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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2023	L\$187.2293/US\$1.00	L\$189.0304/US\$1.00

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

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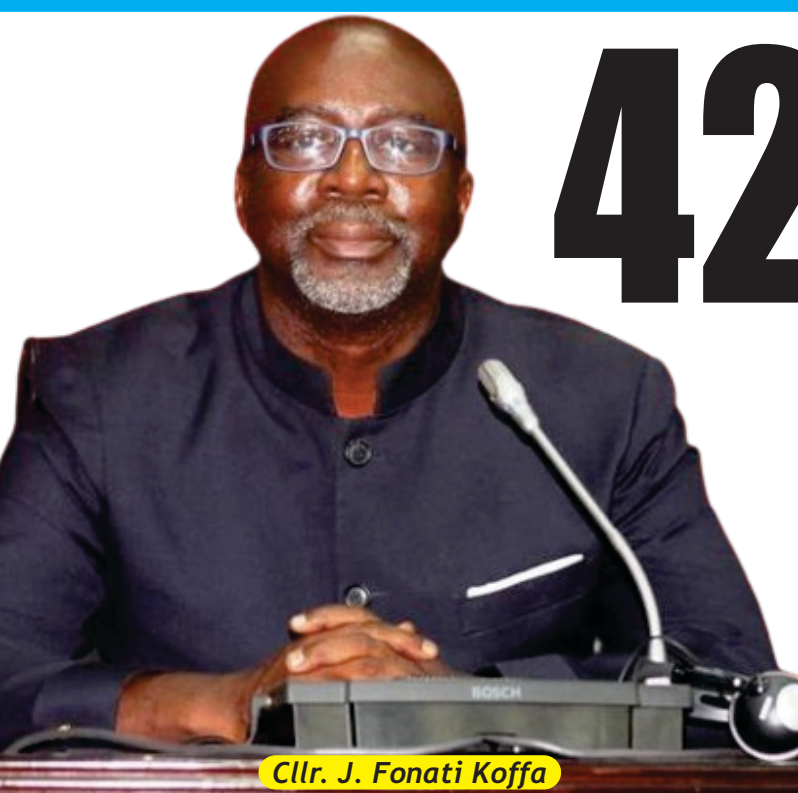
UP seeks new date



P11

-for Boakai's certification

President-elect Amb. Boakai



Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

42 lawmakers back Koffa's bid

P11

-Sign resolution of support

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Continental News

Britain Proposes Bypassing Rights Laws to Let Rwanda Plan Take Off

Britain published draft emergency legislation on Wednesday that it hopes will allow its Rwandan migrant deportation plan to parliament. But it suffered a blow when the immigration minister resigned over it. It shows the divisiveness of the proposals in Prime Minister Rishi



In an image taken from video, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, and British Home Secretary James Cleverly

finally take off by bypassing domestic and international human rights laws that might block it. The Safety of Rwanda Bill, published the day after Britain signed a new treaty with Rwanda, is designed to overcome a ruling by the United Kingdom Supreme Court that the government's proposed initiative to send thousands of asylum-seekers to the East African country was unlawful. The government said that the bill was "the toughest immigration legislation ever introduced" and that it would be fast-tracked through

Sunak's governing Conservative Party, and it could also trigger further legal challenges.

"Through this new landmark emergency legislation, we will control our borders, deter people taking perilous journeys across the channel and end the continuous legal challenges filling our courts," Sunak said in a statement. He has vowed that flights would begin in the spring next year. "We will disapply sections of the Human Rights Act from the key parts of the Bill, specifically in the case of Rwanda, to ensure our plan cannot be stopped," he said in the

statement.

The bill will instruct judges to ignore some sections of the Human Rights Act and "any other provision or rule of domestic law, and any interpretation of international law by the court or tribunal" that might deem that Rwanda was not a safe country to send asylum-seekers.

Ministers alone would also decide on whether to comply with any injunction from the European Court of Human Rights, which issued an interim order blocking the first planned flight last year.

The Rwanda plan is at the center of Sunak's immigration policy, and its success is likely to be key to the fortunes of his Conservative Party, trailing by about 20 points in opinion polls, before an election expected next year and with the issue one of the biggest concerns among voters.

It was not clear whether the bill will satisfy Sunak's critics on the right of the party who have called for Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights altogether. Earlier, former Home Minister Suella Braverman warned that a weak bill would lead to "electoral oblivion."

Interior Minister James Cleverly confirmed that Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick had resigned from government after he was absent from a debate in parliament on the issue. VOA

Kenya follows Malawi in sending farm workers to Israel amid Hamas war

Kenya is sending 1,500 farm workers to Israel, the labour ministry has said.

The announcement comes nearly two weeks after Malawi sent 221 young people to work on Israeli farms, triggering a backlash against the government there.

The casual workers will be deployed on three-year renewable contracts, "with a guaranteed net [monthly] income" of \$1,500 (£1,195), Kenya said.

Israel has turned to Africa to fill a severe labour gap on its farms, after a mass exit of foreign workers.

More than 10,000 migrant farm workers - mostly Thailand nationals - have left Israel since the start of the war with Hamas in early October.

Israel has also barred Palestinian workers, who made up nearly 20% of the agricultural labour force prior to the war.

Israel's ambassador in

sparked mixed reactions in Kenya, with some concerned about the workers' safety.

At least 32 Thai farm workers were killed and several others taken hostage when Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October.

Tanzanian student Clemence Felix Mtenga - who was in Israel as an agriculture intern - was also killed in the attack, while another Tanzanian student, Joshua Loitu Mollel, is still missing.

Critics have also questioned the conditions the workers will face in Israel.

In 2018, a BBC investigation found that many migrant farm workers in Israel were subject to unsafe working practices and squalid, unsanitary living conditions. Some were overworked, others underpaid, and there were dozens of unexplained deaths.

Rights groups like Human Rights Watch have also previously raised the alarm over Israel's treatment of foreign farm labourers.

At the time Israel denied the

Seychelles Declares State of Emergency After Blast, Floods

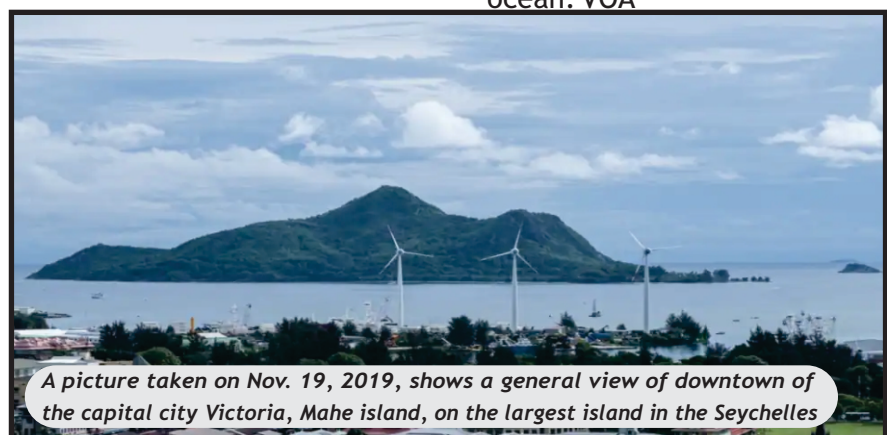
Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan declared a state of emergency on Thursday, ordering all citizens except essential workers to stay at home, after a blast at a store and flooding due to heavy rainfall, the presidency said.

"Following an explosion at the CCCL explosives store that has caused massive damage... and major destruction caused by flooding due to heavy rains, the President has declared a State of Emergency for today the 7th December," it said in a statement. "All schools will be closed. Only workers in the essential services and persons travelling will be allowed free movement. This is to allow the emergency services to carry out essential work," the statement added. The explosion occurred in the Providence industrial area in Mahe, the largest island in the Indian Ocean archipelago, and caused huge damage there and to surrounding areas, the presidency said, without

elaborating further.

"The Seychelles International Airport is still operational and ferry services between islands are operating for visitors," the tourism-dependent country said on its official Visit Seychelles account on X. A former British colony, the Seychelles is made up of 115 islands and according to 2021 World Bank data is the richest African country as measured by per capita gross domestic product, with tourism and fishing the biggest contributors to the economy. However, the high cost of living means that around 40% of the country's 98,000 inhabitants

live in poverty. The archipelago is famous for its idyllic white beaches and high-end tourism. Mahe, where the capital Victoria is located, is home to 87% of the country's population. Parts of Africa - particularly Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia - have experienced heavier rainfall than usual since October, linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon. According to the UN, the situation has been exacerbated by the combined impact of El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole - a climate system defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between western and eastern areas of the ocean. VOA



A picture taken on Nov. 19, 2019, shows a general view of downtown of the capital city Victoria, Mahe island, on the largest island in the Seychelles



Malawian Jamison Kupatamoyo says he will return home once a year for a holiday

Kenya, Michael Lotem, told the BBC that Israel was planning to recruit farm workers from Uganda as well, while recruitment in Tanzania had already started.

