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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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# Violence in Grand Gedeh



**-following lawmaker's death**



Amb Boakai

# UP Alliance suspends VOLT

**-Amid job fight**



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

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# Continental News

## Nigeria airstrike 'mistakenly' kills worshippers

At least 85 civilians were killed in Kaduna state, north-west Nigeria, in an air strike during a Muslim religious celebration on Sunday evening. The head of the

residents for ransom. The airstrike happened when villagers from Tundun Biri gathered for a religious festival on Sunday evening. The head of the



Villagers have lost many family members in the airstrike by the military

Sunday, the local emergency management authority said. The civilians were killed in a "bombing mishap", President Bola Tinubu said without giving a death toll. State Governor Uba Sani said they were "mistakenly killed" by a military drone "targeting terrorists and bandits". More than 60 people were admitted to hospital for treatment, officials said.

The defence ministry termed the operation a "needless tragedy" adding that a routine mission against militants "inadvertently affected members of the community".

Nigeria's military has for years been battling armed criminals and militants who has been operating in parts of northern Nigeria, raiding villages and kidnapping

army, Lt Gen Taoreed Lagbaja has apologised to the residents and paid a condolence visit to the village.

He expressed regret about "the unfortunate mishap, describing it as a very disheartening occurrence", the army said.

Gen Lagbaja said that troops were carrying out aerial patrols when they observed a group of people and "wrongly analysed and misinterpreted their pattern of activities" to be similar to that of the bandits, before the drone strike.

President Tinubu has asked for a "thorough and full-fledged investigation into the incident and calls for calm while the authorities look diligently into the mishap" a statement from his office said. The governor has also called for an investigation.

"The Northwest Zonal Office has received details from the local

authorities that 85 dead bodies have so far been buried while search is still ongoing," a statement from the National Emergency Management Agency in the federal capital, Abuja, said.

"It is worthy of note that the casualties ranged from children, women and the elderly," it added. One man, who witnessed what happened, told the BBC's Hausa service that there were two attacks.

"The aircraft dropped a bomb at the venue, it destroyed and killed our people including women and children," he said.

"The second bomb was dropped on some of us who went to bring dead bodies of the victims of the first blast. We lost about 34 people in my family and we have 66 injured people in the hospital." A woman who saw the aftermath of the bombing told the BBC that bodies were strewn all over the place. "Some women died holding their babies, some of the babies survived while others died along with their mothers," she said. The Nigerian military has in the past been accused of causing civilian casualties while battling militia gangs, known locally as bandits, in the north-west of the country. The government has labelled the gangs "terrorists". More than 300 people have been killed since 2017 in accidental strikes by the Nigerian military, a report by SB Morgen, a research firm, said. In 2021, at least 20 fishermen were killed accidentally in a Nigerian fighter jet strike on a jihadist camp in north-east Nigeria. BBC

authorities that 85 dead bodies have so far been buried while search is still ongoing," a statement from the National Emergency Management Agency in the federal capital, Abuja, said.

## Rwanda treaty deals with legal concerns - UK's Cleverly

The home secretary says a new treaty with Rwanda addresses the concerns of the UK's Supreme Court, which ruled the government's plan unlawful last month. The court said the policy, which would see migrants sent to Rwanda, was open to human rights breaches.

James Cleverly insisted Rwanda had made "a clear and unambiguous commitment to the safety of people who come here".

The policy is part of the government's plan to deter migrants from crossing the Channel in small boats.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said "stopping the boats" is one of five main priorities for his government ahead of the next general election. But the Rwanda scheme - which was first announced by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in April 2022 - has been repeatedly delayed by legal challenges and no asylum

on Tuesday. He is the third home secretary to make his way to Rwanda - following in the steps of his predecessors Priti Patel and Suella Braverman. The British government says the new treaty ensures that people relocated to Rwanda are not at risk of being returned to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened. The treaty establishes a new appeal body, which will be made up of judges with asylum expertise from a range of countries, to hear individual cases. The government says Rwanda's asylum system would be monitored by an independent committee, whose powers to enforce the treaty would be beefed up. The Monitoring Committee will develop a system which will enable relocated people and their lawyers to lodge complaints, the government says. At a press conference, Mr Cleverly insisted Rwanda was a safe country and said "we feel very strongly this treaty addresses all of the issues of their lordships in the Supreme



Home Secretary James Cleverly signed the new treaty with Rwanda's foreign affairs minister Vincent Biruta in Kigali

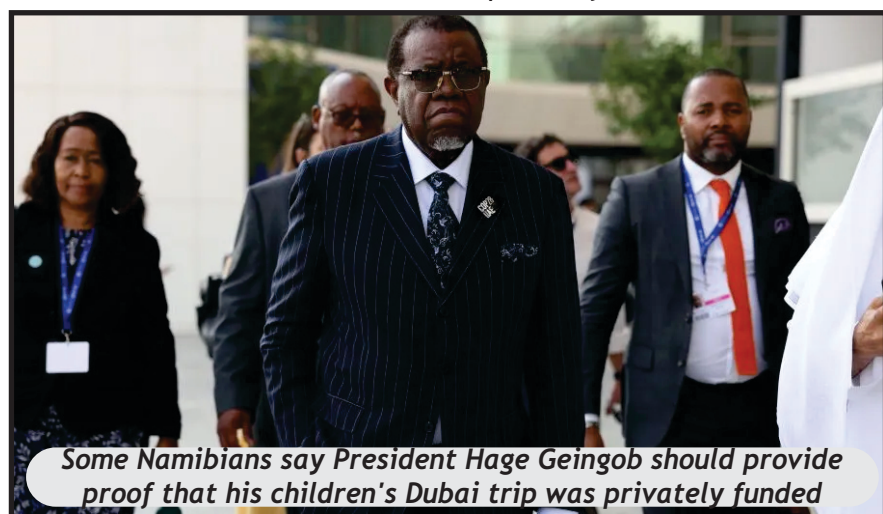
## Namibians angered by president's family COP28 trip

Some Namibians have been outraged after learning that President Hage Geingob's four children joined the government's delegation to the COP28 climate summit. They were among six of the president's family members listed as part of Namibia's delegation in Dubai. President Geingob's office on Monday confirmed his children travelled to the city, but denied claims that their trip was state-funded. The office did not say how other family members were paid for. "President Geingob and Madame Geingos (first lady) paid for the flights and accommodation expenses of their children," the Namibian Presidency posted

on X on Monday. "The Namibian public and the media should be rest assured that not a single cent of public funds has been spent on the children of the first couple."

The presidency added that the claims were "malicious and politically motivated" and

intended to distract from the "excellent work" by President Geingob and the Namibian delegation at COP28. But some Namibians have dismissed the presidency's response as unsatisfactory, saying it fails to prove that the travel of President's Geingob's children and his family members was privately funded.



Some Namibians say President Hage Geingob should provide proof that his children's Dubai trip was privately funded

seekers have been sent to the country yet. The Supreme Court, the UK's highest court, rejected the policy on the grounds that it could not be guaranteed the Rwandan government would honour a principle of international law known as non-refoulement.

The principle forbids a country that receives asylum seekers from returning them to any country if doing so would put them at risk of harm. Following the ruling, Mr Sunak said his government would work on a new treaty with Rwanda and said he would introduce emergency legislation to assert the country was safe. The legislation is expected to be introduced in Parliament this week. Mr Cleverly travelled to Kigali and signed the new legally binding treaty alongside Rwanda's foreign affairs minister Vincent Biruta

Court". He said this would be "reflected in domestic legislation soon".

A spokesperson for the Rwanda's government said it had a "proven record" of offering a home to refugees, and the new treaty would "re-emphasise, in a binding manner, already existing commitments" on asylum seeker protection.

The asylum policy has already cost the UK government at least £140m, but Mr Cleverly said the UK has not paid Rwanda any additional money for the new treaty. The home secretary said he could not see "any credible reason" to question Rwanda's "track record" of handling asylum cases and he hoped to see the scheme running "as quickly as possible".

