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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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# Jury finds

# Ellr. Scott guilty

**P11**



**Ellr. Scott**

**Charloe Musu**



**President Weah**

# Weah pardons

# Samukai, others

**P11**



**Former National Defense Minister Samukai Jr**

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# Continental News

## DR Congo Enters Second Day of Chaotic Election

Voters in the Democratic Republic of Congo are due to go to the polls again Thursday, in a meant to have opened. In some cases, polls never opened, leaving people unable to cast ballots. Denis Kadima, the

Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world, despite its vast reserves of copper, cobalt and gold. Around 44 million Congolese, in a nation of 100 million, are registered to vote.



Voters gather and rest on the floor at the end of the voting day in a polling station at the Reverend Kim School in Kinshasa, Congo

general election marked by severe logistical troubles that meant some polling stations never opened. The impoverished but mineral-rich central African nation staged four concurrent elections on Wednesday – to pick a president, national and regional lawmakers as well as local councilors. President Felix Tshisekedi, 60, is running for a second term in office against a backdrop of years of economic growth but little job creation and soaring inflation. But the vote on Wednesday was marked by massive delays nationwide, with the electoral commission still attempting to deliver materials to voting stations long after polls were

head of the electoral commission, declared on national television on Wednesday night that places unable to vote that day would vote on Thursday. But details about the extension remain unclear. Nor is it clear how much of the country is affected. Kadima also told reporters that "not less than 70%" of electors had been able to vote, but he stressed that this was an estimate. Five opposition presidential candidates in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including prominent figures Martin Fayulu and Denis Mukwege, rejected the extension on Wednesday night on the grounds that it was illegal. In a joint statement, they called for fresh elections. The Democratic Republic of

And more than 100,000 candidates are running for various positions. Results are not expected for several days. There had long been concerns that preparations for the vote were lacking, and the election authorities sought to play them down – although they proved valid Wednesday. Staging elections in a country roughly the size of continental western Europe, with very few roads, poses a daunting logistical challenge. By Wednesday afternoon, an influential election observer mission by a union of Congolese Catholic and Protestant churches indicated the scale of the voting problems. VOA

## Angola to Quit OPEC

Angola's minister of oil resources announced Thursday the west African nation has decided to leave the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC. The Angolan news organization Angop reported Minister Diamantino de Azevedo announced the decision following a meeting of the nation's Council of Ministers, led by Angolan President Joao Lourenco. Following the announcement, Angop reports Azevedo told reporters, "We feel that at this moment Angola gains nothing by remaining in the organization and, in defense of its interests, it decided to leave." Media reports say the action stems from a decision last month by OPEC to lower Angola's 2024 petroleum output target to 1.11 million barrels per day, an amount

Angola disagreed with. The oil minister reportedly sent a note of protest in response. Bloomberg news service quoted Angola's OPEC governor, Estevao Pedro, at the time as saying the nation was unhappy with the target and was not planning to stick to it. Data from the CEIC economic

firm indicate, as of October, Angola was averaging about 1.6 million barrels per day. The news, at least initially, drove down the trading price of oil by about a dollar to \$78.50 per barrel. Some information for this report came from Reuters and AFP. VOA



The logo of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen outside of OPEC's headquarters in Vienna, Austria

## Niger coup leaders expel French, but not US, troops fighting jihadists

Less than five months after Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum was deposed in a coup, former colonial power France is pulling out the last remaining troops it had deployed to the West African state to fight militant Islamists threatening stability across the region. Relations with Paris are at rock-bottom - French ambassador Sylvain Itté departed in September at the military junta's insistence - while the European Union (EU) has also been snubbed. The junta, led by Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani, has unilaterally scrapped the accords under which EU specialists have for many years trained Niger's security forces. Mr Bazoum regarded France as a crucial military partner. When French troops and other

neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali. They are also both under military rule and resisting demands, including from the West African regional bloc Ecowas, for a rapid restoration of civilian-led democracy. Yet while France and the EU are cold-shouldered, with Paris blamed for problems and crises of almost any kind and even accused of supporting a 2007 rebellion by Tuareg separatists, the US retains a significant presence, sending a new ambassador to Niamey in August. And the junta has not demanded the shutdown of the two US military bases in Niger, where more than 600 American troops remain stationed. These are important for Washington as Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group are just over the border in Mali to help the junta there fight jihadists.



European special forces withdrew from Mali in 2022, he asked them to redeploy into Niger's fragile western border areas plagued by jihadist attacks, where they then operated under Nigérien command. But after President Emmanuel Macron's vocal condemnation of the 26 July coup and his public support for Mr Bazoum, still detained in his presidential residence, Niger's new military rulers opted for a radical change of policy, demanding that the French pull out. Most of the 1,500 troops have since left and the remaining 157 will depart by Saturday. The junta has opted to rely on a new defence alliance with

There is no doubt that France, and Mr Macron personally, are the object of widespread resentment among young urban populations across West Africa, and not just the states in the semi-arid Sahel strip just south of the Sahara Desert. Perceived as high-handed and over-assertive, he is resented to a degree that was not true of previous French heads of state, even Nicolas Sarkozy, who had the gall to tell a Senegalese audience that Africa had not sufficiently entered into history. The priority that Mr Macron has given to West Africa, whether in military efforts to fight jihadist groups, the return of looted cultural treasures or an impressively expanded development budget, has blown back on him.