"We are looking to East Africa to fill the labour gap as we have had student internships programmes in place for many years with these countries and it has been a good experience," Mr Lotem said. He added that the labour shortage had been caused by the fact that an estimated 360,000 Israeli reservists have been called up for military service since the war started.

He did not cite work restrictions on Palestinians or the departure of foreign nationals as the reasons for the shortage. Israel's agriculture ministry told CNN last week that the country needed 30-40,000 farm workers.

The announcement has

accusations and has since said that foreign workers enjoyed the same employment rights as Israeli citizens. Mr Lotem said extra measures have since been put in place to ensure foreign workers are treated fairly and that any foreign worker can now file a complaint which will be quickly tracked. Some Kenyans have supported the deal, saying it provides badly needed jobs at a time when Kenya is battling an unemployment crisis and the rising cost of living. Kenya has an unemployment rate of 5.5%, according to the World Bank. Malawi's government has also announced that it will send 5,000 more young people to work on Israeli farms, rejecting calls to drop the plan. "People are going out of desperation," said William Kambwandira, the executive director at the Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency, a workers' rights watchdog based in the capital Lilongwe. BBC

EDITORIAL

A subpoena is not an indictment

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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COMMENTARY

By Amos Wemanya

How to Make Green Hydrogen Work for Africa

NAIROBI - Efforts to build the nascent green-hydrogen industry in Africa are underway, most notably in Namibia's Tsau Khaeb National Park. In May, the Namibian government signed a feasibility and implementation agreement with Hyphen Hydrogen Energy for a green-hydrogen production and supply project close to the coastal town of Lüderitz.

In June, the government agreed to take a 24% equity stake in the \$10 billion project, whose value is nearly equal to Namibia's GDP.

Once fully operational, the project is expected to produce 350,000 metric tons of green hydrogen per year and create 3,000 permanent jobs (in addition to 15,000 temporary construction jobs). It could position Namibia as a major producer of low-cost green hydrogen. But important questions remain about the project's local value addition and how to avoid the creation of another extractive industry.

For decades, African countries have invested billions of dollars in fossil-fuel energy systems, and yet 600 million people on the continent remain without access to electricity. Even as global warming destroys ecosystems, undermines food security, and worsens water scarcity, Africa still relies heavily on fossil fuels; renewables account for only about 21% of electricity generation. But the rapidly escalating climate crisis implies an urgent need to reorient the continent's energy system away from oil and gas.

A rapid rollout of renewable energy could be transformative, helping Africa meet the twin challenges of climate change and underdevelopment. But to ensure electricity access for all, such systems must be environmentally sound and socially inclusive. Ironically, the continent's limited energy infrastructure means that African countries can leapfrog past fossil fuels (thus avoiding stranded assets as the world shifts to renewable energy) and build a green economy that is based on renewables and designed to meet their needs.

Low-cost green hydrogen can expand energy access on the continent and accelerate the shift toward renewables. And by creating local value chains, generating green jobs, and transferring technology and knowledge, it could also contribute enormously to the development of producer countries.

But, to reap these benefits, the development of green hydrogen in Africa must primarily serve African interests. That means the processes and policies for generating and using green hydrogen must comply with the standards set out in the Sustainable Development Goals, the

ambitious global targets introduced by the United Nations in 2015. They must also meet the objectives of the Paris climate agreement and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Such projects must also maintain ecosystem integrity, promote decent work and economic prosperity, boost social inclusion and cohesion, and respect human rights. Crucially, these objectives can be met only by gaining broad public acceptance: the free, prior, and informed consent and participation of potentially affected communities.

Good governance and transparency in developing green hydrogen could change power relations between the developed world and African countries. Instead of falling into the trap of "green colonialism," these countries could build equal partnerships that address head-on issues of equity and ownership, inclusion, resource competition, and displacement.

To be sure, green-hydrogen projects pose significant risks. Chief among these are land-use conflicts, forced resettlement, expropriation, and other potential human-rights violations. There are also environmental concerns, including the fact that production requires large amounts of freshwater. Given that one in three Africans faces water scarcity, developing this energy source could compound the problem, and may even cause or exacerbate conflicts, especially in Africa's driest regions.

Moreover, large-scale plants, as well as export infrastructure, could damage fragile ecosystems, destroy protected areas, and endanger marine life. This is especially true if desalinated seawater is used in hydrogen production, and the resulting brine is released, untreated, into local bodies of water.

But the biggest concern is that green hydrogen produced in Africa could be exported elsewhere.

This would defeat the purpose of developing renewable-energy capacity on the continent. Instead of expanding electricity access and boosting climate resilience, this new industry would merely be the latest in a long line of energy injustices. Moreover, it would be wasteful: converting hydrogen into derivatives like ammonia - which are more suitable for transport - can result in 13-25% energy loss, while transportation itself requires high energy inputs.

Green hydrogen can fuel economic growth and prosperity for producer countries. But to realize the potential of a hydrogen-powered economy, African leaders must ensure that the industry is structured to achieve a just energy transition on the continent and serve the needs of local communities, not foreign interests.



Lord, things have started happening oo

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father;

Hmm, you na hear the news? They say our chiefs at the Traditional Council na start acting leh main bad men them ooh.

They say, they na start chasing people na for money ooh. The man them mon go issue some kina gauge order again?

My son which one you talking so?

Oh, Father you na hear they say the Chief them from the Traditional Council are all over the place looking for the big man from our village money house. Ehn, you know the people who can prepare the list for people to know how much money they will get from our village cashbox, that the man they running behind so.

Wait ooh, so that the man say they mon loose ley election? Da wa they chasing ley man leh to say that him make them to lose in them district them. They na hear seed fini game fini.

So, where the man too eh na?

Father, da the biggest question in town right na, na. They say they can't find the man. They na send people to the man house, he na there. They are looking for all him pelele place them, they can't find him.

But da force, da they geh money before they leave, the one they na eat, ay na alright?

Father, me I wan talk some ooh, but they will say my mouth too wide. But da na that money bisnay alone oo. They wan to disgrace the man. They say that the man behind the people giving them red card-plain and simple. So, all da one they doing right na da vla. They wan money to take home, especially the one them the people fini showing ley door.

And you know Father, da na all ooh. The people say all the rope them behind the man mon come too for them to put them in jail.

Looka, my son, da so, so joker them over there for true ya. They wan say for whole six years they were sitting down there all the funny, funny thing them wor happening, they na do nothing, da na they wan show da they working?

You say whatin? You wan tell me this Oldman na sit down yea good, good he na start running behind people?

Father, you na hear the thing, I say. I say da na the Oldman ooh. Da Oldman pa, he na here, he in Uncle Sam's village right, na, na, but da the one them who went for voting and the people show them red card. They say, the man mon come do recast budget so they can take their owner final cut before they leave.

Ehn, so da the man mon take the blame ehn. The time they were siting at da place there just chopping wa, wa leh da, they were na thinking da this day will come, da the village people were na going to renew them contracts?

My son, the people thought they were going to be there for 24 years?

Mm, the only man who stay there for 27 years, na passed ooh. All they people you see da na make 18 years and going for 27years, trust me Father, somer them will na even sit down at da place. The way, the people waiting for them to put handcuff on them sef, it na for fun.

Tell me something my son!

Oh, Father, ay na joke oo. Da na small wahala coming in our village oo. You will see. This one da na vla oo. Just be there we watching.

OP-ED

By María Fernanda Espinosa,
Rishikesh Ram Bhandary

The Global South's Debt Crisis Is Thwarting Climate Ambition

MADRID/BOSTON - This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), currently underway in Dubai, will be decisive for the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27, because governments must agree on how the new fund will be operationalized and financed. But equally important is the first global stocktake (GST), which will assess countries' progress toward achieving the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

A preliminary report on the GST, released in October, is underwhelming, while the most recent World Energy Outlook from the International Energy Agency found that global carbon dioxide levels have yet to peak. This implies that if we want to achieve our climate targets, we must fast-track the clean-energy transition and urgently slash greenhouse-gas emissions. But while this will undoubtedly require closing the massive climate financing gap, policymakers must overcome widespread sovereign-debt distress.

The Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery Project, using data from the UN Development Programme and the International Monetary Fund, estimates that 69 countries need immediate debt relief, of which 61 have at least \$812 billion in debt that must be restructured across all creditor classes. Moreover, an IMF working paper calculated that only seven of 29 low-income countries that submitted estimates of their adaptation needs had sufficient fiscal space to meet those needs and achieve their emissions-reduction targets, also known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs). With debt-service costs set to increase in 2024, many countries will spend more on interest payments than on health or education.

