It has been observed in many instances that a subpoena from the court, inviting somebody to appear often leave people worrying and panicking, as if they have been indicted for a crime, which often proves the contrary. A subpoena is nothing to worry about as long as one is convinced of his or her innocence and can prove beyond all reasonable doubts.

So many people have been at one time or another subpoenaed by the court and have appeared, testified before the judge and leave. Testifying in court simply means telling the judge all that you know about a particular issue, saying nothing but the truth and the whole truth.

A recent example of a court subpoena involved Unity Party Standard Bearer and President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, during the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP's) rigmarole that saw former Presidential candidate Alexander B. Cummings, taken to court for allegedly tempering with the CPP Framework Document.

Ambassador Boakai, in adherence to the subpoena, appeared in court and testified all that he knew about the document and left. Period. The court had nothing else to do with him so he walked out a free man and continued his political sojourn that eventually saw him officially pronounced as President-Elect, of the Republic of Liberia.

About a week ago, Criminal Court 'A' Judge, Roosevelt Z. Willie, in the ongoing murder trial of former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott, ordered the Clerk of Court to do a subpoena Ad Testificandum Decu Tecum to Police Inspector General, Patrick Sudue, to produce the report of April 25, 2022 on incident of Justice Scott's missing license plate, and the ledger testified to on Monday, November 27, 2023, by Col. Sudue's representative, Detective Curtis B. Koffa.

Subsequently, Judge Willie has granted defense's application for subpoena Decu Tecum and Ad Testificandum to be served on Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee to present to the court, Mr. Varlee Telleh along with his (Telleh's) numbers that were used from 21st - 25th February, 2023, and to also testify to said numbers as to whom he (Telleh) called within the timeframe mentioned. That's what it means: to present the individual being requested in court along with the relevant information asked for.

However, it is important that the person being subpoenaed comply by appearing in person and testifying to or answering all questions to avoid being held in contempt for disobeying court order.

On the other hand, a criminal indictment is a formal accusation of a crime, usually a felony, by a grand jury that contains notice of the criminal charges against an individual and initiates the criminal case. Besides, an indictment is a way of protecting the accused from being prosecuted without enough evidence or proof. It is also a way of allowing the prosecution to proceed without a judge or defense attorney's involvement.

For example, an indictment was unsealed against jailed former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor by the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, while Mr. Taylor, then still a sitting President, had gone to Ghana to initiate peace talks.

However, following the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), cessation of hostility by warring factions and election of a democratic government in Liberia, Taylor was subsequently brought back from Nigeria and dragged before the Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone where he pleaded not guilty after charges were read. The rest is history.

But between the two, an indictment is more grievous and weighty than a subpoena. What is important though, is that they both must be respected in accordance with law, regardless of the status of persons being sought by the court.

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DUBAI - Nation-states, presidents, and prime ministers - those are the players who garner the biggest headlines and the most media attention at each year's United Nations Climate Change Conference. Yet for the past decade, and with far less fanfare, cities, states, and regional governments (known as "subnationals") have been implementing the Paris climate agreement's guidance, even when their national governments have not. This has meant investing in clean-energy systems and other urban innovations to reduce emissions locally, and sharing what works through networks like C40 and the Global Covenant of Mayors to accelerate progress on a larger scale.

Fortunately, this year's UN conference in Dubai (COP28) brings a historic first that bodes well for progress on climate change more broadly. The inaugural Local Climate Action Summit will bring mayors and governors together to engage directly with national and international leaders, demonstrating how cities are driving solutions and generating ideas that are being adopted around the world.

The timing for this breakthrough couldn't be better. The UN recently released its first official report card on the progress the world has made since COP15 in Paris. It shows that bolder and more urgent action is needed to hold global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels - the limit required to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

Cities like Freetown, which is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change (from extreme heat that rarely subsides to floods and landslides that come without warning), are determined to push world leaders to raise their ambitions - and to empower cities to do more to lead the way.

Freetown has shown how cities can set an example through innovative action. When urbanization wiped out 70% of its trees, the city created a program to enlist residents in restoring green cover, which reduces the impact of severe heat. Freetown's young people are a big part of the campaign to plant one million trees by 2024, and their engagement does not stop there. Young people are well represented on Freetown's Community Disaster Management Committees and have put their collective energy into the city's Transform Freetown Agenda (of which the tree-planting is part).

Nor is Freetown alone. In the Philippines, Quezon City has created a network of sustainable urban gardens and farms that addresses food insecurity among residents and reduces the

emissions associated with traditional farming. In Lima, Peru, civic leaders have developed a climate-change plan that not only aims to protect the area's ecosystems, but also targets the small changes - park by park, orchard by orchard - that add up to large-scale improvements in the urban landscape. It has also launched a highly successful effort to monitor and improve air quality where the city's children play, learn, and live.

In these and many other ways, cities are showing global leaders how real progress is made. But cities should not be seen only as models; they also should be treated as essential partners in the global effort to combat climate change.

This has not typically been the case. Even where national leaders have professed their belief in multilevel governance, policy frameworks are often indifferent to local and regional climate efforts, which leads them to overlook proven solutions. At COP28 and in the years ahead, local leaders should have an equal voice in the discussion and access to the resources they need to take decisive action.

A true partnership between national and subnational governments could be the key that unlocks a consistent flow of climate financing. By working together, local and national leaders can exert considerably greater influence on global institutions, including the UN, multilateral development banks, and governments with the means to accelerate climate-finance solutions.

The world's mayors are increasingly coming together to deliver this message with a unified voice. Hence, in advance of the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit, C40 modernized its leadership model to include two, rather than just one, chair. The network is now co-chaired by the mayors of London and Freetown, an arrangement that better represents the insights and experiences of the world's people.

COP28 provides an opportunity to build on the leadership of London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who, in his previous role as C40 Chair, helped ensure that two-thirds of the organization's budget is dedicated to advancing climate action in the Global South, where the effects of climate are the most severe.

Local leaders around the world are proving that when we join our strengths, pool our resources, and come together in a genuine spirit of partnership, local and national governments can achieve great progress and help safeguard the future.

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OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

The Twilight Zone of Economics

CAMBRIDGE - Ten years ago, Eugene Fama and Robert J. Shiller were awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics (together with Lars Peter Hansen) “for their empirical analysis of asset prices.” Fama and Shiller, however, hold diametrically opposing views on asset-price movements, from what drives the decisions of economic actors to whether markets are inherently efficient. Fifteen years after the global economic crisis, it is a disagreement worth revisiting.

Fama is a member of the Chicago School of economics, both literally - he is a professor at the Booth School of Business - and intellectually. The Chicago School holds that economic actors are rational utility-maximizing agents, able to deploy infinite cognitive capacity and complete information at all times, in order to make decisions that will best serve their material interests. With his highly influential “efficient market hypothesis,” Fama takes this further, positing that prices almost immediately incorporate all available information about future values, and thus accurately reflect economic fundamentals.

Shiller, a Yale-based behavioral economist, could not disagree more. Taking a Keynesian view of markets, he argues that, in markets shaped by “animal spirits,” individual actors have irrational tendencies, which can be amplified by the collective mood of the market. This sometimes results in irrational and suboptimal outcomes, such as speculative asset bubbles.

The Nobel committee justified the joint award by differentiating the time horizons to which the theories of Fama and Shiller apply. Fama’s scholarship suggests that asset prices are extremely difficult to forecast in the short run (making financial markets difficult to game), because they incorporate new information very quickly, whereas Shiller’s work establishes that they are more predictable in the long run (making finance amenable to human manipulation).

Shiller, for one, was not convinced. In his view, even Fama’s own research shows that markets are not efficient. But Fama’s loyalties to the laissez-faire Chicago School run deep. As Shiller put it, “It’s like being a Catholic priest and then discovering that God doesn’t exist or something you can’t deal with so you’ve got to somehow rationalize it.”

So, does God exist? Are markets endowed with some divine power that guarantees efficient outcomes? Or do mere mortals have to do the hard work of ensuring the proper functioning of their economic systems and institutions? To answer these questions, we must venture into what I call the “twilight zone of economics,” the as yet ill-defined realm of economics at the interface of micro and macro.

The orthodox Chicago School view adheres to so-called methodological individualism: economic actors make their utility-maximizing decisions entirely independently of one another and of social forces, though the collective result serves the public interest. But how? While the pooling of individual information contributes to more accurate pricing and, thus, better resource-allocation decisions, the mechanism that transforms countless isolated, self-interested micro-level decisions into broadly shared benefits is as clearly defined as alchemy. Beyond Adam Smith’s “invisible hand,” an account of how the rationality of markets exceeds that of its individual actors remains out of view.

Shiller, by contrast, offers a real analysis of the relationship between micro decisions and macro outcomes. According to his research, asset pricing typically resembles a kind of Keynesian beauty contest in which participants are asked to select the six prettiest faces from a hundred headshots, knowing that the person whose selections best align with the most popular picks overall will win a prize. In this context, it is rational for participants to ignore personal preference and choose the faces they believe others will select.