France's influence in West Africa has declined since a spate of coups in its former colonies



# EDITORIAL

## Foreign Minister Kemayah owes Liberians explanations

Exactly what occurred at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 12th December 2023 that led President George Manneh Weah to reverse Liberia's previous vote against humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, with a stern condemnation still remains a serious public concern that needs to be addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Saa Kemayah.

Minister Kemayah and Liberia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sarah Safyn Fyneah, were clearly not in one accord or so it appears, in reaching a decision on how Liberia should vote in this crucial matter thus, leaving the country to flip-flop, which has sent a bad diplomatic signal, demanding more explanations.

In rescinding the previous vote, President Weah was enraged, and described the Liberian official that voted against war at the General Assembly as wicked, because the President says he or she acted unilaterally, further swearing that God will not spare that person's life.

"They voted wrongly and we will fix it. Our vote will be with the other countries that voted diplomacy and not war. Maybe, he was doing it to tarnish my character and government because we are leaving power. But I want to tell him or her that they are wasting time", President Weah reacted.

The President's intervention would have been accepted as normal, because he is the chief architect of Liberia's foreign policy and has exclusive right in determining which diplomatic path the country should take. But Permanent Representative Ambassador Sarah Safyn Fyneah's letter from New York to Minister Kemayah, revealing lack of communication from Monrovia and underscoring a need for thorough review and clarification on how the vote went or should have gone, draws public concern with unanswered questions that should need to be addressed.

No one but Minister Kemayah, who is Dean of the Cabinet is in the right position to set the record straight, as direct emissary of the President on foreign matters. He should do so as soon as possible, not only to redeem the image of the Mission in New York, but the government and the country as a whole.

This is important particularly when President Weah says he is innocent of the earlier decision to vote against humanitarian ceasefire along with 10 countries, including the United States because his government had earlier decided in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Kemayah to vote peace over war, noting that the person who voted in favor of continuous conflict, acted unilaterally based on personal interests.

Mr. Weah explains that when the war started initially, he wrote a letter on November 4, 2023 to the Israeli Embassy, appealing to President Benjamin Netanyahu to consider diplomatic approach in restoring peace because, peaceful lives are being lost in Gaza, especially children, hence the need for a humanitarian truce.

But in her letter to Monrovia, Ambassador Fyneah clearly highlights that on December 8th, she instructed the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Mission to seek Minister Kemayah's guidance to co-sponsor the draft resolution A/ES-10/L.27, but received no response, adding that on 12th December 2023, she again communicated with the Minister and the Acting Foreign Minister, to confirm their directive on the vote on the resolution and, based on their affirmative response, she eventually instructed a staffer to implement the directive or to vote no.

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# COMMENTARY

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

## Climate Change for better, not for worse

The Conference of Parties (COP) just ended its 28th Session (COP28) in Dubai. At COP28, a path breaking Communique was signed by the 198 Participants.

This was the first time that a Communique emerged from any COP Session with the word's fossil fuels.

In effect, the Communique calls for the end to the utilization of fuel fuels as the way to eliminate the damaging effects of Climate Change.

The problem of Climate Change is most important because it has to do with the main Calling of Our Creator. This main Calling is to Save Lives.

The forests of the world give out oxygen (CO), which is life saving and takes in carbon monoxide (CO2), gas emission, that is life taking.

In their efforts at industrializing and attaining high economic growth, the industrialized countries, led by the United States of America (USA), have numerous factories that produce gas emissions.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) accounts for 29.2 per cent of the world's gas emission and the USA accounts for 11.2 per cent of the world's gas emission, with India accounting for 7.5 per cent, Russia 4.8 per cent, Saudi Arabia 1.5 per cent, France .80 per cent, United Kingdom .79 per cent, Denmark .08 per cent, Botswana .23 per cent, Singapore .13 per cent and Liberia .01 per cent.

These percentages of Climate Change in selected countries clearly indicate that a country does not need to depend largely on gas emission to industrialize.

Yet, many countries are building factories, producing gas emissions daily.

Although the declared intent of these countries is to promote economic growth and development, the evidence shows that there are widening income gaps between the rich and poor within countries and between countries (Thomas Piketty, Capital and Ideology, Harvard University Press, 2020).

This widening of income gaps is due to the poverty generating system being promoted by the money driven powers that be to the effect of producing raw materials for export to the industrialized countries to

benefit their selfish interests.