As long as the debt crisis in the Global South grinds on, many emerging-market and developing economies will be unable to invest in gender-sensitive low-carbon development. This, in turn, would make these countries more vulnerable to climate shocks and fiscal instability, and would also foreclose the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, the target set by the Paris climate agreement.

To address the debt-climate nexus at COP28 and beyond, policymakers should focus on three objectives: a more inclusive and efficient debt-restructuring process; more concessional finance; and expansion of the size and remit of multilateral development banks (MDBs).

For starters, the G20's Common Framework must be reformed to ensure that all climate-vulnerable countries, including middle-income countries, are eligible for debt treatment. While the Common Framework has started providing relief, recent debt-restructuring deals have been modest in scope and came at the cost of protracted negotiations that only exacerbated the problem. Future deals must ensure significant relief measures that enable countries to kickstart economic growth and achieve climate goals, rather than merely returning them to previous levels of austerity or helping them stave off the next crisis.

Second, the need for more concessional finance has never been clearer. In October, at the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Marrakesh, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva noted that interest rates were in a "higher-for-longer era." This comes at the same time that countries must accelerate the deployment of renewables, which are highly sensitive to the cost of capital. Moreover, climate vulnerability has been found to drive up the cost of debt and restrict access to financing.

But there is ample room to scale up concessional finance. From 2021 to 2022, low-cost project-level debt and grants accounted for only 11% of total climate finance, according to the Climate Policy Initiative. The World Bank, as part of its "Evolution Roadmap" initiative, has indicated that it will expand concessional lending beyond the poorest countries to fund necessary climate investments. Other MDBs should emulate this approach, and their shareholders should inject more capital to facilitate it, so that governments can access affordable financing that does not crowd out other priorities.

Moreover, MDBs must become bigger and better-equipped to supply the low-cost, long-term finance that climate-vulnerable countries need. While the World Bank has taken a step in this direction by implementing balance-sheet-optimization measures to increase the scale of its lending by \$50 billion over the next ten years, it is not enough. Other MDBs should devise concrete plans for capital increases and, when presenting it to their boards, outline how a fresh injection of funds will enable them to provide low-cost finance to developing countries and make bolder bets on transformational investments.

In addition to increasing their lending capacity, MDBs must reform the debt architecture. For example, the World Bank has advanced a debt-pause clause in new and existing lending agreements that permits 45 small islands and states facing qualifying events to postpone their interest and principal payments. But loans of all borrowing countries should include such a clause. It would also be in the interest of MDB shareholders to improve the debt-restructuring process: an extended debt crisis simply means that MDBs will need to provide concessional finance for a longer period, given that it is tied to debt indicators.

The GST at COP28 is sure to find that the world is falling far short of the Paris agreement's targets. Accelerated action - across climate finance, global policy coordination, and renewable-energy deployment - is needed, but high levels of debt stand in the way. Tellingly, Egypt, the host of last year's COP, explicitly noted in its revised NDC that debt-service payments were limiting the country's climate ambition.

G20 governments and international financial institutions must acknowledge that a severe debt overhang could worsen the climate crisis. Mobilizing financial resources on an unprecedented scale, while important, should be complemented by measures to address heavy sovereign-debt burdens. One hopes that by forcing policymakers to confront the world's dangerously slow progress toward net-zero emissions at COP28, the GST will generate the political will and trust necessary to tackle the interlocking problems of debt distress and global warming.

Resolution to Declare Hon. Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa as Speaker of the 55th House of Representatives.

Recalling the democratic principles upon which the House of Representatives was founded and the need for experienced leadership to navigate the complex legislative issues facing our nation,

Recognizing the important role of the Speaker of the House of Representatives as the principal leader and spokesperson of the House, responsible for maintaining order, facilitating deliberation, and promoting bipartisan collaboration

Emphasizing the necessity of an individual with a proven track record of fairness, integrity, and effectiveness in leading the legislative process, while exemplifying a commitment to upholding the Constitution and serving the best interests of the Liberian people,

Noting the transition our country is currently going through and the need for a Speaker to fill the soon to be vacant seat created by the Constitution, and requires the selection of an individual to fulfill this vital role,

We, the undersigned hereby resolve:

- To declare Representative J. Fonati Koffa as the preferred candidate for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- To affirm Representative Koffa's experience and expertise in parliamentary procedures, demonstrated through his leadership positions, legislative accomplishments, or successful management of the office of the Deputy Speaker, and his legal understanding.
- To recognize Representative Koffa's commitment to bipartisanship and ability to foster collaboration amongst members of various political affiliations and ideological backgrounds.
- To acknowledge Representative Koffa's unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of equity and fairness throughout the legislative process.
- To commend Representative Koffa's deep understanding of the issues concerning our constituents and our nation, as evidenced by his role/ national understanding/ management of the Office of Deputy Speaker
- To express our confidence in Representative Koffa's ability to effectively communicate and advocate for the best interests of the House of Representatives and the Liberian people.
- To urge our esteemed certificated colleagues in the soon to be 55th House of Representatives to join us in declaring Representative Koffa for the position of Speaker, recognizing that he possesses the necessary qualities and experience to fulfill this role in an exemplary manner.
- To call for signatures on this declaration, as a means of all would be members of 55th House of Representatives an opportunity to express their support for Representative Koffa as the next Speaker of the 55th House of Representatives.

As such, We, the undersigned representatives, hereby declare Representative Jonathan Fonati Koffa as Speaker of the House of Representatives and urge our fellow representatives to support this resolution as a demonstration of our shared commitment to fostering effective and principled leadership within 55th House of Representatives.

We the undersign publicly declare and legislatively propose this will be the first act of the 55th.

Name	District	Party	Signature
BOMI			
Obediah J. Varney	1	UP	
Manah B. Johnson	2	UP	
Sam P. Jallah	3	IND	
Bong			
Prince K. Koinah	1	IND	
James M. Kolleh	2	PUP	
Josiah Marvin Cole	3	CDC	
Robert Flomo Womba	4	UP	
Eugene J. M. Kollie	5	CDC	
Moima Briggs Mensah	6	IND	
Foday E. Fanbulleh	7	IND	05/12/2023
Gbarpolu			
Zinnah A. Norman	1	CDC	
Luther S. Collins	2	IND	06/12/2023
Mustapha Waritay	3	UP	
Grand Bassa			
Isaac G. Bannie	1	MPC	06/12/2023
Clarence J. Banks	2	IND	
Matthew Joe	3	CDC	
Alfred H. Flomo	4	UP	
Thomas A. Goshua, II	5	CPP	06/12/2023

Grand Cape Mount			
Bintu Massalley	1	CDC	
Mohamed Dosil	2	IND	
Gbessie Soni Feika	3	VOLT	
Grand Gedeh			
Erol Madicon Gwion	1	CDC	
Marie Johnson	2	LRP	
Jacob C. Debee	3	LINU	
Grand Kru			
Nathaniel N. Barway, Sr.	1	CPP	
J. Fonati Koffa	2	CDC	
Lofa			
Thomas P. Fallah	1	CDC	
Fortorma Julie Wiah	2	CDC	
Siafa Momo Kpoto	3	CDC	
Gizzie K. Kollince	4	UP	
Augustine B. Chiewolo	5	UP	
Maryland			
P. Mike Jurry	1	CDC	
Anthony Williams	2	CPP	
Austine Bliidi Taylor	3	IND	
Margibi			
Opee Roland Cooper	1	IND	Roland O Cooper
Ivar K. Jones	2	CDC	
Ellen A Attoh Wreh	3	IND	
Emmanuel Yarh	4	CDC	
Clarence G. Garh	5	CDC	
Montserrado			
Yatu Rugie Barry	1	CPP	
Sarafoday Sekou Kanneh	2	UP	
Sumo K. Mulbah	3	ALP	
Michael M. Thomas	4	IND	
Priscilla A. Cooper	5	UP	
Samuel R. Enders	6	IND	
Emmanuel Dahn	7	IND	
Prince A. Toles	8	UP	
Frank Saah Foko	9	CDC	
Yekeh Y. Kolubah	10	IND	
Richard Nagbe Koon	11	UP	
Jery K. Yougboh	12	IND	
Edward P. Flomo, Jr.	13	CDC	
Muka Kerkula Kamara	14	CDC	

Abu Bana Kamara	15	CDC	04/12/23
Dixon W. Seboe	16	CDC	05/12/23
Bernard Blue Benson	17	CDC	06-12-23
Nimba			
Samuel N. Brown, Sr.	1	IND	
Nyahn G. Floma	2	CPP	
Nehker E. Gaye	3	MDR	
Ernest M. Mansseah, Sr.	4	MDR	
Samuel G. Korgar	5	PUP	
Twain D. Gleekia	6	MDR	
Musa Hassan Bility	7	CPP	
Saye S. Manah	8	MDR	
Taa Z. Wongbe	9	IND	
River Cess			
Alex j. Grant	1	IND	
Steve Tequah	2	IND	
River Gee			
Alexander Poure	1	CDC	
Isaac B. Choloplay Wuo	2	CDC	
Johnson S. N. Williams Sr.	3	CDC	
Sinoe			
Romeo Thomas Quioh	1	NDC	
Samson Q. Wiah	2	CDC	
Alex S. Noah	3	CDC	

Supplement

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NAC opens legal office in Monrovia

By Bridgett Milton

Key Populations.