Similar psychological forces, Shiller explains, shape the prices of assets, from tech stocks to real estate. Back in 2005, just a couple of years before a housing-price crash in the United States triggered the 2008 global financial crisis, Shiller warned that “irrational exuberance” was fueling a housing bubble - and that it was destined to end badly. (Compare this with Fama’s explanation of that crisis: “Economics is not very good at explaining swings in economic activity.”)

As Shiller explains in his more recent work, narratives are the key factor. Stories can cause humans to behave in all manner of ways, and if believed widely enough, they can shape economic outcomes. That is why it is essential to consider individual economic actors’ cognitive and emotional qualities and the ways these actors interact with one another. Group psychology is analytically distinct from individual decision-making, and in modern economies, nobody decides anything in a vacuum.

While Fama says that humans can’t beat markets, Shiller insists that it’s humans who make markets, which means that humans can strive to improve their functioning. Which claim you believe has important implications for economic theory and for financial regulation - from how much is appropriate to whether central banks should attempt to identify and pop price bubbles. If the Chicago School’s market-shaping God does not exist, we should be treating the economy as a socially constructed institution, created by and for humans, with all our biases, limitations, morals, and values.

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OPINION

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Beware the New Consensus on the Global Economy

CAMBRIDGE - In the run-up to 2023, the outlook for the global economy appeared bleak. Analysts predicted that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent surge in energy prices would trigger a significant economic downturn in Europe. Bloomberg Economics proclaimed that there was a 100% probability that the United States would suffer a recession. Few believed that most developing economies could withstand the combination of rising energy prices, soaring interest rates, and a downturn in developed countries.

Had forecasters anticipated the war between Israel and Hamas and its potential for regional escalation, the intensification of the Russia-Ukraine war, and political turbulence in some Western countries, their pessimism would have been even more pronounced. Moreover, the extraordinary volatility in the US Treasury market, a key benchmark for numerous domestic and international markets, would have fueled fears about a looming global recession, as would have US bank failures.

But while the past year’s unforeseen political, geopolitical, and market upheavals should have further dampened the world’s growth outlook, the global economy surprised on the upside. The vast majority of developed economies defied expectations, successfully avoiding economic contraction. Developing countries as a whole avoided financial distress. Even China, despite its disappointing growth, showcased the resilience of its economy as the year drew to a close.

These encouraging trends have prompted analysts to adopt an optimistic outlook for 2024. Instead of a recession, the consensus forecast now is that the US economy is headed for a “soft landing,” with disinflation paving the way for interest-rate reductions. Europe, having bolstered its energy reserves and restructured supply chains, is projected to avoid a recession as well, although Germany’s economy may continue to lag. In China, a major stimulus package is set to boost GDP growth.

And the combination of lower interest rates and falling energy prices is expected to shield most developing countries from economic and financial dislocations.

Having been more optimistic than the consensus forecasts for 2023, I would love to endorse the upbeat predictions for the coming year. After all, the global economy can hardly afford additional setbacks. Despite my desire to be optimistic, however, I worry that the consensus forecasts, after having proved way too gloomy for 2023, have swung too far in the opposite direction for 2024.

The main cause for concern is that global growth dynamics are weakening as heightened geopolitical and domestic political tensions aggravate unfortunate economic and financial developments. Too many policymakers seem more focused on reinvigorating inefficient growth engines than on addressing long-term threats like the climate crisis and shifting toward more sustainable, forward-looking models. This is evident in China, Europe, and many developing countries where governments have failed to implement the structural reforms needed to boost productivity and growth potential. Although the US is in a relatively better position thanks to the major economic bills passed by President Joe Biden’s administration, dwindling household savings and higher debt cast a shadow over its growth outlook for the coming year.

The global economy is still grappling with the effects of significantly increased borrowing costs. In an environment where interest rates are projected to remain elevated for a prolonged period, refinancing certain debt contracts - particularly in the commercial real-estate sector - becomes increasingly difficult. The shift away from a decade of artificially low interest rates and generous liquidity infusions by central banks is a gradual process that could be painful for some, especially as we approach the “wall of maturities” that faces the corporate sector in 2025.

These uncertainties threaten to destabilize a market that is already dealing with unusually high volatility at its core. In the absence of solid economic, policy, and technical anchors, US Treasury yields have remained extremely skittish. The longer this instability persists, the higher the likelihood that interest-rate risks could trigger credit, equity, and liquidity scares.

Geopolitical and domestic political shifts could also exacerbate economic, financial, and market vulnerabilities, as the enormous and horrific human toll of the ongoing conflicts, especially in Gaza, increases the risk of escalation and undermines global stability. Moreover, the stance taken by the US on the Middle East conflict risks hastening the fragmentation of the international economic order and further diminishing America’s global standing and influence.

That, together with the growing confidence of middle-power “swing states,” could impede the international policy coordination that is crucial to addressing global challenges such as climate change, insufficient growth, excessive debt, rising inequality, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and the need to de-risk certain economic relations without causing painful decoupling. Key elections in polarized countries like the US could pose further obstacles to timely global action.

Despite a more challenging political and geopolitical landscape than most expected, the global economy exceeded expectations in 2023. But while it is tempting to extrapolate from this experience and forecast a strong performance in 2024, such predictions must be approached with a healthy dose of caution. The consensus forecasts may very well miss the mark again, and the consequences could be worse this time.

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Amplifying Rights Network
Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights for All

Position Statement A Call to Action



Affirming that sexual and reproductive health and rights are the bedrock for growth and prosperity for all individuals, and societies, we the Liberian citizens who took part in the first Liberia SRHR Conference have collectively agreed on the call to action below:

We call on you to:

- 1. Abolish Harmful Traditional/Cultural Practices:** Some cultural practices, child marriage, and FGM, hinder access to SRHR services. Child marriages contribute to early pregnancy, social isolation, school dropouts, and increased risks of intimate partner violence. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. The National Traditional Council declared a national three-year ban on FGM in 2023. As such, we call on GoL:

 - The national three-year ban on FGM should be fully implemented and monitored.
 - The legal framework for Child marriage should be harmonised to prevent customary violations.
- 2. Improve Menstrual Health Hygiene:** To effectively manage menstruation, we call on the government of Liberia to remove all tariffs on sanitary products to improve access to affordable and appropriate menstrual hygiene materials. As such, we call on GoL:

 - Remove all tariffs on sanitary products to improve access to affordable and appropriate menstrual hygiene materials.
 - Improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in all schools.
- 3. Accelerate legal and inclusive policy reform:**

 - We are calling on the Senate to concur with the Lower House and pass the Revised Public Health Law, which addresses abortion as a public health care issue for women as opposed to its status as an act with criminal sanctions in the penal code.
 - Remove criminal sanctions in law on same sex consenting conduct between adults.
- 4. Accessible and Inclusive Service Provision:** Overt and subtle practices of discrimination prevent persons seeking care, especially young people and those with disabilities and sexual minorities, from being able to present their full range of needs and experiences to service providers without fear. The Government should implement fully inclusive and responsive sexual reproductive health and rights services, catering to everyone regardless of their identities or abilities, by,

 - Ensure that healthcare professionals are fully trained in SRHR service provision to everyone, including key populations and people with disabilities, without stigma or discrimination.
 - Urgently address the current stockout of contraceptives in the public facilities in Liberia due to supply chain challenges.
 - Improve access to all forms of modern contraception and provide information and counseling.
- 5. Implement Gender-Responsive Budgeting:** The budget determines how public funds are raised, used, and who benefits. It is essential to develop a budget that works for everyone (women and men, girls and boys) by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for all. The current National Gender Responsive Budgeting Policy developed by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning ends in 2023. We request that the government fully implement and extend the policy.
- 6. Improve adolescent health interventions in and out of schools:** Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) lays the foundation for life and health choices. Yet few young people have the knowledge and skills to grow healthily and happily. As such, we call for the following:

 - Adequate investments in efforts to reach CSE to all young people in and or out of school. Programs outside the homes and schools are instrumental in supporting the growth and development of our youth.
 - Provision of youth-responsive spaces in communities where young people can play, learn, and unlearn, socialise, expand, and relax to engage and stimulate everyone's diverse intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical needs.
 - Invest in training teachers, educators, and health workers to provide accurate, scientific, and non-judgmental SRH information and youth-friendly services.

Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights for All

Health practitioners from 5 African countries meet in Monrovia

By Lincoln G. Peters

Over ninety health practitioners from five African countries are currently in Monrovia, participating in a week-long intensive and interactive brainstorming symposium of the World Health Organization (WHO's) health emergencies country readiness strengthening workshop on infection prevention and control guidelines for Ebola and Marburg disease.

The workshop officially kicked off here on Monday, December 4, 2023, and will end 8th December. Participating countries include Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Liberia.

It is organized by the World Health Organization in collaboration with the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia. The dialogue is graced by county health officers, county health teams, and health practitioners.

confidence which reduced self-treatment, misinformation and disinformation.