With no prioritization of Value Addition, this system generates poverty rather than alleviates poverty.

This poverty syndrome is clearly seen in Liberia where the National Legislators have access to at least LD150,000 a day and their foreign partners at least LD300,000,000 while nearly all of the people of Liberia have access to at most less than LD300 a day (Annual Reports of CBL, LISGIS, MFDP, MCI, WB, IMF, ADB and UNDP).

Although Liberia has more than 200 of the best log species in the world, the powers that be in Liberia continue to move around abroad with hat in hand appealing for funding, including budgetary support, from the industrialized countries and entities, especially the USA, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Instead of engaging in Value Addition, where there would be reforestation and not deforestation, with local manufacturing, employment, production, lower prices, less importation, income generation and poverty alleviation.

With awareness raising on the part of the people who love Liberia, there is movement from poverty generation to poverty alleviation in Liberia.

Witness how most of the Legislators and candidates who wanted to get re-elected and elected, respectively, in the October 10, 2023 Election were not re-elected and elected.

This awareness raising led to the minimization of the unfair practices of the National Election Commission (NEC), the minimization of the electoral violence, the maximization of voting for persons with good records and the acceptance of the electoral results by the powers that with those disagreeing abiding by the Constitution of Liberia.

It is only through the awareness raising that the unfair and unconstitutional practices of NEC that people can become motivated to take non-violent actions within the Rule of Law to transform the prevailing unfair NEC into the enduring fair NEC.

It is only through this transformation that persons with good records can get elected to bring in the system of Justice, the ingredient for Peace and Progress in Liberia and in any other Country.

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## Lord, so da plenty thin behind this sanction bisnay ehn?

By Othello B. Garblah

*So, yor wait ooh, da the iron ore money bisnay Uncle Sam put Brabee them on sanction for? Da news ooh? You say whatin?*

*Oh Father, you na hear our man from our Broad Street saying da Uncle Sam vex becos him people na geh their bisnay interest? You joking!*

*Aah, da what our man say oo. He say Uncle Sam people them say they na wan to share no rail road with the Indian People. In fact, the Indian people mon na come here to behave leh our Village for them. You mean, da iron ore bisnay, they put the Brabee them on Sanction for-for true?*

*Father, they say Uncle Sam people paid whole 37 million for their lesson, but the Indian people say, they were the first people here and any other person who come to do iron ore bisnay mon pay rent to them to use the railroad. They, ay for them?*

*Father, the people say, da the contract our Village people signed so they mon live by it. Da the trouble there so oo. Hmm, so this whole noise about this sanction bisnay da all about interest?*

*You mon jeh be there, you na know everybody geh him interest. The people come do bisnay, they na come play fund. Bor wait ooh, I thought the Indian people owner contract will soon end?*

*Father, the people say they wan whole 25 more years and da 25 plus their remaining 8 more years oo. They wan to be the land law for our village railroad too and the orlor people leh Uncle Sam people them say no. Da the trouble there so oo. Hmm, this sanction thing da plenty thing under it too oo. I mean if the thing our man from Broad Street explaining all over the place is true.*

*The two man them from the Traditional Council pa, they mon jeh lee their own with the Oldman becos da na small wahala they in so.*

*My son, I hear the iron ore palaver, bor what about the rubber bisnay too na, because I heard they say, the Country Giant wor vex, he say nobody mon take rubber weh they na process from your village again. Father, hmm, this one ay na small oo. They say, people go tell the Country Giant say, the people who been here since Joseph Jinkins Roberts time, da they the one been giving Uncle Sam all kina co-co stories to put him people them on sanction. You joking!*

*Father, da na small thing oo. They say the Country Giant wor vex, him say since they na here to do their bisnay bor they wan be chey-chey poly, they will suffer too. Na, na, as we talking so, no rubber will leave our village jeh leh da again. Bor leh him wait too ya, they mon put all him people on sanction before him come talk the thing him supposed to talk ever since?*

*You mind him too Father. The people been in our village for more than 150 years, one rubber bowl sef they na able to fix here, bor they just there taking our rubber and building factories in orlor people them owner village.*

*Anyway, the people can say if you cook yourself in tomato cup, they will dish you out with broom stick. Da it there so. Today, I met one pekin man who say him from Pleebo. This one them, da so, so illegal mining they doing around here. Ehn you know they place they called Goworment Camp in the Kru people village when you going to the orlor Kru and Sarpo people village, da na small diamond the strangers them in our village mining there for free.*

*So, how will the pekin man na say he Bush Grebo man na when him doing free diamond mining there. I tiya ya, we inside.*

## OP-ED

By María Alejandra Vélez

## Colombia Has an Alternative to the Drug War

**B**OGOTÁ - When Colombia's first leftist government came to power in August 2022, many hoped that the country's drug strategy would shift dramatically. President Gustavo Petro campaigned on a promise to move away from the eradication of coca, the main ingredient in cocaine, and in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly shortly after taking office, he called on Latin American countries to join forces against the "irrational war on drugs."