The National Aids Commission (NAC) has officially

"As [we] are aware, stigma and discrimination remain stumbling blocks in reaching the global targets to end AIDS

their readiness and support.

According to her, the legal office is in line with target 6 and goal 2 of the HIV National Strategic Plan II which highlights the need for persons living with HIV and key populations to have access to justice.

"As a country, we are under obligation to ensure that 90% of persons living with HIV have access to justice, zero denial of health services based on perceived or real positive HIV status, and incidence of sexual and gender-based violence are reduced."

Giving the overview, the In-house Legal Counsel of NAC Atty. Boniface T. Tweh said HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination remain major barriers to people living with HIV.

He said the office will work closely with focal persons who will be stationed at LibNep, LIPRIDE, LIWEN to document and report HIV-related stigma and discrimination cases.

He noted that they will advocate for a holistic and rights-based system of service delivered in health and for full enjoyment of the right to health by PLHIV and key populations.

RLJ Kendeja Hotel accused of malpractices, ill-treatments

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The RLJ Kendeja Hotel located in Rehab Community, ELWA, Paynesville has been accused of bad labor practices and ill-treatment of contractors.

Waiters, gardeners, and staffers of the topnotch hotel who spoke to the New Dawn accused management of mistreatment, discrimination, minimum wage and absence of paid-leave, among others.

More than 300 staffers of the hotel have been made redundant following management transition from an American to a Ghanaian team, headed by Roberta Torkornu.

The New Dawn gathers the Liberian workers at the facility suffer frequent abuse and intimidation at the hands of the Ghanaian management team.

Local staff decries alleged mistreatment, illegal dismissal

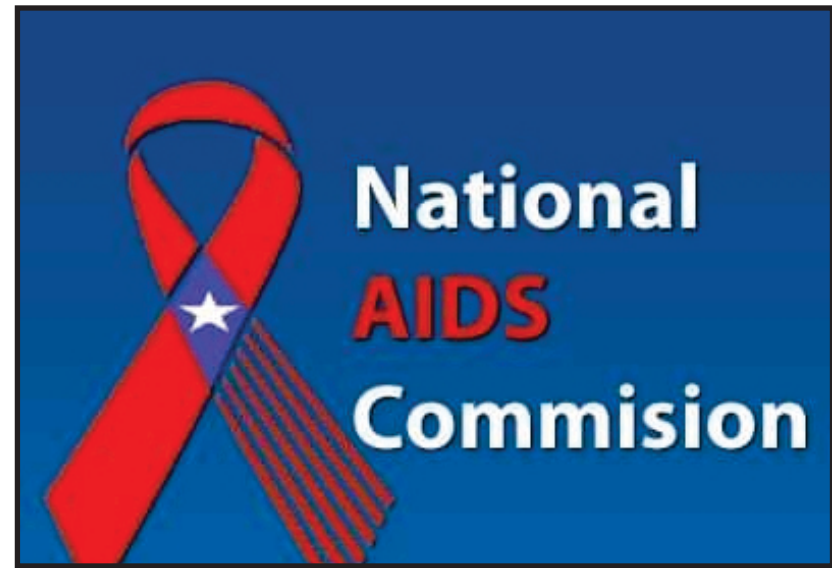
was later recalled from the assignment by the Official Protection Service.

An employee of the RLJ Kenedja Resort & Villas, Daniel Fallah Flomo, who has served the entity for 14 years from 2009 to 2023 as a front-staffer to a waiter, without full employment, said he was dismissed for questioning reduction in his salary from US\$135 to US\$124.

According to Flomo, prior to his dismissal, he was physically assaulted by General Manager Roberta Torkornu, who hit him in his chest for alleged gross disrespect, after he inquired about reduction in his salary.

He said there hasn't been any new employment at the hotel since the new management took over, revealing that workers are being paid US\$143 below the legal minimum wage.

"Since 2009 I came here working as contractor, there



established its legal office in Monrovia. Through the office, NAC will document and report rights violations including stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV and key vulnerable populations in accessing HIV services. Speaking at the ceremony, NAC Chairperson Theodosia S. Kolee said the office is critically needed to properly manage cases of rights violations directed at Persons Living With HIV and

by 2030," she said.

She noted that in fulfillment of the quest to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV and the preparedness to run the legal office, they have validated the NSPII, the Zero Discrimination Action Plan for Liberia, and held the first-ever national stigma, advocacy, and discrimination conference this year.

Kolee added that these milestone achievements show

Treat sanctioned officials alike

--Group pleads with NEC over certification rumors

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The head of a group calling itself Liberians Deserve Better (LDB), Mother Welmont Lloyd, has appealed to the National Elections Commission to certify all elected officials, including those on sanctions for the same crimes. Madam Lloyd said the NEC should not be partial in certifying a few individuals who are of the same crimes and leave out others. The group alleged that it received rumors that Margibi County Senator-elect Nathaniel McGill and River Cess Senator-elect Bill Twehway would not be certified due to their links to corruption that resulted in the U.S. sanctioning them.

However, the group claimed that unlike McGill and Twehway, Nimba County Senator-elect Prince Y. Johnson who is also on U.S. sanctions, is due to be certificated.

Ahead of the certification ceremony due Friday, 7 December 2023, Madam Lloyd and her group stormed the grounds of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), as well as NEC in a

protest. During the protest, they called on the electoral body to halt the certification of Senator-elect Prince Y. Johnson. The group specifically attacked Senator Johnson for multiple war-time crimes he allegedly committed, saying he doesn't deserve to be certificated as a senator.

They carried banners with different inscriptions. Some of them read: "Reject Prince Y. Johnson, he's a murderer. Prince Johnson has blood on his hands. No warlord deserves power." "Prince Johnson is corrupt and must be rejected. He's a killer, does not certificate him," they added.

The group noted that their protest was a plea for the Commission to ensure equal rights in the certification for those elected during the 10

October 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections. Madam Lloyd noted that their concern was based on whispers that the NEC is due to certify those elected during the October elections and that others who won seats including McGill Twehway, would be denied certification. She said the group wants all those elected to be certificated or all those in the same category of corruption should be denied certification. "We are here seeking justice, if they cannot certificate Nathaniel McGill and Bill Twehway, they should not certificate Prince Johnson since Liberia deserves better," Madam Lloyd said. "If we want a straight line to change things, those involved in killing, corruption, public crimes, should not be certificated, since we want a better Liberia," she added.



and refusal to pay off those redundant.

Josephine Vian, an employee of the Official Protection Service (OPSI) a private security firm located in Congo Town, alleges that while assigned at the hotel early this year, she was beaten while on duties at the facility by an unidentified Ghanaian national, who was executing a customer service.

According to her, she had been instructed by the hotel management not to allow goods into the premises at 8pm, but to her utmost surprise a Ghanaian national, who happened to be friend of Manager Torkornu, forced his way there with goods transported in tricycles (Keke) but she prevented access based on instructions from management, which led to a deliberate slap in her ears, and subsequent inappropriate dismissal by Madam Torkornu, for denying a customer.

Josephine continues that she then called in the Police and

hasn't been any contract given to me, and I haven't seen any of the workers here with a contract; all the management does is to pay us hand-to-hand, without a contract sheet. When you go ask about your employment status, they fire you without salary," he lamented.

He alleged that more Ghanaians brought into the entity are paid above US\$150 to \$300 and benefit pay-leaves, while their Liberian counterparts benefit nothing.

Another worker, who asked for anonymity, claimed that the hotel has refused to pay her salary for the past six months, adding that Madam Torkornu, who took over from Ronald Stilding in 2017, has been brutal against Liberians. In an effort to contact the RLJ Kenedja Resort & Villas, Acting Manager, Abraham Johnson, sounded aggressive in response to reporter's inquiry about alleged malpractices meted against Liberians working at the facility.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia Crusaders for Peace receives UN honor

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace has received a crucially significant recognition for its work and was awarded a certificate on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 by the United Nations in Liberia.

efforts of organizations such as the Crusaders for Peace in the fight against gender-based violence cannot go unnoticed.

Speaking at programs marking International Women Rights Defenders' Day in Monrovia, UN Resident

Upon receiving the honor, LCP Executive Director, Ambassador Juli Endee lauded the United Nations for acknowledging the work of her organization.

Ambassador Endee described the honor as a massive recognition that will go a long way in strengthening her resolve to better serve the people of Liberia.