However, officially opening the workshop and providing a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation covering ten years of milestones on Ebola in West Africa, Liberia's experience then and now, Liberia's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Francis N. Kateh said, Liberia has developed a comprehensive IPC to deal with future pandemic outbreak based on its experience from Ebola and COVID-19.

He describes the workshop as a win for Liberia and a reflection on what transpired in the country during the Ebola crisis and how can other African countries learn from the country's health sector by listening to her experiences.

According to him, during the Ebola and COVID-19, Liberia came from lots of hopeless situation and later gained lots of positive things that happened in the health sector, assisting the country to defeat COVID-19

Dr. Kateh discloses that to enhance control and prevention of the infectious disease during the Ebola outbreak, Liberia established the public health institute,



Highlights include inspection and control guidelines for Ebola, Marburg disease, and other viruses. It's also aimed at building a resilient healthcare system with an improved IPC capacity that will significantly benefit Liberia and the represented countries.

WHO Family Planning & Population Advisor, Dr. Musu Duworko, who represented WHO Country Representative to Liberia, Dr. Peters Clement, expresses excitement and happiness over the gathering.

"I am excited over this gathering that we can now sit down and learn from Liberia's experience in the IPC. We have the frontline here and I am glad about that. Being empowered with the knowledge and skills to protect our country's IPC is very critical. Our target is to strengthen the resilience of our health system to respond when there is a case", Dr. Duworko stated.

According to her, the objective is to ensure that IPC facility has the knowledge and skills to be able to provide care safely and keeping care providers and those coming for care safe, adding that trust in the health sector can lead to patient

strategized how HR plays a major role in patient care, quality management unite, national quality strategy plan, and development of the Liberia National IPC strategies.

"We had over three hundred health workers that got infected during the Ebola. Of that, one hundred and ninety-two died. And so, we have been able to improve the method of how to safely guide ourselves. To provide services, you have to be alive. And so, IPC is keeping them alive and doing what they love to do. Now, I want to welcome you all and declare this historic workshop open", he added.

National Public Health Institute of Liberia Director General, Ms. Jane Macauley, notes that Liberia finds itself at a critical juncture, rebuilding a resilience health system after enduring a crucial outbreak such as the 2014 Ebola and the recent challenges posed by COVID-19.

Your presence here, joining us from various parts of our continent and the globe marks a pivotal movement in the pursuit of blistering our healthcare system. This assembly holds a special significance as it unites individuals who have exhibited steadfast commitment amid risk and challenges In IPC. Liberia's selection for this workshop is timely", DG

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U.S. Based Liberian Pilot Abner Yonly receives warm welcome and recognition from Lonestar Cell MTN

Figure 1 Senior Sales and Distribution Manager Abubakari remarkable feat and commitment to excellence in the field of aviation.

flight is not only a personal triumph but also a testament to his dedication to pushing boundaries.

Mr. Yonly said that he aspires to leave a lasting impact on Liberia's aviation industry.

"My goal is to inspire future generations to dream big and achieve the extraordinary," he said accepting the recognition

Lonestar Cell MTN Acting CEO Kobina Bentsi-Enchill said that the company remains dedicated to supporting individuals like Abner Yonly, who embody the spirit of excellence and resilience.

"We believe that recognizing and celebrating high achievers is a crucial step towards building a brighter and more prosperous future for Liberia," he said. ENDS.

About the Lonestar Cell MTN Launched in 2001, Lonestar Cell MTN is the trusted mobile phone and mobile money operator in Liberia. Our singular focus is to lead the delivery of a bold, new digital world for our customers. Our reliable country-wide network, partnerships with Liberia's major banks and over nine-thousand Mobile Money agents, Lonestar Cell MTN subscribers can deposit and withdraw cash, pay bills and pay for services seamlessly. We believe everyone deserves the benefits of a modern and connected life.



Halidu Presenting a gift to Aviator Abner Yonly

In a momentous occasion, Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading telecommunications company, proudly welcomed Abner Yonly, the accomplished U.S. based Liberian Pilot, to its headquarters.

Lonestar Cell MTN staff members and customers welcomed Abner Yonly with great excitement as they gathered to welcome him. Mr. Yonly recently made world headlines by completing a solo transatlantic flight from the United States to Liberia.

During the visit, Lonestar Cell MTN expressed its admiration for Abner Yonly's

The Corporate Communication and Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Lisa R. White of Lonestar Cell MTN, presented Mr. Yonly with a state-of-the-art rechargeable router and an exclusive Lonestar Cell MTN t-shirt as tokens of appreciation. "As a Liberian company, Lonestar Cell MTN takes pride in acknowledging high achievers who contribute significantly to Liberia's global representation, and Abner Yonly is a shining example of such excellence, she said.

Abner Yonly, a cybersecurity professional by vocation, pursues flying as a passionate hobby. His solo transatlantic

LEC urges employees to maintain focus

By Lincoln G. Peters

The executive director for projects at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) Mr. Moses Farley says the project department at the corporation is essential to the vibrancy of the institution.

Mr. Farley urges fellow employees to avoid unnecessary distractions, and commit themselves wholeheartedly to their various roles in meeting public expectation. He gave the charge over the weekend during a daylong staff department retreat and honoring program in Careysburg, rural Montserrado County, urging employees, especially those from the project department to focus on their assigned duties, thus recognizing the critical role they have played in providing reliable electricity services to the country. Farley said the objective

of the retreat was to assess their strengths, weaknesses, and what they want to achieve as employees of LEC in the coming years. During the gathering, workers from the Project Department were individually honored and recognized for their unwavering support towards the corporation. "The objective of the retreat is for us to sit and look at what we

did and see where we are going, and I hope we can achieve that today". He told the workers.

At the same time he disclosed there is an upcoming project that will require more efforts and energy from individual worker.

According to him, the project department at LEC is a very essential department in the corporation, and

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Police declare UP's Queen Johnson wanted

-In connection with CDC Joshua Solomon's death

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian National Police has declared a stalwart of the Unity Party and supporter of President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, wanted in connection with the death of a partisan of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Joshua Solomon.

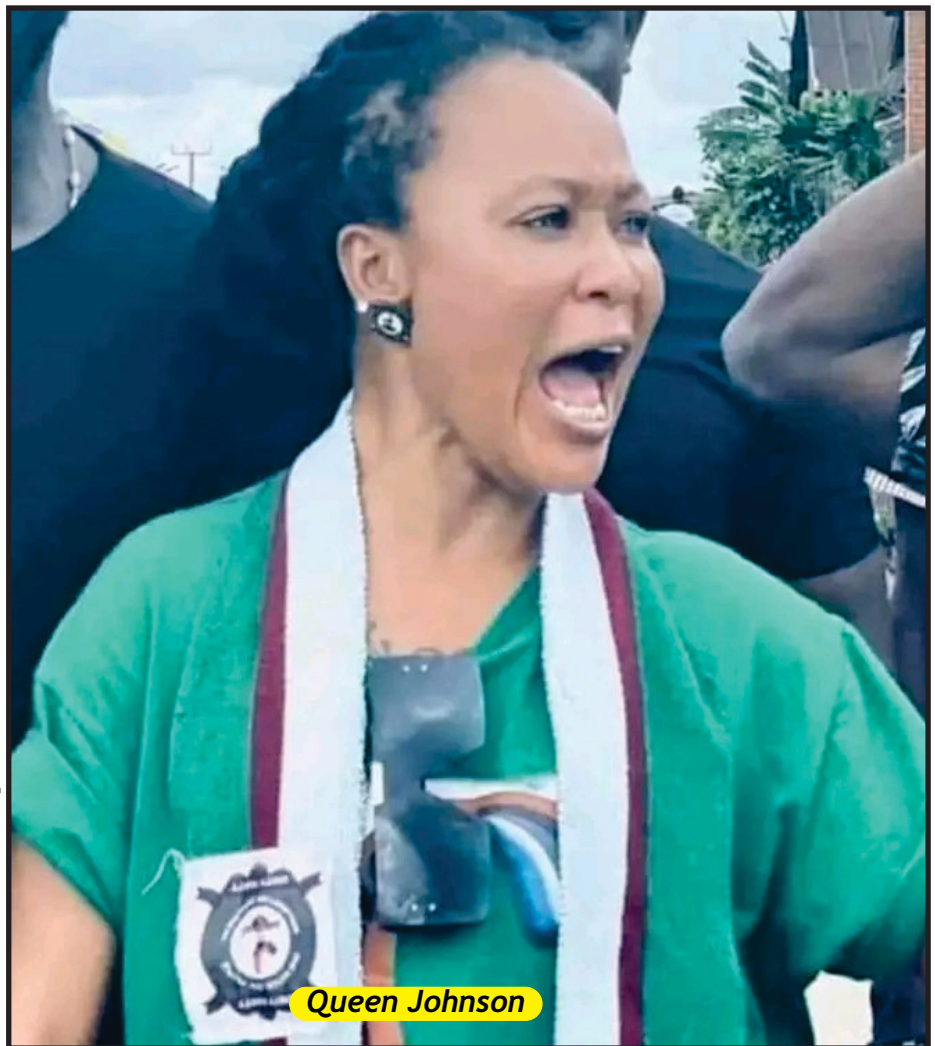
Addressing a news conference Monday, December 4, 2023, at the Liberian National Police Headquarters in Monrovia, police spokesperson, H. Moses Carter, said based on

weekend.