According to the latest report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the world is experiencing a prolonged surge in cocaine supply and demand, with an estimated 22 million consumers globally. As the largest producer, Colombia has a key role to play in shaping the future of this booming illicit industry.

But the country's new ten-year drug strategy, launched in early October, is likely too timid for reform advocates. Despite calling for Colombia to lead an international discussion about the drug war's failure, the strategy still operates within the prohibitionist framework. Importantly, it does not attempt to regulate the cocaine market, even though a pilot program could have enabled the country to experiment with legalization.

The strategy focuses on reducing coca cultivation, albeit not by forced eradication or by criminalizing growers. For example, the new policy does not consider aerial fumigation with glyphosate, a practice that was banned in 2015, but which former President Iván Duque Márquez attempted to revive in 2019. Instead, the government aims to create a rural development program that involves gradual crop substitution tied to public spending in coca-growing regions. By contrast, the largely unsuccessful crop-substitution program under the 2016 peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia requires immediate eradication.

On the demand side, the government will continue to implement harm-reduction measures, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as prison inmates.

Surprisingly, there is a new focus - perhaps influenced by policy in the United States - on preventing and reducing the negative consequences associated with illicit opioid use, even though it is not prevalent in the country. Crack addiction, especially among the homeless population, is more common, but it is not explicitly addressed.

That said, the strategy encompasses progressive elements that better address the needs of the rural communities most affected by the drug trade, a reflection of the inclusive consultation process with cocalero (coca growers) and cannabis farmers, as well as NGOs and academics. For example, it endorses the legalization of adult cannabis use. Designing a regulated market, however, requires the approval of Colombia's Congress.

Most significantly, this new approach promotes the legalization of "non-psychoactive" uses of the coca leaf, which indigenous communities in the Amazon and Andes have long held as sacred. Recently, the Ministry of Justice published a draft bill to regulate the medical, scientific, industrial, and research uses of seeds, cultivation, and poppy, cannabis, and coca plantations.

The market for alternative uses of coca is more established in Bolivia and Peru, owing to their much larger indigenous populations. But this only underscores the potential for pursuing regulation in Colombia. Moreover, the coca leaf could offer several nutritional, agricultural, and medical benefits, which is why the new policy also attempts to eliminate the barriers to conducting scientific research on the plant. Moreover, with 49% of coca plants located in strategic conservation areas, the new policy could contribute to environmental goals.

But implementing these reforms will not be easy. The new drug strategy lacks an action plan, a clear budget, and tools for monitoring and evaluating its progress.

Moreover, its success depends on mobilizing large financial resources and improving coordination between public agencies - both of which have been considerable roadblocks in the past. And with no binding commitments, the policy could be reversed if a right-wing party takes power after the next election in 2026.

To institutionalize the strategy and advance its objectives, the Petro administration will need to secure the support of national legislators, as well as maintain strong relations with the US and Europe. Fortunately, Colombia's new holistic approach largely aligns with the Biden administration's anti-drug strategy and is thus unlikely to stoke bilateral tensions, especially because it contains anti-money-laundering measures and other punitive tools to combat organized crime.

Equally important, Colombia must unite Latin American countries to address the structural challenges that fuel the region's cocaine trade.

As the world's most consequential cocaine producer, Colombia could make the case for global drug-policy reform. The country's new approach, which focuses more on rural development than punitive measures, represents a step forward. But to have a greater impact, the government must follow through on its promises, especially to regulate the cannabis and coca-leaf markets. This will require political determination and unwavering dedication to ambitious reform.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS



# DCI-Liberia alarms over exploitative child domestic work

By Lincoln G. Peters

**D**efence for Children Liberia (DCI-LIBERIA) alarms over skyrocketing of exploitative child domestic work in Liberia. Addressing a news press conference in

LIBERIA with support from Freedom Fund will combat exploitative child domestic work, because data collected by the Freedom Fund in 2023 shows shameless report on Liberia.

"Data collected by

washing or ironing clothes, fetching water, or firewood, cleaning, shopping or running errands for the household and cooking.

Atty. Kawa points out that DCI-LIBERIA findings also uncover that majority of these children are brought from poor families, particularly in communities lacking social protection safety nets.

"They are being allegedly trafficked under the disguise of reducing family financial burden, and responsibilities at home thereby providing quality education and or better standard living. Of the CDWs not currently enrolled, 54.8% are under 15 years of age and are thus out of school in violation of Liberia's 2011 Education Reform Act. Effectively, nearly one in five, 18.2% CDWs are out of school a rate that is significantly worse than the average 13.0% of urban Liberian children who are out of school (UIS,2023b)." He details. Giving the objective of the evidence-based research, he further laments that the overall goal of the project is to reduce exploitation among child domestic workers and empower survivors.