He said Rwanda had a "strong reputation" of being humane and was "uncomfortable" at the "tone" of the criticism levelled at Rwanda. BBC



# EDITORIAL

# COMMENTARY

By Michael R. Bloomberg  
and 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.

**D**UBAI - 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Anna Lappé, Patty Fong

## Decarbonizing Our Food

**B**ERKELEY - When political leaders, policymakers, environmental advocates, and philanthropists gather for this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28), food systems will be high on the agenda for the first time. Given that the food sector accounts for one-third of all greenhouse-gas emissions, its inclusion is long overdue.

But this welcome breakthrough risks being offset by the fact that COP28 is hosted by a petrostate, and presided over by the leader of that petrostate's oil company. This is particularly concerning since averting catastrophic climate scenarios requires that we phase out fossil fuels and transform food systems with equal urgency.

Fortunately, these two challenges need not compete for our attention, because transforming food systems is also a powerful way to reduce our global dependency on fossil fuels. As our organization shows in a new report, *Power Shift: Why We Need to Wean Our Industrial Food Systems Off Fossil Fuels*, food systems, from farm to plate to landfill, account for at least 15% of annual global fossil-fuel use - equal to that of the European Union and Russia combined. And if the current approach to industrial food production continues, that figure is expected to increase significantly.

Today's industrial food system is increasingly fossil fuel-intensive. Fossil fuels go into synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, as well as the plastics that are used in everything from the coatings for those pesticides and fertilizers to most food packaging. Moreover, most packaging is needed to store ultra-processed foods - from meat and dairy to sweets and sugary drinks - all of which require highly energy-intensive manufacturing and petrochemicals in the form of plastics.

Worryingly, the energy sector views the food system as a promising growth market. Food-related plastics and synthetic fertilizers account for approximately 40% of all petrochemical products, and the International Energy Agency predicts that petrochemicals will drive nearly half the growth in oil demand by 2050, outstripping sectors like aviation and shipping. Similarly, research from the Center for International Environmental Law has shown that fossil-fuel companies are banking on the expansion of these markets. The industry "is eyeing the food system," CIEL's Lisa Tostado told us, "from inputs like pesticides and fertilizers to production and processing, as a dangerous escape hatch."

Finally, we're also seeing a push to use more agricultural land for incredibly inefficient energy production. The United States already dedicates about 40% of its corn harvest to ethanol fuels, which are estimated to be "at least 24% more carbon-intensive than gasoline."

Given increased marketing of and demand for energy-intensive food, decoupling food production from fossil fuels is essential to meet our climate goals. Even if all governments delivered on their 2030 climate pledges, fossil-fuel use in the food system alone would consume our remaining 1.5° Celsius carbon budget by 2037.

Fortunately, there are many ways to phase out fossil fuels in food systems. These include strategies to end the use of fossil-fuel-based fertilizers and pesticides, and to move away from input-dependent crop-based energy systems like corn ethanol; shifting to renewable energy for processing, cooling, and drying food; supporting minimally processed, less energy-intensive foods and encouraging plant-rich diets; and encouraging the uptake of seasonal, locally grown food.

Shifting away from industrial methods toward more sustainable ways of farming not only would protect the planet. It also would create jobs, improve health, protect biodiversity, and help address the roots of hunger. Evidence from around the world shows that approaches like agroecology and regenerative agriculture are effective in driving a shift away from fossil-fuel dependency. With these strategies, yields remain steady or improve, while emissions fall, farmworkers' health improves, and biodiversity is protected.

There is no technical barrier to shifting from dependence on synthetic inputs toward agroecological and regenerative food production, or to replacing fossil-fuel energy with renewable sources. But many governments offer very few subsidies to support these transitions, and many more incentivize business as usual. According to the OECD, every year between 2019 and 2021, public funds totaling \$528 billion were channeled to agricultural and food-production practices that are generally bad for the climate, the environment, and human health.

Now that we have come to understand just how endemic fossil-fuel usage is across our economies, we must take pains to ensure that all sectors are included in the transition to a fossil-fuel-free future. Despite COP28's dubious staging in a petrostate, we are pleased to see food finally taking center stage. But that discussion must not be isolated from the one about ending the use of fossil fuels as fast as possible. There will be no food-systems transformation without phasing out fossil fuels, and there will be no phasing out fossil fuels without food-systems transformation.

## OPINION

By Erik Berglöf

## Nature as Infrastructure

**B**EIJING - For millennia, natural infrastructure - such as river systems, wetlands, coastal plains, sand dunes, and forests - supported the development of human civilization. In fact, our ability to harness such infrastructure, for everything from food and drinking water to storm-surge protection and flood mitigation, has been central to our success as a species. And it will prove vital to our future survival.

Technological advances propelled the evolution of infrastructure. Green turned to grey, with concrete, cable, and steel delivering energy, communications, and transportation - and, with them, unprecedented growth and development. But while rapid modernization produced once-unimaginable prosperity, it has had grave unintended consequences, not least the environmental degradation and greenhouse-gas emissions that are jeopardizing our very existence.

The question now is how to meet urgent environmental goals - reducing emissions and protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity - while enabling developing economies to fulfill their legitimate growth aspirations. The answer, as a recent report from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank suggests, may well begin with an explicit acknowledgement of nature as infrastructure.

Viewing nature as infrastructure is transformative, because it forces us to think in a more systemic way. As we pursue growth and development, we must not only avoid damaging nature; we must also strengthen and enrich it through "nature-positive" investments - all while tapping its vast potential to deliver essential services.

Biologists already do this when they benchmark how to restore degraded land. But now economists must get on board and enhance their tools for capturing the value and complexity of natural capital. Biodiversity, for example, covers not just the number of species, but also their genetic diversity and diversity of functions. Yet another dimension of biodiversity is the complex evolutionary history of species - when they were separated on the "tree of life." It is only by deepening our understanding of biodiversity that we will comprehend nature's full potential - and our impact on it.

This knowledge is very site-specific, and acquiring it will require contributions from scientists and local populations. The good news is that there are already models for such collaboration. The massive Sanbei reforestation project, aimed at preventing two large deserts from merging in Northern China, was a flawed endeavor at the start, with only single tree types planted. But, over the course of two decades, deeper knowledge of the local environment and the participation of local communities transformed it into a success.

Governance and incentives are also crucial to protect and nurture natural infrastructure. In Indonesia, mangroves have long protected communities, particularly poorer households, from deadly tidal floods, but they are being depleted in regions with weaker state capacity. In Egypt, by contrast, efforts to restore mangroves have been aided by revenues from eco-tourism and beekeeping, which produces honey and supports the delivery of vital pollination services.

The nature-as-infrastructure approach demands that we assess what nature can deliver before considering grey solutions, and it can help countries close their infrastructure gaps in truly sustainable ways. But grey infrastructure will always be necessary for growth and development. This demands that we design it better, to minimize its impact on nature. For example, renewable-energy infrastructure has a large ecological footprint, and road infrastructure fragments and damages ecosystems. Solutions like co-locating infrastructure on brown sites and providing auxiliary infrastructure (such as wildlife highway crossings, green urban spaces, and nature-restoration offsets) can help mitigate these effects.

Of course, financing might pose a challenge. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, agreed a year ago, assumes that \$598-824 billion per year will be needed by 2030 to close the biodiversity funding gap. Such sums, needed to protect and then begin to restore nature, can be generated only by valuing nature properly and creating markets that will mobilize private and institutional capital.

To this end, "nature as infrastructure" must be developed as an asset class, using new tools and financial instruments. At the micro level, this will require better pricing of nature's services - for example, usage charges or permits and taxes for damaging activities - and adaptive local regulations. Micro-level policies can support the development of other financial instruments and, eventually, markets - for performance-linked bonds, policy-based lending, debt-for-nature swaps, and nature credits, to name a few - to channel more finance into nature. Lessons from carbon markets should be heeded, to avoid repeating past mistakes.