According to him, the deceased was a victim of a political violence between the UP and the CDC in August this year.

Mr. Carter indicated that it's reported that the deceased sustained wounds that allegedly resulted in internal bleeding.

He explains that Suspect Johnson is being declared wanted by the LNP based on video footage evidence in their possession in where she and others to be identified are seen in the actions that occurred in August during campaign, which



preliminary findings, the Police have declared a female, Queen Johnson, alias "Rescue General" and others to be identified, wanted.

"Henceforth, the Liberian National Police invites you today to declare these individuals wanted. We are pleased to use your media to declare a Liberian female and others to be identified wanted by the LNP and to humbly request these individuals to turn themselves over to the police for investigation in connection with the death of Joshua Solomon", Carter urged.

The Police say they have secured a series of video footages to investigate the death of Joshua Solomon, who reportedly died subsequently after he was attacked in a political violence.

Police Spokesman Carter announced the plan to probe Solomon's death over the

led to the death of Victim Solomon.

"We are asking Liberians to assist us with any useful information about Queen Johnson and others that will be announced later. We want them to come to the LNP headquarters for investigation. And so, anybody listening can help us with the whereabouts of her. Also, we are using this medium to call her to answer to the criminal investigation", he pleads.

Meanwhile, he promises to keep the public updated as investigation progresses, saying that any arrest made will be communicated to make sure justice is served.

Sporadic violence were reported across the country during both the first and second round of the presidential election, leading to several deaths. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

OP-ED

By Ambassador Nona Deprez

EU and Liberia: 50 Years of Partnership for Peace and Development

This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate five decades of fruitful relations between Liberia and the European Union (EU). Throughout this period, this relationship has laid the foundation for a dynamic partnership that has continuously adapted to address both parties' evolving needs and priorities. Over 50 years, the EU has consistently stood by Liberia, providing support for peace, stability, and development, even during challenging periods such as the civil wars, the Ebola outbreak, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through various instruments and initiatives – from the European Development Fund (EDF) to the current NDICI-Global Europe, Global Gateway, and Team Europe – the EU, its Member States present in the country (Germany, Ireland, France and Sweden) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have been playing a pivotal role in assisting Liberia on its journey toward a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society. Our partnership exemplifies the power of effective collaboration, enabling us to shape our actions and influence the future based on shared goals and values. It rests on three essential pillars: political dialogue, development cooperation, and economic cooperation. These pillars are critical in advancing Liberia's progress and in addressing its challenges.

The EU and Liberia engage in regular political discussions, fostering an exchange of views on crucial topics such as peace, security, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, regional integration, and multilateral cooperation. These discussions build trust and understanding and help forge a shared vision for the future. Moreover, they enable cooperation on pressing global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and pandemics. These shared values are clearly exemplified by the principled stand for peace and international law that the EU and Liberia have taken after the unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territories by the Russian Federation.

Sustainable development in Liberia has been significantly advanced by the EU-Liberia development cooperation, which has supported vital sectors, including energy, roads, agriculture, health, education, and governance. By prioritizing initiatives that promote renewable energy, food security, gender equality, vocational training, anti-corruption measures, and electoral support, the EU has significantly improved the quality of life and means of subsistence for millions of Liberians. Between 2014 and 2023, the EU's contribution to Liberia amounted to approximately 432 million US dollars.

Economic cooperation forms a vital foundation for the partnership between the EU and Liberia. Through its efforts in promoting trade, investment, and private-sector development, the EU has significantly driven Liberia's economic growth. The EU remains Liberia's key trade and investment partner. By fostering a favourable business environment, improving infrastructure, and advocating for sustainable economic practices, the EU has created opportunities, empowered local entrepreneurs, and contributed to job creation in Liberia.

Our commitment lies in establishing sustainable and equitable trade relations with Liberia and the wider West Africa region. In parallel, Liberia benefits from a most generous EBA scheme (Everything But Arms), which removes tariffs and quotas for all imports of goods (except arms and ammunition), coming into the EU from least developed countries (LDCs).

As we celebrate the progress brought about by our 50 years of partnership, we must also acknowledge that more work needs to be done. The EU remains unwavering in its support for Liberia's development, promoting good governance, and safeguarding human rights and democracy. We recognize that Liberia faces significant challenges relating to governance and accountability, as well as to poverty, social exclusion, environmental degradation and deforestation. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that addressing these challenges necessitates the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. The EU will continue collaborating closely with all stakeholders to overcome these obstacles and build a prosperous future for all.

Nona Deprez
Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the European Union to Liberia



Inmates protest in Sanniquellie

Starts from back page

Properties destroyed include a vehicle, office equipment and building hosting the agency in Ganta. The at-risk youth Ganta who have suffered harassment from the at-risk youth. The Nimba County Commander for the LDEA, drowned in the process, a situation that led to the revenge attack on the agency, including some of his men. He notes that the attackers used deadly weapons, including stones and sticks. There has been no arrest following the incident and no casualty reported. The NEW DAWN gathers that huge population of young people in Ganta are involved with drugs activities, including sale and consumption. Editing by Jonathan Browne



reportedly converged in huge numbers and blocked entrance to the premises before attacking unarmed LDEA officers that were at work. The incident followed a search conducted around the St. John River during afternoon hours by LDEA officers based on repeated complaints from residents of Thomas Saye, told reporters that his officers had gone to the riverbank to search for those drug users who community dwellers complained about. Commander Saye narrates that during the search, they saw the at-risk youth taking in drugs, but they quickly fled to neighboring Guinea where one of their colleagues reportedly

LEC urges employees

sometimes he feels that the project department is the most influential working department in the company that has taken the corporation to an appreciable level. He bragged that as head of the department, they undertake numerous significant projects, attend important meetings, and currently have several projects in progress to be implemented shortly. "We are putting in every effort to ensure they are successfully completed. Additionally, we have new projects on the horizon", he added. He said in 2024, they intend to do a lot of different things, especially with their contractors. "We want to be on track with our contractors and our projects, and the better way will be based on the funding we will receive." Also speaking, Henry Kimber, Project Director at LEC, reiterated that the retreat was intended to appreciate the hard-working staff for what they have done, where they have come, and where they are going. Kimber emphasized the importance of ongoing projects and the potential for even greater success. "Completing these projects has been a significant achievement for us, and it's a testament to our hard work and dedication." noted. However, he said this does not mean they shouldn't rest on their laurels, adding, "If we can push a little further and install stages on those remaining poles, we will be able to expedite the commissioning process." He acknowledged that the current focus is primarily on the RIA project, which everyone in the room had some connection and concern about. The anticipation of seeing lights come up along that route is essential as it's the entrance to the country from the nation's international airport. Kimber also reminded everyone that there is still a considerable distance to cover before reaching that milestone. "We need to maintain our momentum and keep pushing forward. While we are proud of what we have accomplished so far, let's not forget that there is more work to be done. Our commitment to excellence should drive us to go above and beyond what is expected." Kimber further disclosed that the management of LEC is trying to reach the contractor because the contractor did not install the stay, and they are experiencing enormous challenges in installing the stay. As it stands, he revealed that the management of LEC is working out modalities to commission the lines and substations along the RIA corridor. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Gen. Mary Broh Assert