She vowed never to sit on her laurels but to continue working beyond the call of duty and across the last-mile villages to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Liberian Culture Ambassador then dedicated the award to the Liberia Crusaders for Peace Family and partners who have supported the organization over the years.

She particularly lauded UN Women, UNICEF, the European Union, the Swedish government, the UN Family, the Government of Liberia, Gender Minister Williametta Saydee Tarr, Chief Zanzan Karwor and the National Traditional Council, for building a sustainable partnership with the Liberia Crusaders for Peace. Other organizations honored by the UN Wednesday included the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, Women NGO Secretariat, Action Aid Liberia and Women Empowerment Network.



Ambassador Juli Endee

The Crusaders for Peace, headed by Culture Ambassador, Juli Endee, was among several Non-Governmental Organizations and Women Rights Campaigners whose work got massive acknowledgements by the UN.

It was part of programs marking International Women Rights Defenders Day in Monrovia.

The UN said sustained

Coordinator Christine Umutoni praised the LCP and others for serving the best interest of women and girls across the country.

She believes it is because of these crucial partners that women and girls have hope in a male dominated society.

Two leading donors, the European Union and the Swedish Embassy presented the awards to the Crusaders for Peace on behalf of the UN.

Ohio Supreme Court accredits Liberia Legal Aid Confab

The Supreme Court of Ohio, United States accredits the Second National Legal Aid Conference held recently in Monrovia. The National Legal Aid Conference is an annual event initiated and sponsored by the Center for Legal Aid Support Services (CLASS); a local Liberian Volunteer Legal Aid Development Organization.

The Ohio Court, through its Commission on Continuing Legal Education, sent a communication dated December 4, 2023, as a response to an application for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Accreditation to the High Court.

The U.S. High Court granted said accreditation to the Center for Legal Aid Support Services in a communication addressed to CLASS CEO, Atty. George N. King. The Ohio Supreme Court's Commission through its Secretary, Gina White Palmer, Esq., promised that the program (National Legal

Aid Conference) may be advertised as being approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

The National Legal Aid Conference was initiated and launched on November 18, 2022 by the Center for Legal Aid Support Services (CLASS).

The goal of the conference is to mobilize justice and none justice actors to come together annually and identify issues that impede effective justice system in Liberia.

It also aims to take action to mitigate challenges for the improvement of justice delivery through Legal Aid Services whereby rights of all persons are respected to satisfy the equal treatment and equal protection principles of Liberian laws consistent with Article 11 of the 1986 Constitution and other provisos of the law.

Meanwhile, CLASS says it takes the recognition by the High Court of Ohio as a great achievement and promises to do what is expedient to ensure access to justice to all people through information sharing and other assistance. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



US Coast Guard delegation praises Liberia's commitment to ISPS security compliance

On the morning of December 7, 2023, the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), as Designated Authority of Liberia's International Port Security Program held a meeting with a delegation from the United States Coast Guard to mark the end of a weeklong ISPS assessment visit that was aimed at examining the enforcement of Anti-Terrorism Measures at Liberia's port facilities. This was a follow-up visit. The team was here in October 2022.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) is a comprehensive set of measures designed to enhance the security of ships and port facilities globally. It was developed in response to the perceived threats to ships and port facilities in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks in

Commissioner, Charles Gono welcomed the US team on behalf of Commissioner Eugene Lenn Nage, and underscored the critical consideration that Liberia gives to the ISPS measures. He expressed Liberia's profound gratitude to the government and people of the United States for their assistance, and assured the delegation that Liberia and all its flagged ships will continue to do all it takes to comply with the requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

Director Simeon Cheah, the head of Maritime Security at LiMA, remarked that he and his staff learned tremendously during the week of assessment. He praised the US Coast Guard for their continued support and reassured them that their suggestions would be carried out.

For his part, the leader of the



Commissioner Eugene Nage

the United States. It insists that all international ports formulate detailed security systems and programs at all levels of their establishments - and guarantee the provision of strict security level data to ships that fly their flags. The ISPS Code applies to seagoing vessels on international voyages, including cruise ships, tankers, and cargo ships of 500 GT and above.

In remarks, Deputy

American Team, LCDR Janson S. Haynes, thanked the Liberia Maritime Authority for their assessment process. He congratulated Liberia for the superb work being done - and added that apart from a few minor snags, the country was living up to its commitments, and has much to be proud of. He suggested that Liberia should now consider implementing cyber security systems for its ports and related facilities. -Press release

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Français

L'IJG critique la Chambre des Représentants pour avoir adopté une loi controversée sur l'avortement

Au cours de la 54e législature du Libéria, les membres de la Chambre des Représentants ont été

2023, alors que le Libéria se préparait pour le second tour des élections présidentielles prévu le 14 novembre 2023. Le groupe Justice Internationale (IJG),

Selon Cllr. Verdier, le projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande" est perçu comme une tentative du gouvernement libérien de mettre en œuvre



vivement critiqués pour avoir voté en faveur d'un projet de loi intitulé "Avortement à la Demande", actuellement en attente d'approbation par le Sénat. Cette législation vise à légaliser l'avortement au Libéria, une rupture radicale par rapport au cadre juridique existant qui considère l'avortement comme illégal et passible de sanctions légales.

Cette décision a été prise peu de temps avant la clôture des travaux de la Chambre le 1er novembre

dont le siège se trouve à Washington, DC, a rapidement condamné le projet de loi, le qualifiant de préjudiciable pour le Libéria. Dans une déclaration publiée le 6 novembre, Cllr. Jerome J. Verdier, directeur exécutif de l'IJG, a exprimé fermement son désaccord, déclarant : "Nous condamnons catégoriquement cette initiative et dénonçons les pratiques de corruption visant à influencer et à compromettre le processus décisionnel de la législature nationale et du pouvoir exécutif, tout en ignorant l'intérêt public du peuple libérien."

son engagement à légaliser et à institutionnaliser l'agenda LGBTQ (Lesbiennes, Gays, Bisexuels, Transgenres). Cet engagement a été pris lorsque le ministre des Affaires étrangères du Libéria a autorisé la signature d'une résolution lors du Sommet des Leaders États-Unis-Afrique, s'engageant à soutenir les modes de vie et les agendas LGBTQ.

Cllr. Verdier a soulevé des préoccupations selon lesquelles la loi adoptée par la Chambre vise principalement à introduire une "éducation

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Les médias exhortés à promouvoir la paix avant le second tour de l'élection présidentielle

Le gouvernement du Libéria a exhorté les institutions médiatiques du pays à continuer de promouvoir la culture de la paix et de l'unité alors que la nation se prépare pour le second tour de l'élection présidentielle qui aura lieu le mardi 14 novembre.

Dans un communiqué publié lundi, le ministre de l'Information, Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, a mis en garde les médias contre la diffusion de messages contraires à la paix sur leurs plateformes, y compris les menaces de guerre, qui, selon lui, sont devenues une pratique de certains politiciens pour renforcer les chances de leur camp.

Le chef du MICAT a déclaré qu'il incombait aux médias, en tant que l'un des piliers fondamentaux de la démocratie, de toujours promouvoir la paix tout en respectant les normes de qualité du journalisme.

"Les médias libériens devraient accorder plus d'attention aux questions de politique prônées par les partis et les candidats politiques", a souligné le ministre Rennie.

Il a également appelé les médias à éviter la tentation de diffuser de fausses informations et de la désinformation, qui proviennent souvent des plateformes de médias sociaux et créent la panique dans le public,

conduisant à la violence ou à la perte de vies humaines.

Le ministre a déclaré que le gouvernement libérien était principalement axé sur le maintien de la paix chèrement acquise par le pays, tout en consolidant ses acquis démocratiques.

"Les prochaines élections ne sont qu'une compétition

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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

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L'IJG critique la Chambre des

sexuelle" auprès des jeunes et des enfants libériens, les incitant ainsi à adopter le mode de vie LGBTQ. Cette loi encourage les individus à envisager un changement de genre comme un droit, leur permettant de passer d'un genre à l'autre, tout en promouvant les agendas LGBTQ et le mariage entre personnes de même sexe dans le pays. L'IJG estime que, bien que l'avortement soit considéré comme socialement immoral, culturellement répréhensible et religieusement condamnable au Libéria, offrir un accès illimité et gratuit à l'avortement sans limites ni restrictions n'est pas la réponse appropriée à ce problème.

Il a argumenté que l'agenda LGBTQ promu par le projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande" est encore plus problématique et pourrait potentiellement compromettre l'avenir et la prospérité de la nation libérienne. En tant que pays peu peuplé, le Libéria pourrait connaître une diminution de sa population, entraînant la perte de ses valeurs culturelles chères.