Special attention must be paid to low-income economies, many of which are highly vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation but have rich natural endowments that should be valued properly. Multilateral development banks can catalyze the nature-as-infrastructure approach, ensuring that it is incorporated into all aspects of their operations. Ultimately, this approach should also guide individual infrastructure projects and national growth strategies.

The consequences of the infrastructure decisions we make today will be felt for decades to come. Only by committing to invest in green - and to build grey better - can we ensure we lay the groundwork for a fairer, more sustainable, and inclusive global economy.







# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Suicide in Grand Gedeh

**-As lawmaker's death sparks tension**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
A man believed to be in his early 70s has reportedly

accused of allegedly contributing spiritually to the death of the Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1

accusing fingers at the late Ben but also the County's Senator, Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, they alleged that Mr. Pennue knew something about Gwion's death.

During their protest, they set ablaze two structures belonging to Senator Pennue. One of those is said to be his house, and the protesters were said to vandalize another which is said to be his "official Grand Gedeh residence."

Before that, they had set ablaze the Traditional Council's office in Zwedru. That incident is said to have resulted in the inner part of the house burning, but police managed to extinguish the fire.

It is believed that when the protest was ongoing, Jenkins Ben escaped into a nearby bush where he allegedly committed suicide. A live local broadcaster KMTV video on Tuesday showed that calm was restored in the Southeastern County following the police's intervention. At the same time, the Crime Services Division (CSD) of the Liberia National Police has set up a 15-man corner jury to examine the lifeless body of Jenkins to determine whether there was a foul play. Investigation continues...

Representative Erol Madison Gwion.

Rep. Madison is reported to have died in India where he had gone to seek short-term medication.

Reports of Gwion's death stirred tension in Grand Gedeh.

Some residents in the County declared violent protest because they believed that his death had spiritual implications.

They did not only point

committed suicide in Grand Gedeh County out of fear that an angry mob would have harmed him in revenge for Rep. Erol Madison Gwion's death.

It is believed that suspect Jenkins Ben escaped into a nearby bush and allegedly committed suicide when protesters went on the rampage over Rep. Gwion's death. A few hours before the protest, Ben had been



## LERC hosts database workshop for Licensed Electricity Operators

As part of project activities for the setting up of a Regulatory Database Management System (RDBMS) for the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC), the Commission with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB), is conducting a 10-day Structured Query Language (SQL), Database Management and Security workshop in Margibi County.

The training facilitated by IRIDIS Solutions brings together participants from the Commission and licensed operators that include the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Jungle Energy Power (JEP) and Totota Electric Cooperative.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training on 4 December 2023, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo thanked the AfDB for funding the setting

conceived the idea to support RDBMS following LERC's performance in the Regulatory Index for Africa that accesses electricity frameworks in African countries to identify gaps and find solutions.

He said LERC has been a consistent participant even though it is a new regulator, and that the Bank is aware of all the regulatory instruments it is developing and takes note. "The Bank found out that one of things to address these gaps is the digitalization initiative and LERC had rightly made the request to AfDB. This is a one stop gap solution to address LERC's gaps identified which is to allow stakeholders participation and transparency in regulation. The Bank is pleased with the level of work that will make LERC move up the index", he asserted.

Mr. Sarpong pinpointed that when the RDBMS project is completed the Commission's



Caption: Participants at SQL, DB Management & Security workshop funded by the AfDB

up the RDBMS and urged participants to take full advantage of the training opportunity. Dr. Sekajipo asserted that the RDBMS when setup will digitize LERC's internal processes which will enable the Commission to improve operational efficiency, achieve higher productivity, and reduce turnaround times in business processes.

He described RDBMS as "a significant milestone in the electricity industry that will assist in achieving the Government of Liberia electricity agenda to provide reliable access to 70% of the Liberian population by the year 2030". For his part, Mr. Solomon Sarpong, Senior Energy Economist/Policy Officer, at the AfDB and the Project Task Manager commended LERC for the speedy and efficient implementation of the project and said the Bank will continue to support such initiatives.

Mr. Sarpong providing the context for the Bank's support to the Commission said the AfDB

technical team will now be able to sit in office and get real time information; and the next phase of the project will focus on stakeholders buy-in and real-time link-ins with operators, he asserted. The Bank, Mr. Sarpong revealed, will soon begin the implementation of the African Energy Sector Technical Assistance Program, and urged the Commission to take advantage.

Providing an overview of the workshop, Dr. Kofi Sarpong Adu-Manu, Lead Consultant and Program Director, Iridis Technologies said his organization is pleased to be associated with this milestone project that the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission is undertaking.

Dr. Adu-Manu said the workshop will build the capacity of technical teams from LERC and licensed operators who will be using this system. "We are going to provide hands-on training for the technical teams for the effective use of the system. The system largely

## UNWomen lauds Police in GBV fight

By Kruah Thompson

UNWomen Liberia has commended the Ministry of Justice and security apparatus for their dedicated efforts in addressing gender-based violence crimes in Liberia. Speaking at the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence brief lighting ceremony held Monday, 4th December at the Liberian National Police Headquarters in Monrovia, UN Women Country Representative here, Ms Comfort Lamptey praised the Police for ensuring that perpetrators face legal prosecution.

Highlighting the Police as crucial responders to gender-based violence reports, she emphasized their role in providing a safe environment for women and girls.

She described the Police as critical stakeholders, stressing the importance of their partnership in addressing gender-based violence in the country. Discussing the global significance of the 16 Days of Activism, Ms Lamptey said violence against women and girls is a pandemic hindering Liberia's development.

Emphasizing this year's theme of investing in

prevention, she underscored that preventing gender-based violence saves lives and reduces the country's burdens. Lamptey expressed gratitude that the Minister of Justice designated the Police to lead the ceremony alongside the Ministry of Gender. She hoped this event would inspire a renewed commitment from the Liberian National Police to champion the fight against gender-based violence. During the ceremony, the Deputy Minister for Policy and Research at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hassan Kenneth, also praised the Police for their role in addressing gender-based violence.

Noting an increase in reported cases due to heightened awareness, she emphasized the effectiveness

of the referral pathway and appreciated the collective efforts of various stakeholders, saying "So we have worked hard to get survivors of these crimes treated." According to her, last year the Ministry of Gender recorded more than 1900 cases of gender based violence, adding that within the third quarter of this year, they had already recorded 2000 plus cases.

She believes that reason why this number of cases have been recorded is because they have created more awareness in various communities across the country on how to report GBV cases.

"The referral path way is working and this is because of everyone's efforts, the Police, the UNWomen and actors of the

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UNWomen Country Representative Comfort Lamptey

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## House mourns fallen colleague