Freedom Fund, 2023 in Liberia indicates that CDWs spent around 20.4 hours per week doing domestic work, with half of the CDWs working between 14 and 25 hours. On average, older CDWs aged 16-17 years old spend more hours on domestic work, 25.0 hour per week than younger CDWs aged 12-15 years, 18.7 hour per week", Atty. Kawa discloses.

He notes that CDWs spend most of their time



DCI-LIBERIA Executive Director, Attorney Foday Kawa

Monrovia Tuesday, December 19, 2023, DCI-LIBERIA Executive Director, Attorney Foday Kawa said, exploitative child domestic work in Liberia greatly increased in 2023. Based upon that, he says DCI-LIBERIA and partners will be piloting an evidence-based project to tackle this abuse in the country, targeting Montserrado and Nimba counties.

According to him, DCI-

# EFFL cautions Boakai

**A**Liberian political party, Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) is cautioning members of the incoming administration's transitional team not to do business with officials of the Weah administration, who were sanctioned by the United States recently for corruption. The EFFL emphasizes that such transactions could pave the way for impunity, mirroring previous corruption incidents in Liberia. In a press release, the party that supported President-elect Joseph Boakai in the 2023 election, notes that previous administrations often decried corruption during campaigns but falter in addressing the issue once they ascend to power. Notably, officials under sanction, including Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, are singled out, with a call to exclude them from transitional

meetings to prevent any compromise. "We are aware of ongoing negotiations, including the protection of the CT scan container tracking at the Freeport of Monrovia," the release states. The EFFL issues a stern warning that individuals involved in compromising deals will face public scrutiny and disapproval for actions undermining the office of President-elect Boakai.

The release emphasizes that President-elect Boakai disapproves such deals, particularly those related to the CT scan container-tracking at the Freeport of Monrovia. At the same time EFFL reassures Liberians that they are entering an era where public service will not be exploited for personal gain thus, calling for honorable individuals to serve in public offices with a focus on improving conditions of all citizens.

The party says it expects nothing but a vigorous battle against corruption, pledging to hold government officials

accountable through mass mobilization efforts across the country. It also calls upon the incoming 55th Legislature to protect Liberian-owned companies against foreign competitors, noting that such intervention will strengthen Liberian businesses that have historically struggled against foreign counterparts due to a lack of control or inadequate rules. The EFFL urges Liberians to take ownership of their economy, advocating for reversal of policies that have disadvantaged Liberian companies in previous administrations. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



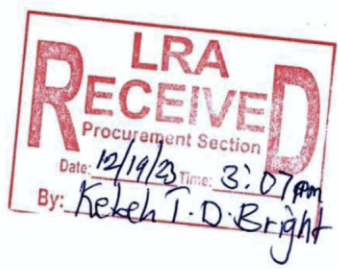
## Section I. Letter of Invitation to Bid National Competitive Bidding Procurement of Coaster Bus IFB No. LRA/MFDP-Proj/NCB/001/2023

- The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has received funds from the Government of Liberia through budgetary allocations and intends to use portion of it to fund eligible payments under the contract for **PROCUREMENT OF COASTER BUS** for its FY-2023 operations.

- This procurement covers **Procurement of Coaster Bus** under one lot, as indicated below;

No.	Item Description	Quantity	Specification
1	Procurement of Coaster Bus	1pc	To be provided in the Bidding Document

- The Liberia Revenue Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **Procurement of Coaster Bus**.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all eligible bidders.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in **English** may be pickup at the cost **US\$25.00** by interested bidders at LRA Headquarters on **Monday, December 18, 2023** between 9:30 am & 3:30 pm daily.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the below address within the hours of 9:30 am to 3:30pm  
**Lovetta W.J. Williams**  
**Basement Floor**  
**Liberia Revenue Authority Headquarters**  
**ELWA Junction**  
**Paynesville, Liberia**  
**Tel: 231-(0886) – 676-046**  
**Email: [lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr](mailto:lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr)**
- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - A bid security (in the form of Managers Check/Bank Guarantee)
  - A valid Tax Clearance Certificate and valid Business Registration Certificate (must registered with Business Code: **G4510**)
  - Prove of registration on PPCC vendor registry



- Company profile
  - Proof of supply of similar good rendered
  - Proof of clients & contracts
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 2:00pm**. Bids shall be valid for a period of **Ninety (90) days** after the deadline of bid submission.
  - A pre-bid meeting will be held at the conference room of the LRA Headquarters, Basement Floor on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm** to answer questions relevant to the Bidding process.
  - Bids will be opened on **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 2:00pm, in the Conference Room on the Basement Floor of the LRA Headquarter** in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the address below:
  - Bids must be submitted both in hard and electronic copies.** Electronic bid should be submitted through this link: [procurement@lra.gov.lr](mailto:procurement@lra.gov.lr). Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. All bids must be clearly marked with the address indicated below
  - The most responsive Bidder will be issued Framework Contracts**
  - The address is: **Procurement of Coaster Bus**  
**Ref: IFB No. LRA/MFDP-Proj/NCB/001/2023**  
**Liberia Revenue Authority, Headquarters**  
**Paynesville, Liberia**  
**Tel: 231-(0886) -676-046**  
**Email: [lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr](mailto:lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr) and [procurement@lra.gov.lr](mailto:procurement@lra.gov.lr)**
  - The Liberia Revenue Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the entire process at any time for reasons to be communicated to bidders without incurring any liability.