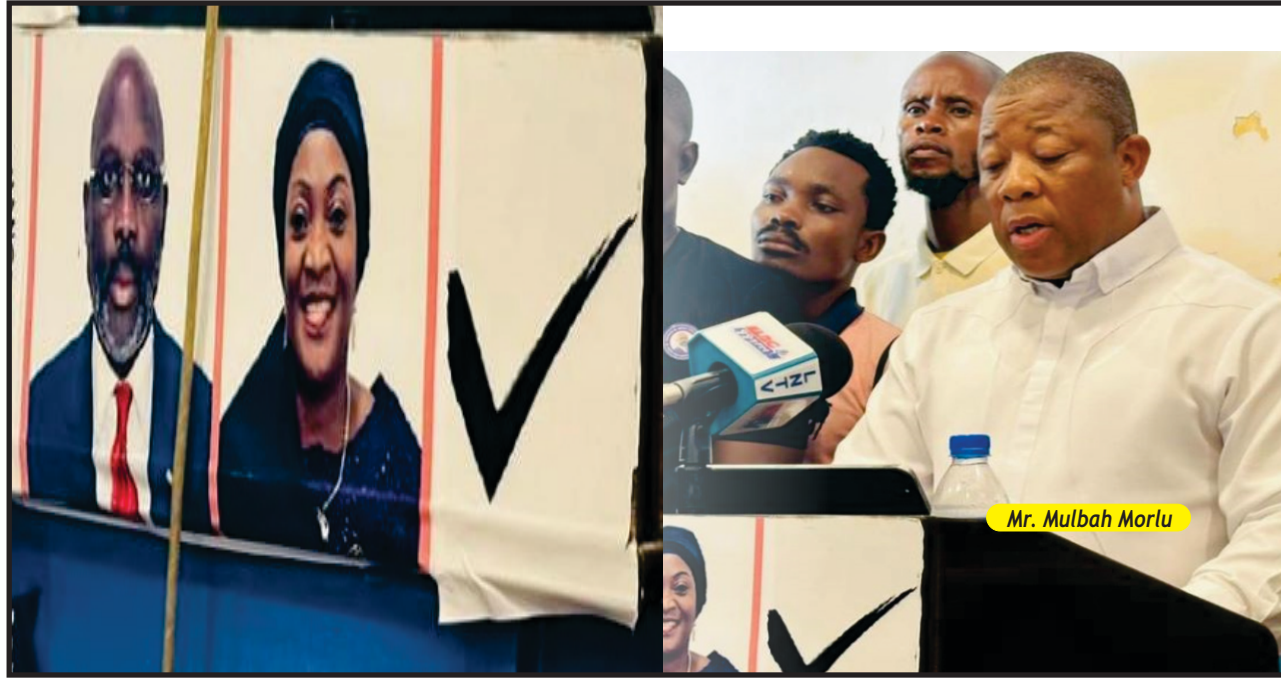
Français

Le président du CDC estime que les Libériens ont été trompés en élisant Boakai, et appelle à l'unité du parti

Dans un discours post-électoral au siège de la Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) à Congo Town,

du CDC, Morlu a affirmé que le président élu Boakai est un aîné incapable entouré d'un groupe présumé corrompu. Il a suggéré qu'il est de plus en plus évident

de l'administration de Weah pendant son mandat et certains responsables faisant l'objet de sanctions américaines pour corruption, a assuré les



Mr. Mulbah Morlu

M. Mulbah Morlu, président du parti au pouvoir sortant, a exprimé le mécontentement du parti suite à sa défaite aux élections présidentielles du 14 novembre 2023. Morlu a allégué que les Libériens ont été induits en erreur en élisant le chef de l'opposition M. Joseph Nyumah Boakai et a soulevé des préoccupations concernant les compétences du président élu et les présumées pratiques corrompues de son entourage.

S'adressant à un rassemblement de partisans

que le peuple libérien a été trompé en choisissant Boakai comme prochain président.

M. Boakai, dirigeant de l'Unity Party (UP) et ancien vice-président libérien, a remporté la victoire contre le président sortant George Manneh Weah lors du second tour des élections présidentielles, marquant leur deuxième affrontement dans une telle compétition. Lors du second tour de 2017, Weah avait remporté la victoire alors que Boakai était candidat de l'opposition.

Morlu, reconnaissant les critiques publiques à l'encontre

partisans du CDC que le parti n'a pas définitivement perdu le droit de gouverner le Libéria.

Il a souligné la nécessité pour le parti de se regrouper, exhortant les membres à dépasser les reproches envers autrui pour la défaite électorale. Morlu a appelé à l'introspection et à l'unité au sein du CDC, mettant l'accent sur l'importance de présenter un front uni contre ce qu'il a qualifié d'"administrateur du complot de l'État profond".

Morlu a allégué que cet administrateur a exploité la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Liberia renoue avec le Poste de Premier Plan à l'Organisation Maritime Internationale

Le Liberia a récupéré sa position au plus haut niveau de l'Organisation Maritime Internationale (OMI), atteignant le statut de la « Catégorie A » au sein du Conseil de l'organisme mondial maritime avec une écrasante majorité de 132 votes lors de la 33e session de l'Assemblée.

Ce succès marque le retour du Liberia à la « Catégorie A » après avoir été relégué à la « Catégorie C » en 2011, suite à des tentatives infructueuses en 2007 et 2009. La décision de rechercher un siège en « Catégorie A » a été motivée par le statut du pays dans le commerce maritime mondial et la gouvernance, une démarche soutenue par la majorité des États membres qui considéraient la « Catégorie C » comme inappropriée pour le Liberia.

S'exprimant lors d'une réception au siège de l'OMI à Londres, le ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères, Cllr.

Deweh Gray, a mis en avant le rôle crucial du Liberia dans la promotion des idéaux de l'OMI et sa participation stratégique aux affaires maritimes mondiales. Le Liberia, avec une côte immaculée s'étendant sur 300 miles, exploite quatre ports essentiels pour faciliter le commerce maritime mondial, permettant l'exportation de produits tels que le cacao, le minerai de fer, le caoutchouc et le bois vers le marché mondial.

Le ministre Gray a souligné l'engagement indéfectible du Liberia envers l'OMI depuis sa création en 1959, étant constamment l'un des plus grands contributeurs au budget de l'organisation. Le Registre libérien, actuellement le plus important au monde avec plus de 200 millions de tonneaux de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Boakai

Éditorial

Travailler de concert pour le bien commun

Lors d'une session de travail le vendredi 24 novembre, le président George Manneh Weah a exhorté les responsables de l'Équipe conjointe de transition présidentielle (JPTT) à faire preuve d'honnêteté et d'amour pour le pays dans leurs délibérations afin d'assurer un transfert de pouvoir en douceur de son administration au président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et son équipe.

"Aujourd'hui, nous sommes sur le point de passer ce bâton symbolique à un autre dirigeant démocratiquement élu, marquant un autre chapitre important de notre parcours démocratique ; assurons-nous d'un transfert de pouvoir efficace, efficient et sans heurts au président élu Boakai et à son équipe", a exhorté le président Weah.

Cet appel démontre véritablement l'engagement indéfectible de M. Weah à assurer une transition en douceur, ce qui lui a valu de nombreuses admirations à travers le monde et a mis le Libéria sous les feux de la rampe pour toutes les bonnes raisons.

L'icône du football devenue homme politique entrera dans l'histoire en tant que le premier président africain de l'histoire récente à reconnaître sa défaite et à féliciter son principal rival même avant l'annonce des résultats définitifs par la Commission électorale nationale.

Les membres et partisans de sa sortie de la Coalition pour le Changement démocratique (CDC) peinent encore à digérer et à accepter la qualité du piédestal démocratique que leur porte-étendard a établi pour le Libéria, et il ne peut y avoir de retour en arrière.

Le leader a parlé et doit pénétrer l'esprit des CDCiens que le pouvoir n'appartient pas à un parti politique particulier ou au gouvernement, mais au peuple. Ainsi, chaque fois que le peuple décide lors d'une élection de qui devrait gouverner ses affaires pour lui permettre de jouir de la paix, de la prospérité et du bonheur, il ne reste rien d'autre que d'obéir.

C'est dans cette optique que le président Weah exhorte les membres de la JPTT à donner la priorité et à se concentrer sur l'intérêt national plutôt que sur des intérêts égoïstes, en plaçant le bien général du peuple libérien au premier plan dans leurs délibérations sur la voie du transfert de pouvoir en janvier 2024. En d'autres termes, il s'agit de moments de bilan et de rapports appropriés plutôt que de ce que certains pourraient considérer comme une opportunité de dernière minute pour piller ce qui reste des coffres nationaux pour s'enrichir et partir.

Mais M. Weah a informé les membres de la JPTT que les réalisations démocratiques de son administration ont établi une norme nouvelle et enviable, non seulement pour le Libéria, mais pour l'Afrique et la communauté mondiale, affirmant que "en reconnaissant gracieusement et en félicitant le président élu Boakai avant le décompte final, nous avons également gagné une reconnaissance et une admiration mondiales."

C'est tellement vrai et c'est la principale raison pour laquelle rien ne doit être fait et personne ne doit être autorisé à rendre la route de la transition cahoteuse. Un atterrissage en douceur de la nouvelle administration portera ses fruits, et nous devons nous efforcer de le réaliser, car comme le souligne le président Weah, cette réalisation monumentale est une victoire non seulement pour une entité politique mais pour tous les Libériens et l'ensemble du pays.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Le président du CDC**

confiance du CDC dans les institutions étatiques stratégiques pour saboter le gouvernement de l'intérieur. Il a exhorté les membres du parti à mettre de côté leurs préoccupations personnelles et à se concentrer sur l'intérêt commun pour faire face aux présumées menaces contre le CDC. Mettons en lumière les préoccupations concernant les institutions de sécurité de l'État, Morlu a prétendu que même la police nationale du

Libéria est exploitée et utilisée comme arme par les partisans de M. Boakai. Il a cité un prétendu "incident de collision" impliquant un partisan du CDC comme exemple des menaces auxquelles ils doivent faire face pour protéger la démocratie au Libéria. En conclusion, Morlu a appelé à un regroupement rapide du CDC, soulignant l'urgence de faire face aux menaces explicites, claires et actuelles pesant sur le parti et la démocratie au Libéria.