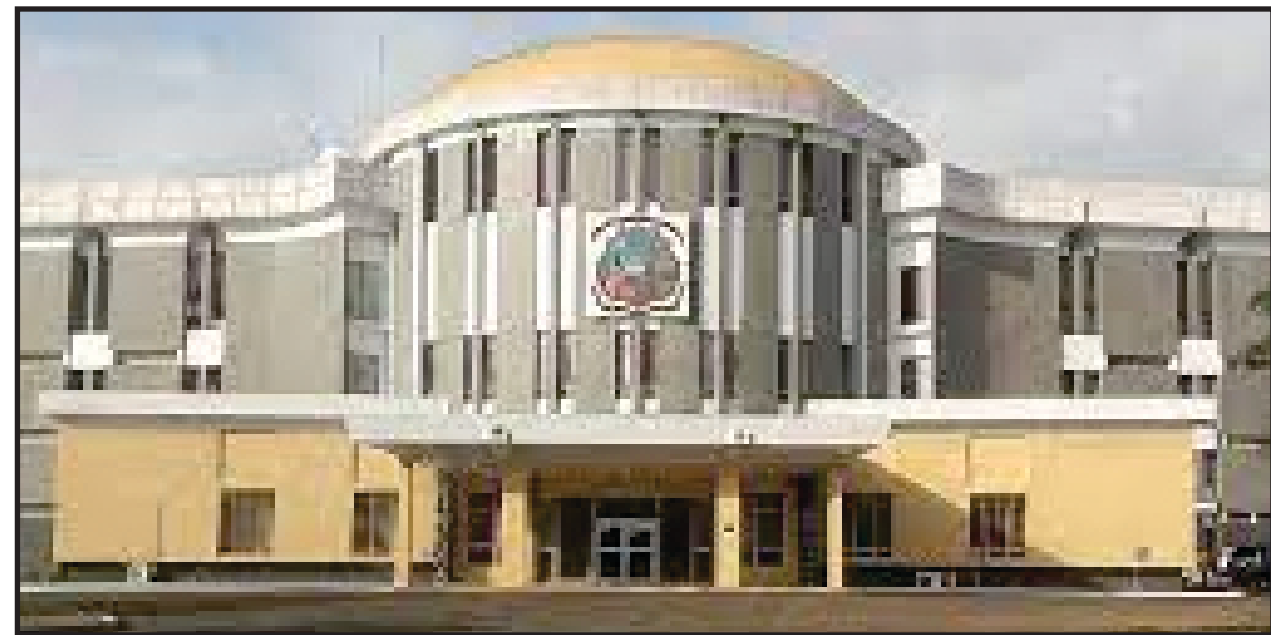
By Bridgett Milton

Members of the House of Representatives

According to Speaker Chambers, he was informed of the passing of Rep. Gwion early Tuesday morning after the

when passed off just before this milestone could be achieved.

He will be remembered for his resilience, dedication to his



Tuesday, December 5, 2023 observed a moment of silence for the passing away of one of its member Erol Madison Gwion of Grand Gedeh county district #1.

Rep. Gwion, who contested on the ticket of the Congress of Democratic (CDC) died after his reelection.

Speaking to members of the House Tuesday, Speaker Bholaf Chambers said it was regrettable hearing the death news of Representative Erol Madison Gwion.

lawmaker had suffered a brief illness.

The late Rep. Gwion was elected in 2020, replacing Rep. Zoe Emmanuel Pennon who was elected Senator of Grand Gedeh.

On October 10, 2023, he was given another six years term by his people to represent them in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Gwion was due to be officially certificated along with fellow lawmakers elected this Friday, December 8, by the National Elections Commission

constituents, and exceptional political journey.

Meanwhile, following the death news of Representatives Gwion early Tuesday, angry protesters set ablaze two houses belonging to Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue in Grand Gedeh county.

According to reports, the protesters are accusing Senator Pennue of involvement in the death of the lawmaker, who has been his bitter rival up to his demise. The cause of death is yet to be established.

## House slams Finance boss with contempt

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives for the second time has cited the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah, to appear before it this Thursday, 7th December to provide reasons why he should not be held in contempt for repeated unexcused absences before the August body.

The House of Representatives took the decision Tuesday, 5 December 2023, after Minister Tweah failed to honor another citation from the body to appear along with his principal deputies in continuation of deliberation of national issues of concern.

Making the motion on the floor, Montserrado County district#8 Representative, Moses Acarius Gray, moved that communication be sent to the Finance Minister, inviting him to appear tomorrow, Thursday, at 10 AM with his lawyer to show

reason why he should not be held in contempt.

Since members of that body returned from election break, they had invited Minister Tweah to appear before plenary on November 28, 2023, at 10:00 AM but he did not show up.

Tweah was cited to address pressing matters related to budgetary implications.

Despite repeated citations, the Finance Minister has failed

to appear before the August Body, raising concerns about transparency and accountability in public financial matters.

The House views his repeated absence as a matter of Contempt and demands that the Minister shows cause for such persistent non-compliance with legislative citations, but this time, he is to come along with his lawyer.



Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah

## LNRCs pays tributes to volunteers

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCs) has extended heartfelt gratitude and paid a special tribute to the dedicated volunteers on the front lines of every crisis.

As the world marks International Volunteer Day, LNRCs has paid special tribute to the dedicated Red Cross volunteers who selflessly serve their communities, embodying the true power of collective action.

In a statement released Tuesday, 5 December 2023, Gregory T. Blamoh, the Secretary General of the Liberia National Red Cross Society, expressed deep appreciation for the relentless efforts of Red Cross volunteers across the nation.

He highlighted their pivotal role in preventing and alleviating human suffering, especially in the face of disasters and

being of our communities. Mr. Blamoh emphasized the diverse contributions of Red Cross volunteers, extending beyond disaster response.

"Our volunteers go beyond the call of duty. They clean the environment, clear drainages, raise awareness on community-based health, and disaster risk reduction, and promote humanitarian values and principles. Their commitment and compassion have no limits." The theme for this year's celebration of International Volunteer Day, "The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did," resonates deeply with the Red Cross movement.

Mr. Blamoh remarked, "The collective action of our volunteers creates a force for good that echoes throughout our communities. Their actions serve as an inspiration to us all, showcasing the profound difference that one individual can



humanitarian crises.

"Today, on International Volunteer Day, we take a moment to express our sincere thanks to all our volunteers who give their time and apply their skills to make their communities safer, more resilient, and more inclusive," said Mr. Blamoh.

"The power of humanity is truly achievable through volunteerism, and our volunteers exemplify this power every day."

In reflecting on the remarkable work of the Red Cross volunteers throughout 2023, Mr. Blamoh emphasized the pivotal role these dedicated individuals played in key disaster responses.

"Our volunteers have been the backbone of our disaster response efforts this year, facing various challenges head-on."

"From combatting caterpillar infestations to responding to devastating flooding, COVID-19 vaccine promotion, and fires, their resilience and commitment have been truly commendable," the release noted.

The LNRCs said it owes a debt of gratitude to these unsung heroes who continue to make an indelible impact on the well-

make in the lives of many."

The Secretary-General praised the unwavering dedication and selfless commitment of Red Cross volunteers, who consistently demonstrate the principles of impartiality, neutrality, and humanity.

"Their tireless efforts have created a lasting impact on the lives of those in need, providing vital support and comfort during times of crisis and hardship."

In conclusion, Mr. Blamoh urged everyone to join in honoring and recognizing the outstanding contributions of Liberian Red Cross Volunteers and all those volunteering for humanity on the occasion of International Volunteer Day.

"Let us celebrate the power of collective action and appreciate the indomitable spirit of volunteerism that unites us all," he stated.

As the world acknowledges the immeasurable impact of volunteers, the Liberian Red Cross Society stands proud, guided by the principle that no one should be left behind, and that, indeed, the true power of humanity lies in the hands of those who selflessly serve others.—Press release