Clr. Verdier a souligné : "Le Sénat doit rejeter ce projet de loi "Avortement à la Demande", tel qu'il a été adopté par la Chambre des Représentants, et se concentrer plutôt sur un programme visant à promouvoir l'éducation à la santé sexuelle, en mettant en avant l'importance de la sexualité dans le cadre du mariage uniquement. Cette approche devrait décourager les relations sexuelles hors mariage tout en promouvant la chasteté, la moralité et les valeurs familiales traditionnelles qui ont depuis longtemps servi de base à la société libérienne."

Il a également noté que cette loi, considérée comme contraire aux intérêts du public libérien, est le résultat de fraudes, de la corruption et du non-respect des intérêts publics du Libéria et

de ses citoyens. Il a souligné que le contenu final de la loi, actuellement entouré de secret, contient plusieurs dispositions strictes, répréhensibles, immorales et impies, en contradiction avec les principes religieux chrétiens et islamiques, et donc en conflit avec les codes moraux sur lesquels la nation libérienne a été fondée, reconnaissant la suprématie de la direction et de l'autorité de Dieu sur le pays.

De plus, la loi "Avortement à la Demande" est perçue comme un élément de l'agenda de dépopulation de l'Afrique des Nations Unies d'ici 2030. Selon les experts en population et démographie, cela pourrait entraîner environ 40 000 décès par an au Libéria. Des allégations ont également émergé, suggérant que la Suède, divers autres pays européens et de nombreuses nations dans le monde ont dépensé d'importantes sommes d'argent pour influencer les membres de la législature libérienne et le Président Weah en vue de faire adopter ce projet de loi.

Actuellement, la loi sur l'avortement en vigueur au Libéria permet l'avortement dans certaines conditions, notamment en cas de danger pour la vie de la mère ou de l'enfant, en cas de viol, d'inceste ou d'autres actes moralement ou légalement répréhensibles, avec l'approbation d'au moins deux médecins.

Au début de l'année, un journal local a rapporté que plusieurs pays avaient approuvé une déclaration lors d'un sommet sur la démocratie organisé à Lusaka, en Zambie. Cependant, certains pays ont exprimé des réserves ou se sont dissociés de certaines parties de la déclaration, en particulier celles liées à l'"orientation sexuelle" et à d'autres questions de droits.

Le Libéria était représenté lors du sommet par son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Kemayen. Parmi les pays africains qui ont approuvé les 17 points de la déclaration du Sommet pour la Démocratie figurent le Libéria, le Sénégal, le Niger, l'île Maurice et le Botswana.

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Les médias exhortés à

visant à choisir le président pour les six prochaines années et ne devraient pas conduire au chaos, comme certains acteurs politiques l'ont constamment prêché lors de leurs campagnes électorales."

Évoquant le message du président Weah adressé aux

médias libériens avant les élections du 10 octobre, le chef du MICAT a souligné que les yeux du monde seront rivés sur le Libéria, et la manière dont le Libéria est perçu et engagé après le second tour dépendra en grande partie de la façon dont les médias rendent compte de la situation.

Guinée : déploiement d'un important dispositif sécuritaire pour rechercher Claude Pivi



Pour mettre la main sur Claude Pivi, radié des effectifs de l'armée, dimanche 5 février au soir, les autorités guinéennes ne lésinent pas sur les moyens. Le militaire s'est évadé de prison samedi dernier après l'intervention d'un commando armé à la Maison centrale. Ses co-détenus, dont l'ancien président Moussa Dadis Camara, étaient également sortis de leur cellule, avant d'être rattrapés par les forces de l'ordre. Tous sont actuellement poursuivis dans le procès du massacre du 28 septembre 2009 qui avait causé la mort de plus de 150 personnes et le viol d'une centaine de femmes à Conakry.

Les forces de défense et de sécurité, appuyées par les forces spéciales d'unité d'élite de l'armée guinéenne, essentiellement composée de la Garde présidentielle, se sont déployées à la recherche du fugitif Claude Pivi. Ce lundi 6 novembre, du lever au coucher du soleil, un imposant dispositif militaire a été déployé dans les quartiers de Coléah, Mafanco et Madina au sud de la capitale. Les militaires ont procédé à des fouilles systématiques de plusieurs concessions, obligeant, par endroits, les commerçants à fermer leurs boutiques.

Ces quartiers, traditionnellement acquis à l'ancien président Alpha Condé, ont été soumis à un siège. Des dizaines de véhicules pick-up de l'armée ont traversé les ruelles boueuses de ces quartiers sous les regards,

à la fois inquiets et médusés, des populations.

Des habitants de ces quartiers ont indiqué avoir été surpris de voir cet impressionnant dispositif sécuritaire tout en ajoutant, même si ce n'est pas ouvertement dit, « ils sont ici à la recherche de Claude Pivi ».

« Claude Pivi ne peut pas venir se cacher chez nous, même si à un moment donné, il a travaillé avec le président Alpha Condé », dit Nanfadima Magassouba, commerçante du quartier de Mafanco.

Un octogénaire assis sous un acacia explique que ce déploiement militaire avec cet impressionnant arsenal « ne peut pas avoir raison de Pivi qui a une protection mystique ». Pour son compagnon s'exprimant en soussou, « Pivi s'est peut-être déjà transformé en chat noir ».

Poursuites judiciaires L'évasion rocambolesque de Claude Pivi et ses co-détenus a conduit à des affrontements armés samedi, au moins neuf personnes ont été tuées dans ces événements. Des faits pour lesquels les quatre détenus vont être poursuivis en justice. Sur ordre du parquet général, le procureur militaire du tribunal de première instance permanent de Conakry a en effet lancé des poursuites contre l'ex-chef de l'Etat Moussa Dadis Camara, ses deux anciens ministres, les colonels Moussa Tiegboro Camara et le fugitif Claude Pivi. Et aussi contre le quatrième co-détenu, le colonel Blaise Gomou. En plus des accusations de meurtres, viols, ou encore torture dans le procès du massacre du 28-Septembre, tous les quatre sont désormais poursuivis pour assassinats, homicide involontaire et complicité. Plusieurs autres personnes sont également poursuivies pour les mêmes faits et plusieurs autres sont visées pour abandon de poste et violation de consignes. Cela concernerait a priori les 58 officiers, soldats et agents pénitentiaires radiés de l'armée et des forces de sécurité, suite aux événements de ce week-end.

Révélation choquante dévoile un prétendu complot visant à saper la réélection de Dr Bhofal Chambers



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Un enregistrement vocal accablant a refait surface, mettant en lumière un complot présumé visant à contrecarrer la tentative de réélection du président de la Chambre des représentants, le Dr Bhofal Chambers, en tant que représentant du district de Pleebo Sodoken, comté de Maryland.

L'aveu compromettant aurait été fait par une figure clé au sein de la Commission électorale nationale (CEN), Cece Munah Nimely, qui a exercé les fonctions de superviseur

électoral dans le district de Pleebo Sodoken lors des élections législatives et présidentielles. Dans l'audio divulgué, Mlle Nimely a avoué sa participation à un complot anti-électoral organisé contre le Dr Bhofal Chambers.

"Je vais voler des bulletins de vote puisque les gens ne savent pas comment voter. Alors mon attention était, je lui ai remis les bulletins de vote et il les a donnés aux gens", a-t-elle révélé.

Mlle Nimely a ensuite expliqué que le sinistre plan avait été élaboré en réponse à l'avance substantielle du Dr Bhofal Chambers dans la région de Pleebo et ses environs. Les conspirateurs avaient l'intention de bourrer les urnes à Old Sodoken, retardant davantage le dépouillement des résultats pour exécuter leur complot.

De manière choquante, Mlle Nimely a admis avoir soutenu une demande visant à manipuler l'élection en faveur d'Anthony Williams, en violation directe des lois électorales du Libéria. Elle prétendait que l'autorité incontestée du cartel lui avait permis de mettre en œuvre de manière unilatérale ce plan néfaste pour saper la volonté du peuple.

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DATE WITH THE NATION *With: D. Wa Hne*

POWER CHANGING HANDS

Five years ago, about this time, President Elect George Manneh Weah was preparing for his inauguration just as President Elect Joseph Nyema Boakai is preparing for his. I vividly recalled that there were two kinds of moods created over the nation. The mood of joy and satisfaction felt by CDCians, and the mood of sadness and fear of what the future would hold felt by UPists. After six years, the same moods have been recreated in Liberia once again. This time, it is the CDC that is in the reverse. CDCians are sad and worried about what the future hold for them. Just as it was in the past, so is now.

In 2017 after losing the elections, UPists were struggling in their minds on how to gain relevance under the new dispensation and today, the same applies for CDCians. For the UPists to regain relevance outside the power switch room, they devised the strategy of "putting the CDC Government Feet to the Fire". For six years, they gained relevance and popularity in a manner that was never done in Liberia before and through their persistence, they made the CDC Government unpopular and have today reaped the benefit by finally taking over the leadership of the Country once again. Just recently, the CDC was unequivocal that they too would put the UP Government feet to the fire for six years. The question is, through which means?