Starts from page 8 **Le Liberia renoue avec**

jauge brute (TJB) enregistrés et 5000 navires, respecte des normes internationales élevées spécifiées par l'OMI et est sur la liste blanche des MOUs renommés, y compris les MOUs de Paris et de Tokyo.

Le Liberia abrite également l'un des cinq centres régionaux de recherche et de sauvetage de l'OMI en Afrique, couvrant la Côte d'Ivoire, le Ghana, la Guinée, le Liberia et la Sierra Leone, renforçant la sécurité en tant que composant essentiel du commerce maritime durable.

Le ministre a souligné l'engagement du Liberia envers les objectifs de l'OMI par la ratification d'instruments clés de l'OMI, notamment la récente rectification de la Convention de Hong Kong sur le recyclage des navires aux côtés du Bangladesh. Le Liberia a joué un rôle crucial dans la stratégie historique de l'OMI de 2023 sur la réduction des émissions de CO2, et le Dr Harry Conway, en tant que président du MEPC, a dirigé cette initiative.

L'élection du Dr Conway en tant que président du Comité 2 pour les questions techniques illustre davantage le dévouement du Liberia envers l'OMI. L'icône musicale libérienne de renommée internationale, Miatta Fahnbulleh, a ajouté une touche culturelle avec une performance musicale captivante lors de la cérémonie.

Prévue pour sa première session depuis son élection en « Catégorie A » le 7 décembre 2023, la représentation du Liberia à l'OMI sera dirigée par l'ambassadrice Gurly Gibson Schwarz et l'honorable Harry Conway, représentant permanent par intérim et président du MEPC, renforçant l'engagement de la nation envers l'industrie maritime et la coopération internationale.

La culmination de l'élection du Liberia en « Catégorie A » à l'OMI a été saluée par une reconnaissance et des éloges

mondiaux. L'ambassadrice Gurly Gibson Schwarz et l'honorable Harry Conway, prêts à représenter le Liberia, ont exprimé leur engagement à faire avancer les contributions stratégiques du pays au sein de l'organisation.

Le commissaire de l'Autorité maritime du Liberia (LiMA), Lenn Eugene Nagbe, qui a présenté la déclaration d'intérêt du Liberia au Secrétaire général de l'OMI plus tôt dans l'année, a souligné que le siège en « Catégorie A » reflète le rôle crucial du Liberia dans le secteur. Il positionne le Liberia pour apporter des contributions plus stratégiques et jouer un rôle de premier plan dans la croissance et le développement de l'OMI.

Lors de la présentation en février, l'ambassadrice du Liberia à Londres, Madame Gurly T. Gibson Schwarz, a souligné l'histoire progressive du Liberia avec l'OMI et ses contributions diversifiées à la croissance de l'organisation. Atteindre le statut de « Catégorie A » s'aligne sur le statut du Liberia et garantit un rôle plus influent et stratégique au sein de l'OMI.

Le Secrétaire général sortant de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), Kitack Lim, a salué le Liberia pour son rôle historique et ses contributions significatives à l'industrie maritime. Cette victoire renforce la position du Liberia dans la gouvernance maritime mondiale, réaffirmant son engagement à promouvoir la sécurité maritime, la sûreté et des pratiques durables.

Alors que le Liberia se prépare pour sa première session depuis son élection en « Catégorie A » le 7 décembre 2023, l'anticipation est grande pour que la nation contribue activement à façonner les politiques et réglementations maritimes internationales.

La cérémonie, qui a présenté une performance de Miatta Fahnbulleh et a mis en avant des produits fabriqués localement, a souligné la richesse culturelle et le potentiel économique du Liberia. La mise en lumière des produits fabriqués au Liberia a souligné l'importance de soutenir les industries locales et de favoriser la croissance économique.

La police ouvre une enquête sur le décès Joshua Solomon, partisan du CDC



La police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a lancé une enquête sur la mort de Joshua Solomon, membre du parti au pouvoir, la Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), selon le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter.

Au cours du week-end, Carter a annoncé que la police avait obtenu une série de vidéos liées au décès de Solomon et qu'elle entamait une enquête qui pourrait conduire à des arrestations plus tard cette semaine.

"Nous avons collecté des vidéos en notre possession concernant l'incident qui s'est produit. Ces vidéos seront partagées avec la presse et le public", a déclaré Carter. Il a ajouté qu'avec la coopération du public, la police est optimiste quant à l'obtention d'un résultat concluant et à l'arrestation des responsables de la mort de Solomon.

Solomon aurait été impliqué dans des violences politiques entre le parti d'opposition Unity Party (UP) et le CDC au mois d'août de cette année, au cours desquelles il aurait été blessé, entraînant des

saignements internes.

Carter a exhorté le public à aider les enquêteurs en fournissant des informations pour garantir que les responsables de la mort de Solomon soient traduits en justice. Il a rassuré le public et la famille de Solomon que ceux qui seraient jugés coupables feront face à des conséquences légales devant un tribunal compétent.

"Nous vous avons invités pour vous informer sur une enquête en cours que nous avons lancée sur la mort de l'un de nos citoyens, qui a trouvé la mort prématurément dans la communauté de 72nd, Joshua Solomon, 34 ans", a informé Carter aux journalistes. Solomon avait précédemment occupé le poste d'entraîneur national de concours de

beauté au ministère de l'Information.

Carter a promis que la police ne négligerait pas la mort de Solomon et a souligné que tous les aspects liés à son décès feraient l'objet d'une enquête approfondie, garantissant que la justice soit rendue rapidement.

Le porte-parole de la police a révélé que Solomon aurait succombé à des saignements internes à la suite d'une agression signalée le 11 août à Sinkor, impliquant des partisans rivaux du CDC et de l'UP. Carter a affirmé que toutes les personnes capturées dans les vidéos, indépendamment de leur statut ou de leur affiliation politique, seront poursuivies en justice.

"Si Queen Johnson est identifiée dans la vidéo, elle n'est pas au-dessus de la loi, et nous utiliserons la loi", a affirmé Carter. Solomon a été initialement conduit à SOS, puis à une clinique où il est finalement décédé.

Niger : l'ambassadrice américaine Kathleen FitzGibbon présente ses lettres de créance aux autorités



Les États-Unis confirment leur volonté d'avoir des relations diplomatiques avec la junte au Niger. Malgré leur condamnation du coup d'État perpétré fin juillet, les Américains avaient envoyé une diplomate en poste à Niamey. Kathleen FitzGibbon était arrivée dans le pays mi-août. Auparavant, elle avait été cheffe de division Afrique de l'Ouest et australe, puis directrice du Bureau d'analyse de l'Afrique au département d'État, avant d'être envoyée en poste à Abuja, au Nigeria. Samedi 2 décembre, elle a franchi une nouvelle étape en remettant les copies figurées de ses lettres de créance aux autorités. Un geste apprécié par la junte. Les médias d'État nigériens ont largement couvert et

exploité la cérémonie durant laquelle l'Américaine Kathleen FitzGibbon a remis les documents au ministre des Affaires étrangères Bakary Yaou. Un geste qui confirme un peu plus l'installation de l'ambassadrice au Niger, et qui est perçu comme une victoire pour la junte.

Selon le chef de la diplomatie, Kathleen FitzGibbon présentera bientôt ses lettres de créances au nouvel homme fort du pays, le général Tiani. Cette seconde phase officialiserait la nomination et l'accréditation de l'Américaine auprès du pouvoir. Une bonne nouvelle, selon le ministre, malgré la législation qui interdit au gouvernement américain de coopérer avec des régimes militaires issus d'un coup d'État.

Washington avait condamné le putsch, entraînant la suspension de toute coopération civile et militaire avec la junte. Malgré tout, les Américains continuent d'aider l'armée nigérienne dans le survol de son territoire, dans le cadre de la lutte anti-terroriste. Ses avions volent presque quotidiennement. Selon des sources diplomatiques, les États-Unis défendent leurs intérêts en choisissant de rester à Niamey, alors que les forces françaises, elles, ont dû quitter le pays.

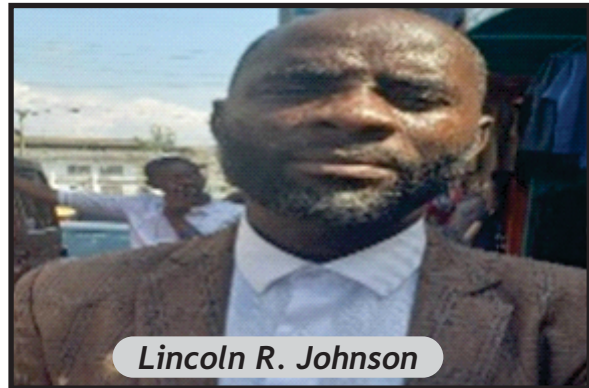
LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Car ram at UP headquarters

By Naneka Hoffman

On November 21, 2023 an unmarked jeep rammed into jubilating supporters and partisans at the UP headquarters in Monrovia, leaving three persons confirmed dead and 25 others wounded. The attack left the entire Monrovia speechless that this could just after a peaceful Presidential runoff election in which incumbent President George Manneh Weah conceded to his main rival Joseph Nyumah Boakai even before the National Elections Commission announced final official results of the poll, declaring Boakai as winner.