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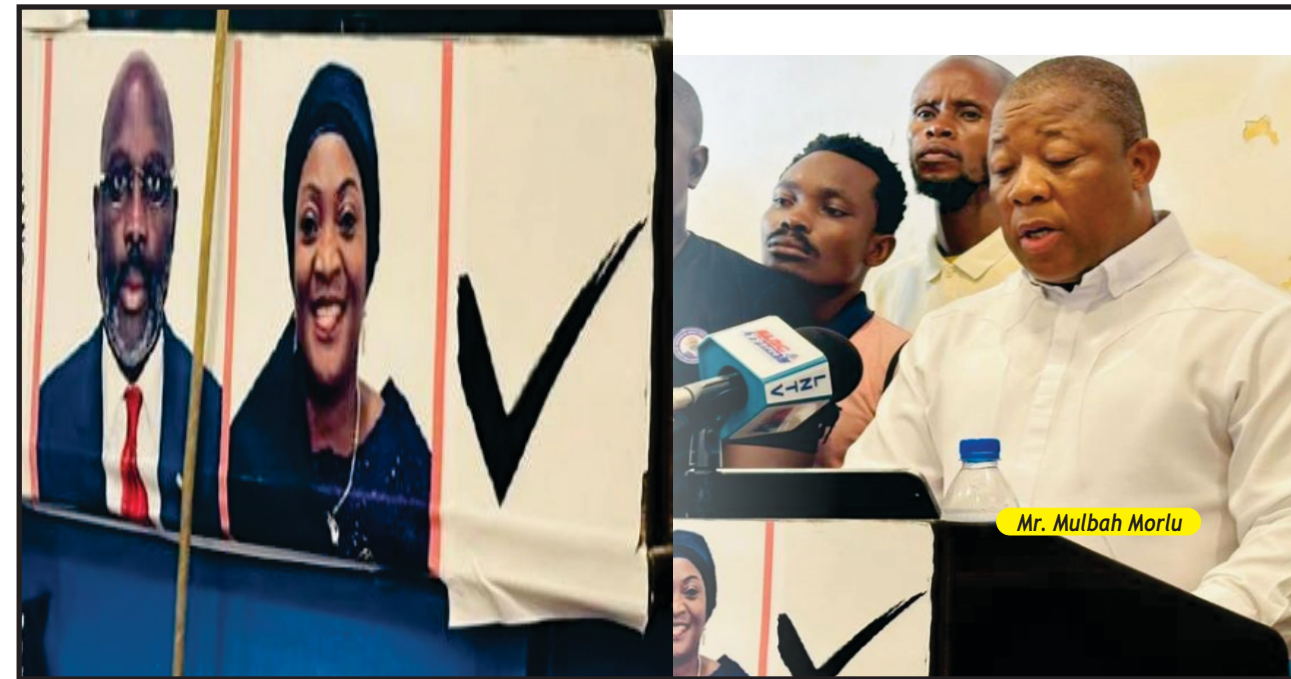
# Français

## La Police à la Recherche de Queen Johnson dans le Cadre du Décès d'un Membre du CDC

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue ce lundi 4 décembre 2023 au siège de la Police nationale

ont identifié Queen Johnson, également connue sous le nom de 'Général de Secours', ainsi que d'autres individus non encore identifiés, comme des

Carter a souligné que la recherche de Queen Johnson est basée sur des preuves vidéo détenues par la Police nationale libérienne. Il a



libérienne à Monrovia, les autorités ont officiellement émis un mandat de recherche à l'encontre de Queen Johnson, une personnalité éminente du Parti de l'Unité et partisane du président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai, en lien avec la mort de Joshua Solomon, un partisan de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC).

Le porte-parole de la police, H. Moses Carter, a révélé que, sur la base d'investigations préliminaires, les autorités

personnes d'intérêt dans l'enquête. Carter a exhorté ces individus à se présenter aux autorités pour être interrogés sur les circonstances entourant le décès de Joshua Solomon.

La police a mis la main sur une série d'enregistrements vidéo liés à l'incident, survenu au cours d'un épisode de violence politique entre le Parti de l'Unité et le CDC en août de cette année. Selon les rapports, la victime, Solomon, aurait succombé à des blessures subies lors de cette violente altercation, entraînant des saignements internes.

appelé le public à fournir toute information utile concernant Johnson et d'autres personnes impliquées, les encourageant à collaborer avec l'enquête policière en fournissant des informations sur leur localisation.

"Nous demandons aux Libériens de nous aider avec toute information utile concernant Queen Johnson et d'autres personnes qui seront annoncées ultérieurement. Nous voulons qu'ils se rendent au siège de la LNP pour l'enquête", a plaidé Carter. Il a

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## Des Professionnels de la Santé Réunis à Monrovia pour un Atelier de l'OMS sur la Prévention et le Contrôle des Infections

Monrovia, le 4 décembre 2023 - Plus de quatre-vingt-dix professionnels de la santé en provenance du Ghana, d'Afrique du Sud, d'Ouganda, de Sierra Leone, de Tanzanie et du Liberia participent actuellement à un symposium intensif d'une semaine organisé par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). L'objectif de cet atelier est de renforcer la préparation des pays aux urgences sanitaires, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur les directives de prévention et de contrôle des infections pour la maladie à virus Ebola et la maladie de Marburg.

Débuté le 4 décembre 2023, cet atelier résulte d'une collaboration entre l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, le gouvernement libérien par le biais du ministère de la Santé et de l'Institut national de santé publique du Liberia. Les participants incluent des responsables de la santé des

comtés, des équipes de santé des comtés et divers professionnels de la santé.

Les objectifs clés de l'atelier englobent les directives d'inspection et de contrôle des maladies infectieuses, avec une ambition plus large de renforcer les systèmes de santé et d'améliorer les capacités de prévention et de contrôle des infections (PCI). Le Dr Musu Duworko, conseillère en

planification familiale et en population de l'OMS, se montre enthousiaste face à cette opportunité unique d'apprendre des expériences du Liberia en matière de PCI. Elle souligne le rôle crucial de professionnels de la santé de première ligne avec des connaissances et des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## 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

Par Michael R. Bloomberg

Jet Yvonne Aki-Sawyer

## Starts from page 8 **La Police à la Recherche**

lancé un appel à Queen Johnson pour qu'elle se présente afin d'être interrogée, soulignant l'importance de coopérer avec l'enquête criminelle en cours.

Le porte-parole de la police a assuré le public de mises à jour régulières au fur et à mesure de l'avancement de l'enquête, promettant que toute arrestation serait communiquée de manière transparente afin de garantir

que justice soit rendue. La déclaration de Queen Johnson en tant que personne recherchée s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts plus larges visant à traiter les cas de violence sporadique survenue pendant les campagnes électorales présidentielles, avec un engagement envers la justice et la responsabilité. La nation attend de nouveaux développements dans cette enquête en cours.

## Starts from page 8 **Des Professionnels de la Santé**

compétences pour protéger leurs pays.

L'ouverture officielle a été marquée par une présentation complète du Dr Francis N. Kateh, médecin-chef du Liberia, revenant sur les dix années écoulées depuis la crise d'Ebola. Le Dr Kateh met en lumière le développement par le Liberia d'un système complet de PCI basé sur les expériences d'Ebola et de la COVID-19, qualifiant cet atelier de jalon significatif pour le Liberia et d'opportunité pour d'autres nations africaines d'acquiescer des enseignements du secteur de la santé du pays.

S'adressant aux participants, le Dr Kateh souligne l'engagement du Liberia à renforcer les mesures de contrôle et de prévention, citant la création de l'Institut national de santé publique et l'élaboration de

plans stratégiques lors de l'épidémie d'Ebola. Il insiste sur l'importance de la PCI pour protéger les travailleurs de la santé, évoquant des défis passés où plus de trois cents travailleurs de la santé ont été infectés lors d'Ebola, entraînant une perte significative de vies.

Mme Jane Macauley, directrice générale de l'Institut national de santé publique du Liberia, souligne le moment crucial pour le Liberia alors qu'il reconstruit un système de santé résilient après l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014 et les défis récents posés par la COVID-19. Elle accueille les participants, reconnaissant leur engagement envers la PCI malgré les risques et les défis. Cet atelier, qui se clôturera le 8 décembre, sert de plateforme cruciale pour le partage de connaissances et de stratégies visant à renforcer les systèmes de santé contre les maladies infectieuses.

## **Révolte à la Prison de Sanniquellie : Des Allégations de Négligence Gouvernementale au Centre de la Contestation**

Sanniquellie City, Comté de Nimba - Une manifestation impliquant plus de 200 détenus, dont des individus en attente de jugement, a éclaté au sein du complexe pénitentiaire de Sanniquellie. Lors d'entretiens avec The NEW DAWN le lundi 4 décembre, les détenus ont exprimé leur mécontentement, citant l'échec présumé du gouvernement à assurer une alimentation adéquate, des soins médicaux, et dénonçant le traitement inhumain persistant qu'ils subissent.