The Unity Party formed collaboration with other political parties and carried out consistent, persistent, and vigorous protests and demonstrations alongside with condemnation of every policy and actions of Government, They did not acknowledge any development as good. To them, the CDC was a failure from start to the finish, while they presented themselves as the rescuers of the people of Liberia from hard times and under-development. The CDC is bent on conducting its opposition in like manner, according to Representative Acarius Gray.

At a Church Service, the outgoing President admonished the Incoming Government to let democracy have its way. He called on incoming President Joseph Nyumah Boakai to respect free speech and rights of association like he did. He cautioned that the rights to protest and demonstrate is a fundamental and constitutional right which should not be hindered, but protected by government and complimented by the provision of water and food to protesters.

As power is about to switch hands from one side of Rehab Road to the other side, social media has been over-run by debates over audit, property seizures, and prosecution of officials of the outgoing government on the one side, while on the other side of the debate, there are calls for comprehensive audit dating as far back as 2006-2023 if truly the incoming government interest is to fight corruption and nip impunity in the bud.

They argued that the comprehensive audit would guide the incoming government against appointing former corrupt officials in a clean slate corrupt free government. Whatever would be the decision of incoming President Joseph Nyumah Boakai would be seen in months ahead. Observers believe it is Boakai's litmus test that would distinguish justice from witch hunt in his reign.

As we move gradually and closely into the Boakai's era, several issues of national concerns are popping up. Would the incoming government be able to deliver on its promises, especially those that have to deal with the first 100 days, or were those promises a part of the usual Liberian politics of deception to gain power? Would the incoming President continue development projects and people centered policies started, but uncompleted by the Weah's administration? Would they scrap them as unnecessary waste and create their own footprints? Students and parents are in a state of dilemma. Would the burden of WASSEC payment and tuition shift back to the wallets and purses of parents? Civil servants are also in a state of uneasiness.

Would the incoming government reinstitute the UP signature policy of down-sizing, upsizing, and rightsizing? These concerns are being raised in corners because they were highlighted by the opposition as issues to visit with the hope of eliminating wastage in government.

There are other concerns surrounding steps the incoming government would take to unify and reconcile Liberians. Are they going to ensure "an only UP" administration or a government of national unity, healing and reconciliation by inclusion? Will their agenda be less accommodating or non-accommodating? The Incoming President has all the opportunity in this world to prove himself better than President Weah and showcase himself as an elder statesman placed behind the national wheels to drive the nation depending on how he respond to the voices whispering the direction of the nation into his ears. He can defuse a repetition of the unbearable pressure which they had on President Weah by being himself instead of others.

CDC BACK IN OPPOSITION

Will the CDC be a formidable opposition? Would the Coalition survive the six years tenure of President Boakai? Or, would the opposition be reduced to only the Congress for Democratic Change? Obviously the Coalition is expected to be a formidable opposition if it places its house in order by reframing the Coalition and respecting the values of constituent parties.

Presently, the Coalition is weakening itself by decisions that are counter-productive. The infights in the CDC has accounted for its loss in the presidential elections. That has to be corrected and it seems quite remote. It is inconceivable that leaders of the CDC would continue to make errors from which the party got burnt. President Weah has not ceased to lay blames on leaders of the Coalition Government for fighting amongst themselves. As Standard Bearer, he perfectly has concrete reasons for his statements.

To vindicate the President, recently the CDC took a decision to support Deputy Speaker Fonati Koffa for the Speakership while it is clear that the Party has a case in court as a result of electoral fraud against the seated Speaker. While pursuing its case to ensure justice to Dr. Chambers, the same Coalition leaders have given its support to the Deputy Speaker against Dr. Chambers in a case that is clearly winnable. The decision of the Executive Committee is far beyond its scope as the power for such decision lies with the Governing Council of the CDC.

Furthermore, the frame-work document clearly states that the speakership and/or President Pro-Tempore position would go to the LPDP. Without consultation with the LPDP, support is given to the Deputy Speaker. The fact that that the Executive Committee took such a decision against the interest of the sitting Speaker who is a Governing Council Member is in itself divisive and weakening of the spirit of the Coalition.

One can sense the already disintegrating strength of the Coalition by thoughts to even expel the Standard Bearer as publicly stated by one of CDC Stalwarts Dr. Lester Tenny on the Spoon Talk Show. The language of Dr. Tenny clearly demonstrate that much was happening within the Coalition during the campaign. Can one blame the President for taking decisions in the best interest of the nation? Party stalwarts are contending that the CDC needs to revisit its decision making processes and build a cohesive opposition that would have the buy in of all constituent parties. They contend that the Congress needs to respect other constituent parties. Consultations are important to drive a strong opposition, they insist.

ARTICLE ARTICLE

How And Why President Weah's Failures In Leadership Ended His 2nd Term Bid

By S. Karweaye CONTINUE FROM LAST EDITION

appointees rendered the government slow, weak, and bankrupt in ideas, and in policy formulation and implementation.

Consequently, nothing was properly or usefully designed and decided, as all initiatives and energy were paralyzed. Not surprisingly, under such a situation nothing much was achieved.

Fifth, whatever efforts put forth by other members of the government were mired in confusion from the outset owing chiefly to a lack of good understanding of the real issues at play, thereby resulting in poor policy options and choices.

The reason was that most of the personnel he appointed did not fit the offices they occupied. Sourcing the right personnel to occupy key offices of government is no doubt important, but the refinement of the personnel to fit the offices assigned to them is even more important. To this end, sufficient thought was not given by the president to match the character of the individual with the demands of the office assigned to them. In this, President Weah also failed miserably. A purposeful leadership must always have its policymakers strive to conceive and implement new initiatives to create and maintain positive momentum for the government. And this can only happen if the right persons hold the right offices.



The sixth failure in President Weah's leadership style was temporization. The president hardly took decisions on virtually any issue. It looked as if the president hated making decisions at all until compelled to do so. We saw that in him time and again on even the most serious issues. These included the formation of his cabinet, acting on corruption allegations against his appointees, resignation of his chief of staff and key officials on US sanction listing, injecting capable hands into government, etc. Not that a long period of procrastination necessarily gives cause to making the right decisions, or decisiveness leads to making bad decisions, but temporization is hardly a virtue in the books of leadership.

As the saying goes, the easier it is for a leader to do nothing, the harder it is for him to achieve anything. A good leader must be decisive; he must abhor procrastination, temporization, and equivocation. We saw this virtue in President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; for whatever may be said of his leadership faults, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was undoubtedly a decisive leader. Seventh, Weah as a person had serious moral and ethical burdens weighing down his personality, and therefore affected his leadership output. On coming to power, President Weah grassed up those who were pivotal to his victory; those who stood by him and sacrificed everything - their intellect, their wealth, and putting their lives on the line for him at a time when crass opportunists were all running away from him. By this act of betrayal, he purposelessly made enemies out of his friends; those who believed in him persevered through hardships, threats, and persecution, and never wavered against all odds at a time when he was being stigmatized, abused, and dreaded.

But when he got to power, those who had maligned him, with whose invectives his opponents campaigned against him; those who ran away from him in his hour of need, swarmed back on him like flies on rotten carcass, unfortunately making him turn his back on those who made it possible for him to gain power in the first place.

No one would commit such a misdemeanor against those who made the real difference in his electoral victory after two unsuccessful attempts and still succeed in leadership. No one; no way! The reason is simple - it is against natural laws of power! In other words, his leadership failed to imbibe the necessary essence of the Divine Doctrine of Reward and Punishment, which is God's command. President Weah refused to reward meritorious deeds and punish acts of transgressions throughout, a central policy thrust that not only brings out the best in citizens and serves as a deterrent in national service, but in the light of the serious problems then faced would have also manifestly helped restore his ebbing political standing, the success and popularity of the administration and the wellbeing and stability of the country.

These manifest deficiencies of Weah weakened his regime and rendered it highly vulnerable to internal manipulation and external sabotage. It created a situation that was both unsuited to the active requirements of a country in dire need of peace, economic growth, and political stability, and uninspiring, discouraging, and disappointing to zealous and devoted politicians, intellectuals, bureaucrats, patriotic citizens, etc. who were eager to see Liberia leap forward into the developed world of the 21st century.

Holding onto this poor leadership style to the end, his presidency became for Liberia just another six years of squandered time and resources that offered no solutions for salvaging the country, redeeming and securing her future. Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, admonished leaders to spare no effort in protecting the polity and the 'kingship' institution. But President Weah failed to heed Aristotle's admonition; and with this failure, he failed in leadership and collapsed the nation under him. His regime was, as Aristotle would say, "like a cloud that passed on without dropping rain." Those that have ears, let them hear.