Signed  
  
 Lovetta W.J. Williams  
 Manager/Procurement

Approved  
  
 Samuel G. Bennett Jr.  
 Deputy Commissioner General  
 Administrative Affairs



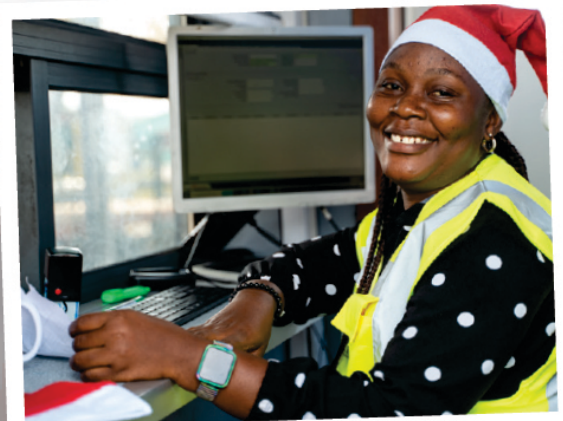


**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
 & HAPPY NEW YEAR





# Merry Christmas





# Français

## Le jeu double du Libéria Concernant Israël

La récente directive que le Président George Manneh Weah a donnée au Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah,

en tant qu'homme de paix, qu'il ne soutiendra ni la guerre ni l'instabilité politique dans un autre pays.

"Le Libérien qui a voté contre la guerre est un Libérien

directive antérieure du Ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia, en contradiction avec la position établie du Président Weah et du gouvernement.

L'ambassadeur Fyneh, dans un communiqué de presse depuis New York, déplore cette incohérence qui soulève des inquiétudes quant à une mauvaise représentation, appelant le Président Weah à demander des éclaircissements au Ministre des Affaires étrangères.

"Il est important de souligner qu'au 8 décembre, j'ai donné instruction au représentant permanent adjoint de solliciter l'avis du ministre pour coparrainer le projet de résolution A/ES-10/L.27 mais je n'ai reçu aucune réponse. Le 12 décembre, j'ai communiqué avec le ministre et le ministre des Affaires étrangères par intérim, pour confirmer leur directive sur le vote de la résolution. Agissant sur leur réponse affirmative, j'ai donné instruction à un employé d'appliquer les directives", explique l'Ambassadeur Fyneh. Elle souligne que la responsabilité de la directive erronée incombe au ministère des Affaires étrangères, notant qu'il est crucial de ne pas ternir la réputation des diplomates du Libéria à l'ONU.

L'Ambassadeur réfute l'idée que les diplomates du Libéria à l'ONU ont agi indépendamment, appelant à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Pres. Weah

Minister Kemayah

à Monrovia, pour annuler le vote du Libéria contre un cessez-le-feu humanitaire dans la bande de Gaza déchirée par la guerre, soulève des questions sur un possible double standard, le gouvernement ayant antérieurement pris une position ferme le 12 décembre 2023, aux côtés de 10 autres pays, dont les États-Unis, contre un cessez-le-feu à Gaza.

Pourtant, lors d'une déclaration brève le dimanche 17 décembre dans son église Forky Klon Family, le Président Weah a déclaré

méchant et il a voté pour lui-même ; pas pour nous, et Dieu ne lui épargnera pas la vie. Ils ont voté à tort et nous allons arranger ça. Notre vote ira avec les autres pays qui ont voté pour la diplomatie et non la guerre. Peut-être qu'il le faisait pour ternir ma réputation et celle du gouvernement parce que nous quittons le pouvoir. Mais je veux lui dire qu'il perd son temps", a réagi le Président Weah.

Cependant, l'Ambassadeur et Représentant Permanent du Libéria aux Nations unies, Sarah Safyn Fyneh, clarifie que le vote initial du Libéria le 12 décembre était basé sur une

## Candidat sénatorial saisit la Cour suprême

Candidat à la sénatorial pour le Liberia National Union (LINU) dans le comté de Maryland, le Dr Wollor E. Topor, a saisi la Cour suprême du Liberia, exigeant un recomptage des voix des élections sénatoriales.