Initialement érigée par la Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria (MINUL) en tant que Projet à Impact Rapide, cette structure pénitentiaire était conçue pour accueillir 75 personnes. Toutefois, elle héberge actuellement plus de 200 détenus et prévenus. La protestation a entraîné le refus d'accès à de nouveaux suspects, redirigeant ces derniers vers la cellule de rétention de la police à Sanniquellie. Les détenus protestataires ont indiqué qu'ils souffrent d'une

privation alimentaire depuis six mois, dépendant uniquement de maigres rations de riz sec.

Simultanément, dans un incident sans lien direct, un groupe de jeunes en colère, soupçonnés d'être des consommateurs de drogues à Ganta, a attaqué des agents de l'Agence de Lutte contre les Drogues du Libéria (LDEA), causant d'importants dégâts aux biens de l'agence. Les dommages incluent un véhicule, du matériel de bureau et le bâtiment abritant l'agence à Ganta. Cet épisode violent a suivi une opération de perquisition menée par les agents de la LDEA le long de la rivière St. John, en réponse à des plaintes répétées d'habitants de Ganta victimes de harcèlement de la part de jeunes à risque. Le commandant du Comté de Nimba de la LDEA, Thomas Saye, a rapporté que pendant la perquisition, les agents ont observé ces jeunes consommer des drogues. Ces derniers auraient ensuite fui vers la Guinée voisine, où l'un d'entre eux aurait tragiquement perdu la vie, déclenchant ainsi l'attaque de représailles contre l'agence, impliquant même certains.

## **Ce sont les villes qui nous montreront la voie durant la COP28**

**D**UBAÏ - États-nations, chefs d'État, Premiers ministres, tels sont les protagonistes qui font les gros titres et mobilisent l'essentiel de l'attention des médias chaque année lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques. Or, depuis une dizaine d'années, de façon beaucoup moins médiatisée, les villes, les États et les administrations régionales (les autorités « infranationales ») appliquent les orientations formulées par l'accord de Paris sur le climat, même lorsque leur gouvernement national ne le fait pas. Ces entités investissent dans des systèmes d'énergie propre et autres innovations urbaines afin de réduire localement les émissions, et communiquent sur ce qui fonctionne au travers de réseaux tels que le C40 et la Convention mondiale des maires pour accélérer les progrès à plus grande échelle.

Évolution positive, la Conférence des Nations Unies de cette année à Dubaï (COP28) introduit une première historique, propice à de plus larges avancées dans la lutte contre le changement climatique. Le tout premier Sommet de l'action climatique locale réunira en effet des maires et des gouverneurs, qui dialogueront directement avec les dirigeants nationaux et internationaux, ce qui démontre combien les villes impulsent des solutions et génèrent des idées adoptées dans le monde entier.

Cette avancée intervient à un moment idéal. L'ONU a récemment publié son premier rapport d'évaluation officiel sur les progrès réalisés depuis la COP21 à Paris. Ce rapport démontre la nécessité d'une action plus audacieuse et plus rapide si nous entendons limiter le réchauffement climatique à 1,5°C au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels - la limite nécessaire pour éviter les pires effets du changement climatique.

De nombreuses villes telles que Freetown, qui est extrêmement vulnérable aux effets du changement climatique (chaleur extrême quasi-systématique, inondations, glissements de terrain inattendus), sont déterminées à exiger des dirigeants mondiaux qu'ils revoient leurs ambitions à la hausse, et qu'ils permettent aux villes d'accomplir davantage pour montrer la voie.

Freetown a démontré que les municipalités étaient capables de montrer l'exemple au travers d'actions innovantes. Lorsque son urbanisation a conduit à la disparition de 70 % de ses arbres, la ville a créé un programme consistant à faire intervenir ses habitants dans la restauration de la couverture végétale, afin de réduire l'impact de la chaleur extrême. Les jeunes de Freetown sont très impliqués dans la campagne visant à planter un million d'arbres d'ici 2024, et leur engagement ne s'arrête pas là. Cette jeunesse est largement représentée dans les comités de gestion des catastrophes, et met son énergie collective au service du programme « Transform Freetown » (dans lequel s'inscrit l'objectif de plantation d'arbres).

Freetown n'est pas la seule à se montrer proactive. Aux Philippines, Quezon City a créé un réseau de fermes et jardins urbains durables pour remédier à l'insécurité alimentaire parmi sa population, et réduire les émissions liées à l'agriculture conventionnelle. À Lima, au Pérou, les représentants de la société civile ont élaboré un plan de lutte contre le changement climatique, qui vise non seulement à protéger les écosystèmes de la région, mais également à promouvoir de petits changements - parc après parc, verger après verger - contribuant à des améliorations à grande échelle dans le paysage urbain. Lima a également fourni des

efforts très fructueux dans la surveillance et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'air au milieu duquel les enfants de la ville jouent, apprennent et vivent.

Ainsi, et de bien d'autres manières encore, les villes montrent aux dirigeants mondiaux comment les progrès réels sont réalisés. Les municipalités ne doivent cependant pas être considérées uniquement comme des modèles, mais également comme des partenaires essentiels dans l'effort mondial de lutte contre le changement climatique.

Or, ce n'est pas le cas la plupart du temps. Même là où les dirigeants nationaux prétendent favoriser la gouvernance à plusieurs niveaux, les cadres politiques se révèlent bien souvent indifférents aux efforts climatiques locaux et régionaux, ce qui les conduit à négliger certaines solutions éprouvées. Lors de la COP28 et dans les années à venir, il est nécessaire que les responsables locaux puissent s'exprimer d'une voix égale dans la discussion, et accéder aux ressources dont ils ont besoin pour prendre des mesures décisives.

Un véritable partenariat entre les gouvernements nationaux et les entités infranationales pourrait constituer la clé pour libérer un flux constant de financements climatiques. En travaillant ensemble, les dirigeants locaux et nationaux peuvent exercer une influence considérablement plus grande sur les institutions mondiales, y compris l'ONU, les banques multilatérales de développement et les gouvernements dotés des moyens d'accélérer les solutions de financement pour le climat.

De plus en plus, les maires du monde entier unissent leurs forces pour délivrer ce message d'une seule voix. Ainsi, en prévision du Sommet de l'action climatique locale de la COP28, le C40 a modernisé son modèle de direction en y incluant deux présidents au lieu d'un seul. Le réseau est désormais coprésidé par les maires de Londres et de Freetown, une évolution qui représente mieux les points de vue et expériences des habitants de la planète.

La COP28 offre l'opportunité de capitaliser sur le leadership du maire de Londres, Sadiq Khan, qui, dans ses fonctions précédentes de président du C40, avait contribué à garantir que les deux tiers du budget de l'organisation soient consacrés à la promotion de l'action climatique dans les pays du Sud, où les effets du climat sont les plus prononcés.

Les dirigeants locaux du monde entier démontrent que lorsque nous unissons nos forces, que nous mutualisons nos ressources, et que nous nous rassemblons dans un véritable esprit de partenariat, les gouvernements locaux et nationaux peuvent accomplir de grandes avancées, et contribuer à préserver l'avenir.

Michael R. Bloomberg, envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour l'ambition et les solutions en faveur du climat, ainsi que fondateur de Bloomberg Philanthropies et de Bloomberg L.P., a été maire de la ville de New York (2002-13). Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, coprésidente du réseau C40 Cities, est maire de Freetown, en Sierra Leone.



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

## Reflection Part Four - The Prophecies

By Hun-Bu Tulay ntevoma@gmail.com Cell # +231-886-517-356/777-111-032

All these three were young men. It appears that the leader that will bring prosperity and transformation to Liberia will not come from the southeast given the leadership records of the three sons of the southeast. What Twe said in the speech was "To fulfill her destiny, Liberia must turn her back to the East and March westward". The people of the southeast interpret this to mean that it would be a son or daughter from the southeast that will fulfill the destiny, meaning they would bring prosperity and honor to the country. With three sons democratically elected and two sons serving as Interim presidents over the past 79 years, the Liberians people have not seemed this prosperity and honor. It seems that Twe message was misinterpreted.