The Liberia National Police subsequently apprehended the perpetrator, identified as Lawrence Williams, who has been charged with murder, awaiting trial. Liberians have been expressing their views about this ghastly attack that left the entire capital in shock and grieve, as you may read below.

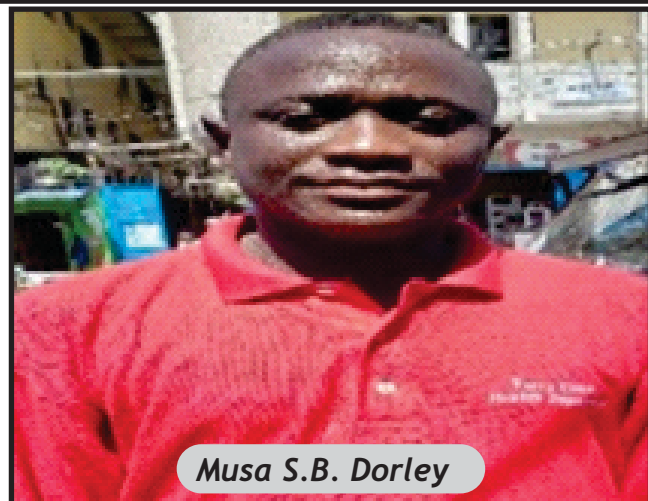


Lincoln R. Johnson

"I condemn the interviewed action of Lawrence Lawrence and he Williams. He didn't admitted to them behave fine because that he was paid for let's forget about what he did, the what happened Police need to during the pressurize him to campaign; elections tell the public who are over or election are those people was over already; to that encouraged him have even taken a to do that, so those car and driven people can be among the people brought to book. The with speed and same charges on killed people, that Williams, those was just wrong. So same charges should for me, I condemn go on those people that. But I will like to heads; besides, they call on the Liberia should punish them National Police; now because if there is t h e y h a v e no punishment in

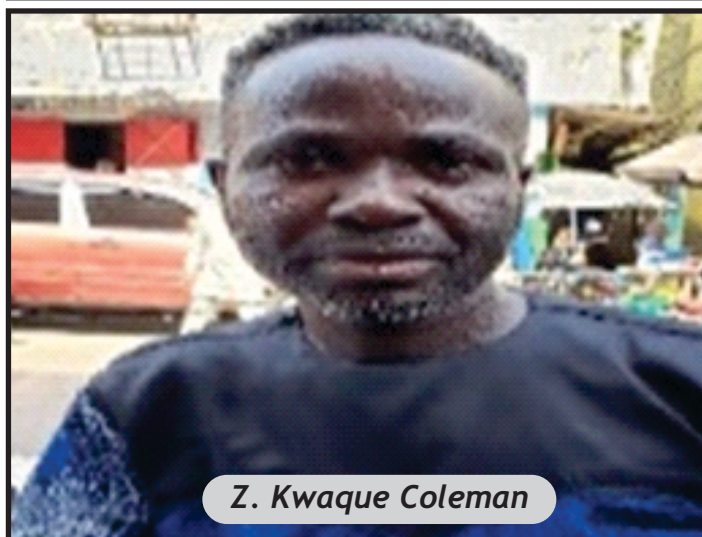
what happened to UP partisans that will be the new thing that will be happening in Liberia. It was so strange; I was monitoring the radio that night when people said something happened. When I went on the internet and I saw the videos and pictures, I couldn't sleep that night. This action of Williams is condemnable to the highest terms. He needs to go to jail. And he needs to be given a real first degree charge so that he can go to jail to serve as an example for the next group of people. This is not a good thing for our country. Liberia is a civilized country; no matter which party a person is from, we should meet and discuss and have the argument. Equally, it shouldn't result to taking stones; it is not a good thing for our country, so I am calling on the Liberia National Police to make sure that Williams call the person name that paid him for what he did, so those names can be published so that they can be handled by the law and taken to court. We need to root such people out of our system; if we don't do so, it will be a problem for us in this country."

"The issue of impunity shouldn't be encouraged in this regime and in this country anymore. Lawrence Williams that carried out the act at the Unity Party celebration should be punished if he is found guilty in respect for the laws of our country. We should respect human rights and we should respect the democratic system of our country. It is very much damaging to see an individual who sees group of people celebrating then you run among them with vehicle. It was very bad on his part. The first thing we condemn the act in the strongest terms. Anybody involved in such act



Musa S.B. Dorley

must be punished by the saying that the laws of the country individual must be regardless who you are, punished; we can't where you're coming encourage that in our from, who sent you or political system in this whatsoever. So we are country."

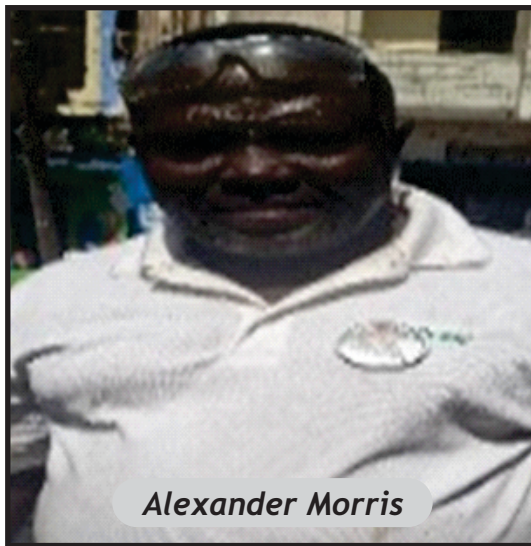


Z. Kwaque Coleman

"As we follow the clear that Lawrence investigation, as per the Williams did it police investigation, it's intentionally and he said

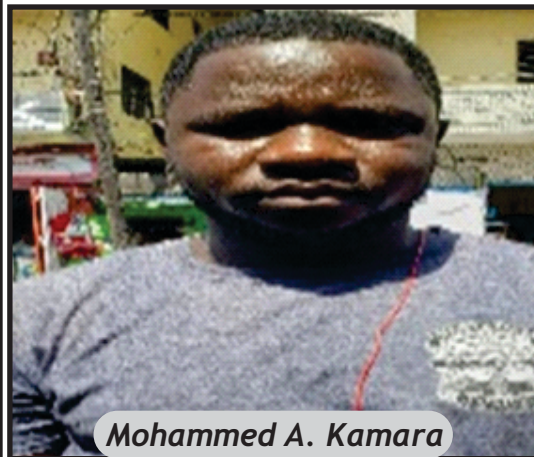
he was paid by someone and up to this time we haven't gotten names of those that gave Williams money to carry out this act. I am calling on the Liberia National Police to further investigate the issue, and those who are behind the scene should be investigated and brought to justice, because if it remains as is, maybe another person will do similar thing and it will create serious problem for our democracy. Whosoever is connected to this act should be brought to justice immediately."

"The decision the police have taken against Williams is okay; the police need to put more pressure on Williams; that is the only way he will call those people names that sent he. The police need to handle him hard so he can be able to call those people names because I think he didn't do it on his own. So the police should hold him. Only he can call the person name or those people names that sent him. We shouldn't encourage people who committed crime to go free in the society. The government needs to set example so that people will be afraid to commit crime. Because if people commit crimes and they go with impunity, people will continue to carry out on criminal acts in the country. But if the government enforced the law,



Alexander Morris

people will be afraid to harm others, because they will know that if they harm or kill someone, they will be punished."



Mohammed A. Kamara

"We will tell you this, this is the reason why we voted for the Unity Party because when people are paid to carry out bad activities, it should be investigated and when they are found guilty, they should bear the full

punishment of the law. No state can survive in the absence of the rule of law, so we understand in this country that people do things and go sky free, because of some political alignment. So if even today my party has won election and if I feel that I can use that to carry on any criminal act that will harm the state I should be prosecuted for that. So if he has been paid to carry on any activity that caused people to loss their lives he should be prosecuted and whosoever names he calls those people should be investigated too, and if there is proof, they should also be prosecuted for the act committed."

"My thanks and appreciation to the Liberia National Police for carrying out a successful investigation and bringing the criminal to justice because we are being told that when it happened, the guy ran away to a far location, and we were informed that it was a bike guy that was able to locate him. But I believe there are still more investigations the police need to carry on, although he was charged with murder and he sent to the Monrovia Central Prison, but Williams has confessed that someone paid him and whoever are those guys that are behind this act, Police should pursue them. As it stands now, I believe that the police should have concluded, because if they can't conclude telling the public who sent Williams, the same criminals around those guys might pay another person too to do something that will cause more harm than what Lawrence Williams did. So I believe in my mind that



Activist Macclean Renner

the police should do everything possible to make sure that Lawrence Williams give those names that paid him. Who paid him? Where they paid him, and how best they can save the country from future embarrassment."