UP seeks new date for Boakai's certification

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Unity Party (UP) is seeking a new date for the certification of Liberia's President-elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his Vice President-elect Jeremiah Koung due to their absence from the ceremony. Both men are said to be out

elections this Friday, 8 December 2023.

The Unity Party said Thursday, 7 December 2023 that it has launched a passionate appeal with the NEC to postpone the certification of the President-elect and the Vice President-Elect.

"Unity Party has officially informed the National

the November 14, 2023, Presidential election should be postponed until the return of President-elect Joseph Nyuma Boakai," the party said Thursday.

"The Party will work with NEC to schedule a new date for the issuance of the certificate for the President and Vice President-elect," the statement noted.

It stated that the public will be informed when the new date is set.

Boakai won the 2023 presidential run-off against incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

The incumbent and his Vice President Madam Jewel Howard Taylor have served one term of six years in office but could not secure a second term. Mr. Weah conceded the defeat, and he and the incoming president are co-chairing a Joint Presidential Transitional Team leading to the January 2024 inauguration.

The 2023 run-off election marked their second time meeting as main rivals. In 2017, Mr. Weah, then an opposition candidate, won Mr. Boakai during the run-off.

42 lawmakers back Koffa's bid

A resolution containing the names of incoming members of the House of Representatives has shown that 42 representatives-elect have committed through their signatures to support Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa's bid as Speaker of the House.

The incumbent Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives is part of the 42 incoming lawmakers who signed the resolution for his speakership bid.

Koffa was among some lawmakers who were re-elected during the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The incoming lawmakers backing Koffa's speakership bid are James M. Kolleh, (PUP); Josiah Melvin Cole, (CDC); Euguene J.M. Kollie, (CDC); Foday E. Fahnbulleh, (Independent); Zinnah A. Norman, (CDC); Luther S. Collins, (Independent); Isaac G. Bannie, (MPC); Matthew

Alexander Poure, (CDC); Isaac B. Choloplay Wuo, (CDC); Johnson S.N. Williams, (CDC); Romeo Thomas Quioh, (NDC); Samson Q. Wiah, (CDC); and Alex S. Noah, (CDC).

Through the resolution, the incoming lawmakers declared their support for Cllr. Koffa's bid as Speaker of the 55th House of Representatives by signing the document.

In their resolution, they recalled the democratic principles upon which the House of Representatives was founded and the need for experienced leadership to navigate the complex legislative issues facing the nation.

They also recognized the important role of the Speaker of the House of Representatives as the principal leader and spokesperson of the House.

They noted that the Speaker is responsible for maintaining order, facilitating deliberation, and promoting bipartisan collaboration.

The group of incoming lawmakers emphasized the necessity of an individual with a proven track record of fairness, integrity, and effectiveness in leading the legislative process while exemplifying a commitment to upholding the



President-elect Amb. Boakai

of the country, and the Elections Commission (NEC) National Elections Commission that due to the visit of the (NEC) is scheduled to President-elect to the United certificate winners of the 2023 States of America, the issuance presidential and legislative of certificate for the winner of

Senate condemns violence in Grand Gedeh

Starts from back page

Emmanuel Pennue and the Traditional Council for the terrible incident and called on law enforcement agencies to conduct a speedy

investigation and bring the perpetrators to book.

The late Representative Erol Madison Gwion replaced former Grand Gedeh County Representative Zoe Emmanuel

Pennue during the 2020 Legislative by-election.

Gwion was re-elected during the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Bong County residents demand improved healthcare system

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

The dire need for an improved healthcare system in Bong County has come to the forefront as the Yowee Clinic, a vital healthcare facility in the region that caters to over twenty towns and villages grapples with a critical shortage of essential drugs.

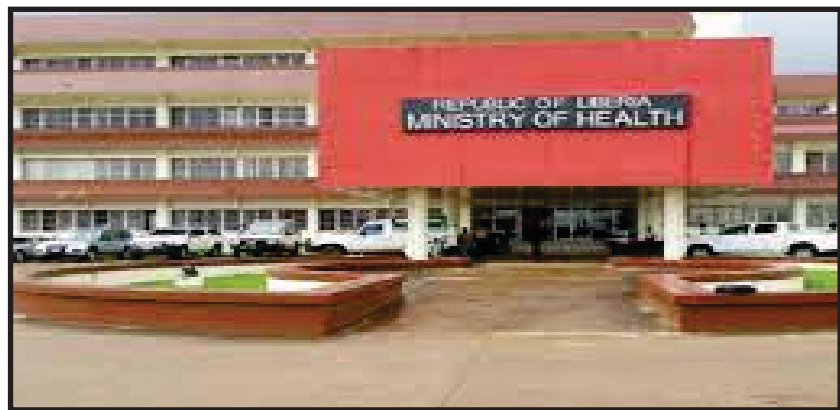
Local residents are expressing their frustrations and concerns over the difficulties they face in accessing crucial medications, highlighting the urgent need for immediate action. The Yowee Clinic, known for its dedication to providing quality healthcare services to the residents of Bong County, has been severely impacted by the lack of essential drugs.

Just two years back it was opened. Patients seeking treatment for various ailments, ranging from malaria to common infections and

typhoid are being turned away or forced to endure prolonged waits due to the scarcity of vital medications. In a recent interview, Sarah Gbollie, a resident of Yowee Town and a regular visitor of the Clinic, shared her struggles. "It is really bad to see that even the most basic medications are not available when we need them the most," she lamented.

"I have been unable to obtain the necessary drugs for my child's recurring malaria condition, forcing me to seek alternatives or travel long distances in search of

treatment." Ms. Gbollie's sentiment is echoed by many others in the region who feel let down by the current state of healthcare services. John Flomoyan, an elderly citizen of Garmue who has his family in Yowee, has also shared his experience. "We deserve better. Our health should be a priority, and it is sad to witness the lack of essential drugs in our local clinic. This situation puts our lives at risk and hampers our ability to lead healthy lives." The scarcity of essential drugs at the Yowee Clinic has also had a significant impact on the local healthcare professionals, who strive to provide quality care under challenging circumstances.



Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

Joe, (CDC); Thomas A. Goshua, (CPP); and Bintu Massalley, (CDC).

Others are Marie Johnson, (LRP); J. Fonati Koffa, (CDC); Thomas P. Fallah, (CDC); Fortorma Julie Wiah, (CDC); Siafa Momo Kpoto, (CDC); Gizzie K. Kollince, (UP); P. Mike Jurry, (CDC); Austine Blidi Taylor, (Independent); and Opee Roland Cooper, (Independent).

The list also includes Ivar K. Jones, (CDC); Ellen A. Attoh Wreh, (Independent); Emmanuel Yarh, (CDC); Clarence G. Garh, (CDC); Sumo K. Mulbah, (ALP); Michael M. Thomas, (Independent); Samuel R. Enders, (Independent); Emmanuel Dahn, (Independent); Frank Saah Foko, (CDC); Jerry K. Youghoh, (Independent); and Edward P. Flomo, (CDC).

The others are Abu Bana Kamara, (CDC); Dixon W. Seboe, (CDC); Bernard Blue Benson, (CDC); Twain D. Gleekia, (MDR); Taa Z. Wongbe, (Independent); Alex J. Grant, (Independent); Steve Tequah, (Independent);

Constitution and serving the best interests of the Liberian people.

They also noted the transition that Liberia is currently going through and the need for a Speaker to fill the soon-to-be vacant seat created by the Constitution. The group said it is resolved to declare Representative Koffa as the preferred candidate for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Representatives-elect boasted about Representative Koffa's experience and expertise in legislative procedures demonstrated through his leadership positions, legislative accomplishments, and successful

management of the office of the Deputy Speaker, and his legal understanding. "To recognize Representative Koffa's commitment to bipartisanship and ability to foster collaboration amongst members of various political affiliations and ideological backgrounds," the resolution said. It continued that the incoming lawmakers are backing Koffa's bid to acknowledge his unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of equity and fairness throughout the legislative process.

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Senate condemns violence in Grand Gedeh

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has condemned in the strongest possible terms, the barbaric attacks on private and public properties in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County by hoodlums.

Senate also expressed deep shock on hearing of the passing of newly elected Grand Gedeh District One Representative, Erol Madison Gwion on 5 December 2023. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the death news

it believes that this action on the part of some people must be condemned by all peace-loving Liberians. He noted that it undermines the peace and security of the State, especially when the country



The Senate noted that this resulted in the burning down of one house and vandalizing another belonging to Grand Gedeh County Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue and the offices of the county's Traditional Council. Speaking through President

became the reason for a group of people carrying out unlawful acts. Pro-tempore Chie said while the Senate mourns with the bereaved family and the people of Grand Gedeh County for the loss of their lawmaker,

is going through its smooth democratic transition following a peaceful and transparent election. Meanwhile, the Liberian Senate has expressed its sorrow for Senator Zoe

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