1980 Prophecies: The prophecies of Rev. E. Toimu A. Reeves, Rev. Dr. Samuel Dennis and Rev. Mother Wilhelmina Dukuly were real prophecies because Liberians did not have to wait for long. It took only six days.

1983 Prophecy: Our research indicates that Rev. Mother Dukuly did not make any prophecy in 1983 referencing who would become leader of the country. This is a false claim by people, who felt that this would help re-elect Mr. Weah. They said that the Rev. Mother Dukuly said Mr. Weah would be elected for a second term. Lost his second term election. In fact, nobody at Faith Healing Temple of Jesus Christ remembers Rev. Mother Dukuly ever making this prophecy.

1999 Prophecy: Archbishop Francis wrote that an astute statesman after the young man he referred to as Saul would emerge. Remember the story of Saul. After Saul one faction selected his son Ishbaal who was anointed by the northern region, but the elders of southern anointed David. The southern region defeated the northern region; therefore, it was David that succeeded Saul. Those of you who read the Holy Bible know how David transformed Israel. Do we have a David now? Would President Elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr. be that David Liberians have been waiting for? Let us wait and see how he will perform or like the Israelis will Liberians wait for 500 years?



2005 Prophecy: Ten Pastors jointly prophesied in 2005 that Charles Walker Brumskine was the next President of Liberia at the Bethel Cathedral. Unfortunately, Liberians did not have to wait too long to see that this prophecy was false.

Do we believe in prophecy? This is the million-dollar question. We listed six alleged prophecies above, only one came to pass during our time and two are pending. Three were found to be intentionally untrue. However, we believe that there are men of God among us, and God speaks to them and reveals to them what would make them happy in the future but there are many false clairvoyants, therefore we have to be careful.

We would like to speak to the President-Elect directly. And if he listens to us, he might be elderly man from the WEST and the ASTUTE STATESMAN the Archbishop mentioned because these two prophecies are pending.

#### Fighting Corruption and winning

Corruption has different meanings, but the definition that we like best is that which was given at the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It reads, "Corruption is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offense which is undertaken by a person or organization/government which is entrusted in a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefit or abuse of power for one's personal gain". Forms of corruption include bribery, embezzlement, extortion, networking, under-the-table transactions, manipulation of election, money laundering and the list goes on. If an individual/ organization/branch of government is charged with the responsibility to distribute resources and a large portion of those resources is allocated to that individual/branch that is corruption. Mr. President- elect, you will have to first fight corruption in the first Branch of government. If you fail in winning the war against corruption in the first branch of government, it will be difficult to win the war on corruption because this branch has oversight responsibility of the other two branches, if this first branch is corrupt, the oversight will not be effective.

We all are aware that corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development, and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social divisions, and environmental crises.

In one of our features "REFLECTION - PART THREE, we lengthily defined history and said that historical events repeat themselves; and that if we read and understand historical records, we will find answers to modern days' problems. Corruption is something that has been with mankind for over 2,000 years and some leaders have managed to defeat it. One such leader is Kuan Yew Lee. He wrote a book entitled, "From Third World to the First; "The Singapore Story, 1960-2000". In his book he outlined how he fought corruption. We were fortunate to have been sent an abridged copy. It was sent to us by the former President Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2009. We read the book more than twice. We recommend this book to any leader who wishes to fight corruption and win the war on corruption. WINNING THE CORRUPTION WAR IS VERY SIMPLE. IT REQUIRES STRONG LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS. This means, the leader must have the WILL POWER to ENFORCE THE LAWS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR. When this happens, the country becomes free, and the resources taken by corrupt officials are freed and can be used for the development of the country. Corruption has been and will continue to be the greatest enemy of development.

We just read a copy of the first speech of the President- elect where he intimated that he will fight corruption with all the resources at his disposal. Other presidents (Tolbert, Doe, Taylor, Sirleaf and Weah) before him said the same thing. Tolbert declared war on corruption, Doe executed thirteen government officials for rampant corruption, Madam Sirleaf after fighting corruption for many years, and she nicknamed it VAMPIRE after she lost and President Weah did not even try, and instead he promoted corruption bald-facedly. We say to the President- elect that corruption is a cancer and to defeat it, you have to cut-off its head, legs, arms, breasts, and other related appendages. You must have the POLITICAL WILL. PROMPT ACTIONS against corrupt officials would be needed, irrespective of their contributions to your electoral victory or family linkage. Madam Sirleaf failed because she could not act against family members, particularly her son.

Mr. President- elect, we will hold you accountable for the full enforcement of the constitution, particularly the following articles and clauses:

Article 5-c states that the Republic shall: "Take steps, by appropriate legislation and executive orders, to eliminate sectionalism and tribalism, and such abuses of power as the misuse of government resources, nepotism and all other corrupt practices."

Article 6 reads: "The Republic shall, because of the vital role assigned to the individual citizen under this constitution for the social and political well-being of Liberia, provide equal access to educational opportunities and facilities for all citizens to the extent of available resources. Emphasis shall be placed on mass education of the Liberian people and the elimination of illiteracy."

Article 8 reads: The Republic shall direct its policy towards ensuring for all citizens, without discrimination, opportunities for employment and livelihood under just and humane conditions, and towards promoting safety, health, and welfare facilities in employment.

Advice to the president- Elect; Prophecies are made, and all are part of history, there had been individuals, who believe they were the one prophesied and therefore they worked smart to do what has been prophesied. If this is true, the elderly man from the west the Islamic Scholar prophesied 245 years ago, and the astute statesman the late Archbishop Michael Kpakala Francis mentioned in his Report to the Vatican twenty-four (24) years ago; then you must work SMART. You must think out the BOX. You need to consider the following.



# Violence in Grand Gedeh

By Thomas Domah,  
Nimba County

**A**ggrieved residents and people believed to be supporters of late Grand Gedeh County

in Zwedru to hurriedly shut down Tuesday amid rumors that several homes in Zwedru have also been earmarked for destruction.

Earlier this year, an

have been killed in Zwedru City itself without any account nor justice for them, but our today's action will indicate that we need justice", one of the protesters said.



District One Representative-elect, Madison Gwion Tuesday morning, blocking major streets in the provincial capital, Zwedru, setting ablaze home of Senator Emmanuel Zoe Pennoh's, who they linked to the lawmaker's death.

The angry crowd then moved to the home of the county's traditional council in Zwedru City and unleashed further arson attack on the building. According to report, their actions are in response to the death news of the Representative-elect, who died in Ghana where he had gone to seek medication. The protesters claim that the deceased was killed through witchcraft or spiritual attack that they linked Senator Pennoh to.

The violence forced schools

employee of the National Elections Commission went missing in the county and is yet to be found.

Some of the protesters told this paper that they have been seeking justice for the missing electoral worker, but there has been no response from both local and national authorities, something that compounded to erecting roadblocks in major streets, including farm-to-market roads before setting ablaze the Senator's residence and other facilities in a revenge attack following Representative Gwion's death. According to them, their actions will draw government's attention whenever something occurs in the county. "My man, this is the only way we can get those people calling themselves government. There have been several people who

Meanwhile, a man believed to be in his early 70s has reportedly committed suicide in Grand Gedeh out of fear that angry mob would have harmed him in revenge for the death of Rep. Erol Madison Gwion.

It is believed that Suspect Jenkins Ben escaped into a nearby bush and allegedly committed suicide when protesters went on the rampage. A few hours before the protest, Ben had been accused of allegedly contributing spiritually to the death of the Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #1 Lawmaker.