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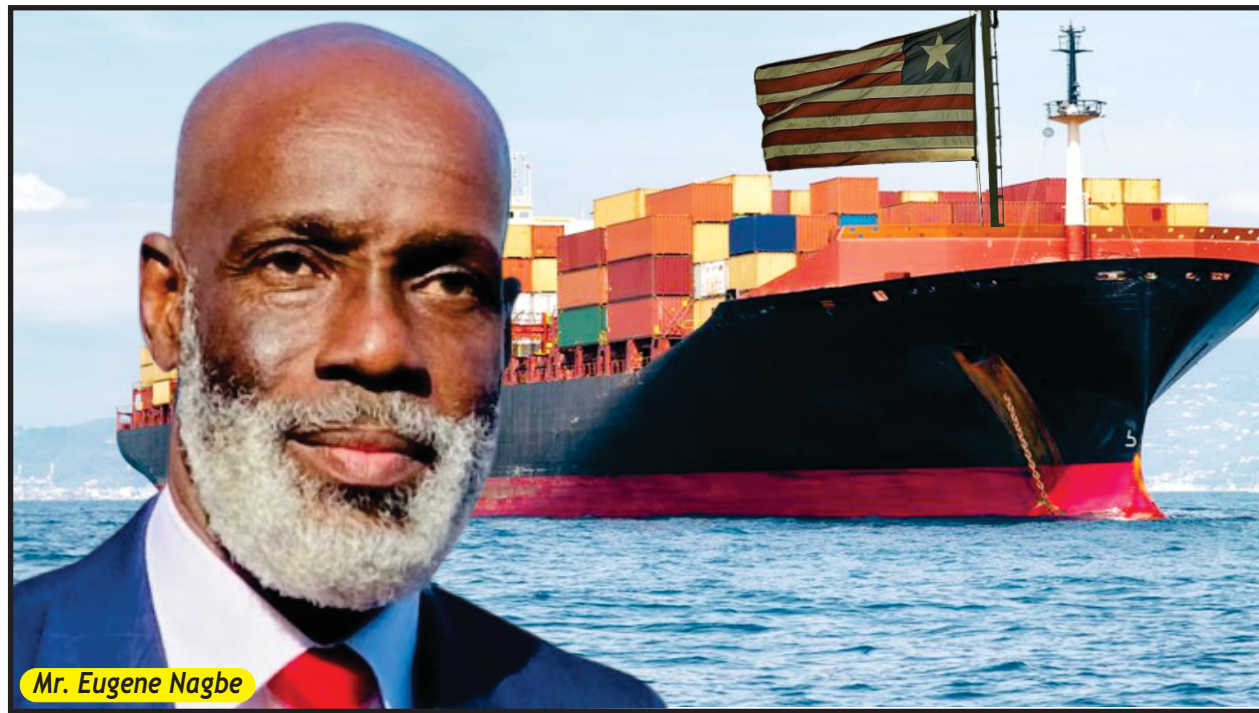
Who benefits from LISCR money? (Pt1)

By Othello B. Garblah

ships, while the Panama Registry has 244.3 million GT and 8,254 ships. The Liberian Registry is comprised of 5,600+ vessels

investigation discovered over half a billion pounds of high-value London property registered to Liberian offshore companies.

There are particles of dust in the air amidst speculations surrounding Liberia's earnings



Mr. Eugene Nagbe

from its shipping registry program in recent times, at least since it was announced in July this year, that it had overtaken Panama as the world's number one ship registry.

Much of the revenue generation and the total amount received over the years in terms of revenue sharing have all been shrouded in secrecy, just as the program activities themselves.

At number one, as was reported in the World Fleet Monitor published by the English data-based Clarkson Research in July this year, Liberia's revenue intake which should be commensurate with its new status is still being held at the chests of Liberia Maritime Authority Commissioner Eugene Nagbe and the Virginia based fellows that manage the Liberian Shipping and Corporate Registry (LISCR) from Washington.

From a cursory look at things, it appears that the unknown amount of revenue being earned by Liberia might be ending up in the pockets of a privileged few which include top officials and their political lawyers.

The Liberian Ship Registry is ranked as the ship registry with the highest tonnage with 246.5 million GT and 5,052

aggregating over 242 million gross tons, representing 15 percent of the world's ocean-going fleet.

Though LISCR is technically registered under Liberian laws, its head offices are in the United States precisely in Dulles, Virginia, with regional offices around the world.

Under Liberian law, the LISCR Trust Company, a private entity with an address in Monrovia is the exclusive agent for all Liberian non-resident corporations. This means that all such corporations have the same mailing address as LISCR.

In 2016, Finance Uncovered disclosed that LISCR had created tens of thousands of anonymous companies and registered them to a non-existent address in Monrovia.

According to Finance Uncovered, although these companies are technically a creation of Liberian law, management of the registry is based in the United States and appears to have the support of the US government.

The report revealed that the companies which can be purchased online, offer near-total anonymity to their clients, allowing them to hide assets without fear of being caught by law enforcement or revenue authorities.

Finance Uncovered in its 2016 report stated that its

Brief History

The Liberian Maritime Program was established in 1948 with strong support from the United States of America. In 1949, Liberia became a founding member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has over the years played a critical role in promulgating maritime safety, security and environmental protection.

The Bureau of Maritime Affairs (BMA) administered the program under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance and later the Ministry of Transport. With the passage of Liberia Maritime Authority Act of 2010, the BMA then transitioned into the Liberian Maritime Authority (LiMA); a public corporation with greater responsibility of managing all commercial activities within the maritime domain of Liberia.

The rationale for this transition was to diversify the Authority's activities from its long-standing focus of being a nation with a leading maritime shipping and corporate registry program, to a nation that strategically focuses on building and, or supporting enterprises across the domestic maritime domain for greater economic and social benefits to the Nation and its People. To be continued.

CDC backs Fonati Koffa

By Lewis S. Teh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has endorsed its stalwart Cllr. Fonati Koffa's bid for Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Grand Kru County District #1 Representative will challenge several contenders, including one newly elected representative who supported the CDC's re-election bid in the run-off.

Koffa is an incumbent Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In its endorsement statement, the CDC through chairman Mulbah Morlu described Koffa as a well-balanced political and regional partisan that has every ability of becoming the Speaker of the 55th Legislature.

Morlu told a major press conference over the weekend that the party endorsed Cllr. Koffa following an intensive

"Therefore, we are calling on all independent and like-minded Legislators to support Cllr. Koffa as the CDC's consensual candidate for the ensuing election for the Speakership of the Honorable House of Representatives," Morlu continued.

Last week, at least 30 incumbent lawmakers endorsed the candidacy of Cllr. Koffa to run for the Speaker position.

Some newly elected lawmakers said in anonymity that a Southeast Speaker will balance power since the President-elect and Vice-President-elect are from Lofa and Nimba Counties' respectively.

For his part, Deputy Speaker Koffa told reporters on Monday that he was humbled to have so many colleagues reach out to him to encourage him to seek the nomination for Speaker.

"However, after much prayer and deliberation, we will be making a formal declaration hopefully next week," he said.

Koffa expressed confidence that he can be trusted to serve as Speaker under the UP-led government if picked by the CDC to contest the



Cllr. Fonati Koffa

Chairman Mr. Mulbah K. Morlu

internal consultation between the national executive committee and the CDC Legislative Caucus.

He said the party has concluded that given the thin nature of the election returns, a balanced government regionally and politically is in the best interest of the Liberian people.

"In this light, the Party will support its utmost quest for the Speaker position and has endorsed the candidacy of Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa, a well-balanced political and regional candidate for Speaker," said Morlu.

Speakership election.

Meanwhile, Cllr. Koffa has congratulated President-elect Joseph Nyuma Boakai on his historic win in the country's presidential election and wished him all the best in his service to the nation.

At the same time, the Deputy Speaker congratulated President George Manneh Weah on being a "true democrat" who has demonstrated mature leadership at a defining moment in the country's history.

"The grace with which he conceded defeat is legendary and it testifies to the fact that President Weah is a true, real patriot and man of peace," he said.

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Inmates protest in Sanniquellie

By Thomas Domah,
Nimba County

Over 200 inmates, including those awaiting judgment, have protested at the Sanniquellie Prison Compound in Sanniquellie City, Nimba County,

treatment they continue to face.

Report says the prison compound was constructed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as one of its many Quick Impact Projects. The facility was constructed

at Police withholding cell in Sanniquellie.

The aggrieved prisoners narrated that they had gone out of food for the past six months, surviving only on dry rice.

Meanwhile, several angry



preventing new suspects from entering the facility.

Some of the protesting inmates who spoke to The NEW DWAN Monday, December 4, said their action is based on government's alleged failure to provide them food and

for 75 persons but currently hosts more than 200 prisoners alongside pre-trial detainees.

Because of the protest, several suspects who were taken to the facility did not have access and are being held

young people believed to be drug users in Ganta have attacked officers of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, destroying several assets of the agency.

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