There has been no official response from national government, including the county administration since the riot occurred. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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## Senate orders LACC Commissioners to declare assets

declaration, to enforce it, to punish people by law ..., " said Dillon. "I am concerned about and I agreed with the Commission that there should be exit and incoming declaration of assets, meaning all government officials should be categorized by declaring their assets," the Senator stressed.

Dillon's genuine debate is backed by Part 10.1 of the National Code of Conduct and the Amended LACC Act.

Part 10.1 of the National Code of Conduct states, "Public officials must declare income, assets, and liabilities at specific intervals." It calls for declaration before taking office, at the end of every three years, on promotion or progression from one level to another, upon transfer to another public office and upon retirement or resignation to ensuring a transparent and

accountable governance framework. The opposition Senator emphasized that the LACC Commissioners including the Chairperson, Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe have failed to demonstrate the declaration of their assets. He stressed that the process should start with them as their responsibility.

"At their confirmation hearing or before they're confirmed, they should declare their assets, but they were still challenged," he said. He indicated that the Commissioners of LACC have not declared their assets in keeping with the law required and they have not even published it. The Montserrado County Senator further craved the swift intervening of the Liberian Senate to ensure that the Commissioners of the LACC declare their assets.

He noted that the country is approaching the crucial assets

declaration era for public officials, which does not exempt the LACC officials. Senator Dillon indicated that the promotion of transparency and accountability in national government should be led by those heading anti-graft institutions, especially the LACC, to have the courage to go after officials who have not declared.

He urged the plenary to press on the Commissioners of the LACC to declare and publish their assets before they can also implement the assets declaration law on all public officials. Dillon said anything short of this, they will have no authoritative voice to speak.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Senate has openly admitted to controversially confirming the LACC Commissioners without mandating them to declare and publish their assets in keeping with the law.

# UP Alliance suspends VOLT

By Lincoln G. Peters

**T**he leadership of the Unity Party (UP) Alliance of Political Parties has suspended the membership of Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe's Vision for Liberia Transportation Party (VOLT). The UP-Alliance's decision was contained in a statement signed by Mr. Carlos Tingban Edison.

The group said VOLT's suspension was due to some issues the party has with the UP.

According to the UP Alliance, it had an encounter with some members of the UP-concerning VOLT which seems to be very serious and it demands an urgent response from the leadership of the Alliance.

"As it stands, the Vision for the Transformation of Liberia, VOLT for short has a very serious political issue with the Unity Party that needs to be settled between the two institutions as soon as

During the endorsement of the UP, VOLT leader Dr. Whapoe said his party had decided after consultation and meetings with partisans and supporters to support Amb. Boakai in the run-off election.

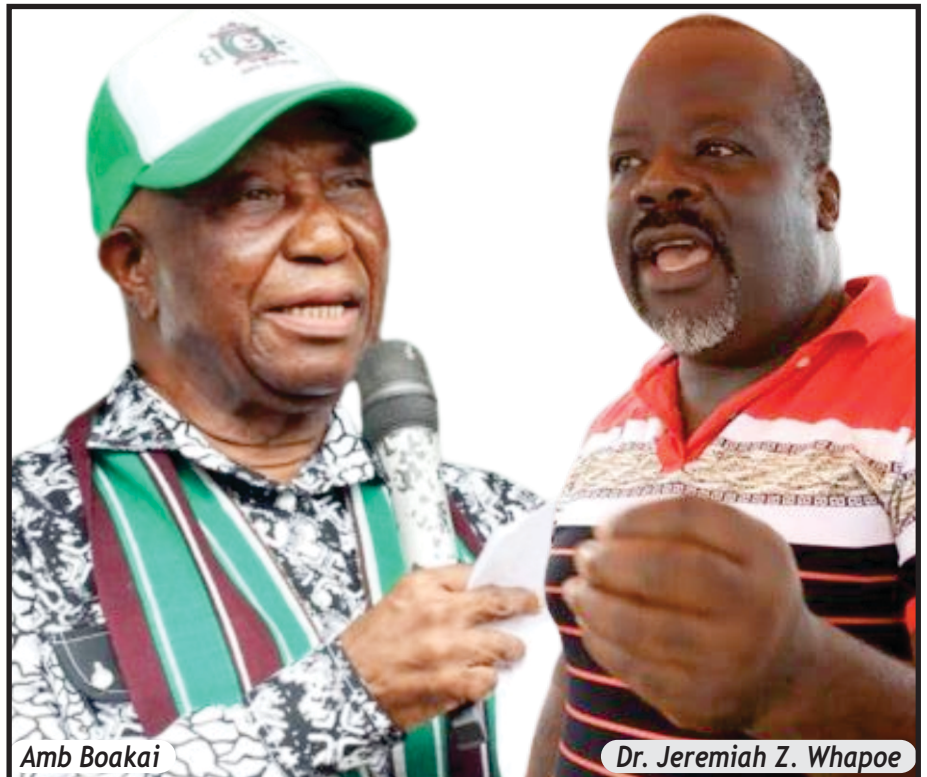
Meanwhile, Mr. Carlos Tingban Edison told this paper over the weekend that the letter was issued by the Alliance based on VOLT's issues with the UP. According to him, the UP Alliance of Political Parties was formed as a result of all of the political parties that endorsed the UP in the runoff election.

He stated that they had suspended the membership of VOLT because they received information from UP leadership that VOLT didn't endorse the UP during the run-off election.

"The suspension is from the Alliance and it's valid and issued by me and approved by the chairperson of the Alliance," he said.

"The UP Alliance comprises lots of parties that endorsed UP during the runoff election. Those parties are qualified to form part of the Alliance called the UP Alliance of Political Parties."

According to him, VOLT didn't pass



Amb Boakai

Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

possible," the statement said. "Until that is done, VOLT's membership to the Alliance is hereby suspended for time indefinite and we are hereby removing all representatives of VOLT [from] this chatroom," the statement noted.

On 10 November 2023, VOLT officially endorsed the presidential bid of the opposition Unity Party standard bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai in the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election.

through the ranks and files to be part of the process.

He pointed out that until VOLT can settle its issues with UP, it remains suspended until further notice.

"Let them go and settle with UP to gain their legitimacy. Let them solve it. We had a conversation with their chairperson and Secretary General that told us they endorsed UP but UP said they didn't and so we have to suspend their membership until it's settled," he concluded. When contacted, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe said as far as he is concerned, he is having a good relationship with the UP.

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## UN Women lauds Police in GBV fight

sexual gender base violence taskforce." She pointed out.

Also Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ms. Sadatu L. M, Reeves, welcomed development partners' recognition of their work in the fight against gender-based violence. She believes that this is a sign that the Police role in the fight against GBV has not only been recognized by the Liberian

people, but also by "our partner the One UN." She thanked UN Women for symbolizing their commitment with the orange color, signifying readiness to end violence against women and girls in Liberia. Reeves called for unity in preventing violence, assuring the commitment of all security apparatus, especially female law enforcement, to work towards this goal.



## Senate orders LACC Commissioners to declare assets

By Ethel A. Tweh

The President Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert Chie has mandated the Secretary of the Senate, Nanborlor Singbe to formally request information of assets declaration from the

commissioners to declare their assets came Tuesday, 5 December 2023 following Montserrado County Abraham Darius Dillon's concerns about the anti-graft officials' status on asset declaration.

Dillon's concern was

the LACC should be the ones leading the way in the fight against corruption. He argued that the LACC Commissioners are behind public officials foot-to-foot to abide by the law through the declaration of their



Commissioners of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC). "Mr. Secretary of the Senate, please communicate with the LACC that plenary needs information from their assets declaration in accordance with the law," Chie ordered the Senate Secretary.

triggered by the continuous calls by the LACC pressuring all public officials to declare their assets, income, and liabilities on or before 12 December 2023 or face the wrath of the law.

According to the Montserrado County Senator, the Commissioners heading to

assets, even they are yet to show that they have declared their assets.

"The LACC was enforced by the restatement of the LACC Act to deal with the assets and liabilities

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