Le Dr Topor demande l'examen de la décision prise par le Conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale, déclarant le sénateur sortant J. Gblebo-Bo Brown vainqueur du siège sénatorial du comté.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia le mercredi 20 décembre 2023, le candidat Topor a allégué qu'il avait été privé de ses votes et que son équipe juridique déposerait aujourd'hui, jeudi, une requête en exception à la Cour suprême pour examiner de manière approfondie la décision de la NEC.

Il a déclaré qu'ils avaient suivi toutes les procédures initiales pour adresser leur

plainte conformément à l'article 83 (c) de la Constitution de 1986 du Liberia et à la loi électorale en déposant une plainte formelle devant le magistrat électoral du comté et le Conseil complet de la Commission électorale nationale.

Selon lui, ils ont déposé leur plainte dans les délais le 16 octobre 2023 et l'affaire a été entendue par l'officier d'audience désigné par la NEC, Richard M. Dafuwah, et ils ont fourni des preuves que plusieurs des feuilles de pointage n'étaient pas

estampillées, y compris des manipulations présumées de chiffres, et que le nombre moyen de votes valides et invalides enregistrés était supérieur au nombre total de bulletins enregistrés dans l'urne du bureau de vote 27024, dans le district électoral n° 2 du Maryland.

"Notre adversaire mène la course au Sénat avec 12 712 votes tandis que nous avons obtenu 11 618 votes. Ce que la NEC a prononcé et placé sur le



## Éditorial

### L'hygiène, un mode de vie

Le spectacle des volontaires, parmi lesquels des jeunes hommes, des femmes, et des aînées, qui s'attellent au nettoyage de nos rues ne peut que susciter une profonde émotion, car il incarne un patriotisme ardent.

Cette initiative, orchestrée en prévision des festivités et en préparation de l'investiture imminente du président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et du vice-président élu Jeremiah Kpan Koung en janvier 2024, témoigne d'une mobilisation collective sans précédent.

Ces bénévoles massivement engagés dans l'assainissement de la capitale et de ses environs opèrent une véritable révolution dans notre approche de la préservation de notre capitale, démontrant qu'il est temps d'assumer nous-mêmes ce que nous attendons du gouvernement.

Cependant, l'entretien de la ville ne devrait pas être circonscrit uniquement aux périodes de Noël ou d'investiture. Il doit plutôt devenir un mode de vie pour nous, Libériens. Nul besoin d'attendre une occasion particulière pour nettoyer notre cité et son environnement. Il convient d'instaurer une pratique quotidienne, hebdomadaire, voire mensuelle, afin de donner l'exemple à la génération future, tout en démontrant que la propreté n'est pas seulement une question d'hygiène, mais revêt également une dimension spirituelle.

Malheureusement, Monrovia se trouve actuellement jonchée de débris et d'ordures à chaque coin de rue. Même des édifices publics tels que le Capitole et d'autres lieux ne sont pas épargnés par ce fléau. L'herbe a envahi le Capitole, qui souffre du manque d'eau courante et de toilettes fonctionnelles. Il est dès lors compréhensible que le président élu Boakai ait choisi d'organiser son programme inaugural à cet endroit, afin d'assurer une remise en état adéquate.

Une telle situation n'était pas envisageable par le passé, particulièrement durant les ères Tubman, Tolbert, Doe et plus récemment Sirleaf, lorsque les institutions étatiques responsables du maintien de la propreté de la ville étaient pleinement opérationnelles, telles que la Corporation de la Ville de Monrovia et la Corporation des Eaux et Égouts du Libéria.

La CVM est chargée d'appliquer les ordonnances de la ville, tandis que la CLEL assure le bon fonctionnement du système d'assainissement et de l'approvisionnement en eau dans la capitale. Malheureusement, ces institutions ont totalement décliné en raison d'une mauvaise gestion et de la corruption. La CLEL n'est plus en mesure de fournir à la ville des services d'eau courante et d'assainissement, laissant les rues jonchées d'excréments dus à des canalisations d'égouts obstruées.

Parallèlement, la CVM a implosé sous la direction du maire récemment sanctionné, Jefferson Tamba Koijee.

Il est essentiel que l'administration à venir du président élu Boakai maintienne le groupe actuel de volontaires pour contribuer régulièrement au maintien de la propreté de la ville et de ses environs, afin de manifester la fierté libérienne.

En effet, déchets et excréments constituent des foyers de prolifération pour les cafards, les rats, les mouches, les moustiques et autres rongeurs, qui pénètrent directement dans les foyers, contaminant nourriture et eau potable et propageant des maladies telles que le choléra et la diarrhée. Un environnement propre est un environnement sain, favorisant la santé de la population.



# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Le jeu double du Libéria**

un examen et à une clarification de la mauvaise représentation. Selon elle, les diplomates du Libéria à l'ONU opèrent sous la direction du ministre des Affaires étrangères, garantissant que leurs actions correspondent à la position du pays. Cependant, le Président Weah affirme son innocence, soulignant que la personne qui a voté en faveur d'un conflit continu a agi de manière unilatérale, allant à l'encontre des décisions prises en consultation avec le ministre des Affaires étrangères. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, doit encore clarifier cette situation qui constitue une gêne sérieuse pour l'administration et l'image internationale du pays. Le Libéria a voté contre un cessez-le-feu humanitaire dans la bande de Gaza le mercredi 13 décembre, étant le seul pays africain à le faire, alors que des appels résonnent à travers le monde pour mettre fin aux hostilités

entre Israël et le Hamas. Le Libéria a voté contre la résolution de mardi aux côtés des États-Unis, de la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée, du Paraguay, de l'Autriche, de la République tchèque, du Guatemala, des États fédérés de Micronésie et de Nauru. Le Libéria faisait partie des 10 pays, dont les États-Unis d'Amérique, qui ont pris cette position lors d'une session extraordinaire d'urgence de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies le mardi 12 décembre.

Malgré les efforts des États-Unis et du Libéria pour bloquer les appels au cessez-le-feu au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, une majorité de 153 nations ont voté en faveur de la résolution de cessez-le-feu lors de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU mardi, tandis que 23 pays se sont abstenus du processus. Le président Weah souligne qu'il n'a jamais voté contre l'intérêt des États-Unis, mais cette fois, il doit voter pour la paix lorsque c'est nécessaire, ajoutant que la paix et la démocratie devraient être les marques des négociations. Édition de Jonathan Browne.

## Starts from page 8 **Candidat sénatorial saisit**

site web est tout à fait différent de ce qui figure sur la feuille de pointage officielle de la NEC qui nous a été remise immédiatement après le processus de dépouillement. La NEC a déclaré que nous avons obtenu 11 618 votes, tandis que la feuille de pointage officielle indique que nous avons obtenu 11 918 votes, avec une différence de 300 votes ; cela ne justifie-t-il pas un recomptage ?" a-t-il demandé.

Le Dr Topor a révélé que ces irrégularités présumées sont alarmantes et justifient un recomptage des voix, affirmant que l'officier d'audience et le Conseil de la NEC ont commis des erreurs dans la manière dont ils ont mené l'ensemble de la procédure jusqu'à ce point, car ils n'ont pas examiné correctement toutes les pièces à conviction présentées.

"Nous faisons appel à la Cour suprême pour examiner la décision prise par la NEC de déclarer M. Brown vainqueur de la sénatoriale dans le comté. Dans notre requête en exception, nous ne demandons qu'un recomptage. Et donc, à partir d'ici, je vais rencontrer mon équipe juridique car elle a déjà préparé la requête en exception et nous la déposerons auprès de la Cour suprême aujourd'hui."

Selon lui, il ne s'agit pas seulement de lui mais des plus de douze mille citoyens qui ont voté et il ne permettra pas que leurs voix soient étouffées car il ne peut pas se permettre de

briser leur espoir.

Le candidat mécontent prétend détenir des dizaines de preuves suggérant que l'élection a été fraudée, car les bulletins de vote dépassent le nombre moyen d'électeurs. Pour lui, le sénateur Brown a remporté l'élection parce qu'il a l'argent.

"Je veux juste un recomptage et s'il gagne, cela dissipera mes doutes et je le féliciterai. Mais il a fortement désapprouvé cela. Et, sur la base de nos preuves et du refus du sénateur Brown et de ses avocats d'accepter le recomptage, nous croyons qu'il y a quelque chose dans cette urne électorale. Cela m'a amené à être hospitalisé pendant plus de quatre mois. Je crois en la Cour suprême et je sais qu'elle rendra justice conformément à la loi", dit-il.

Le Dr Topor a dit déplorer qu'il se soit écoulé plus de deux mois et demi depuis que les habitants du comté de Maryland ont voté le 10 octobre 2023 pour élire de nouveaux dirigeants, cherchant de meilleures conditions, notamment une éducation de qualité, des soins de santé bons et abordables, l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire, l'électricité et la protection des droits fondamentaux.

"Nous voulons vous informer que nous avons fourni des preuves prouvant que plus de 13 % du total des 175 bureaux de vote avaient une ou plusieurs de ces irrégularités. Enfin, je tiens à remercier mon équipe juridique et le peuple d'avoir défendu leurs votes", conclut-il.

## **La Chambre des Représentants rejette la demande du ministère de l'Intérieur de lever le moratoire**



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Les membres de la Chambre des représentants ont rejeté la demande du ministre de l'Intérieur de lever le moratoire imposé sur les comptes de développement et de développement social du comté de Bong.

Le ministre des Affaires intérieures, Varney Sirleaf, avait fait appel à la plénière par l'intermédiaire des bureaux des représentants, demandant la levée du moratoire.

Le moratoire avait été imposé en 2019 à la suite d'un audit réalisé par l'Agence générale d'audit (GAC). L'audit de la GAC, achevé depuis, avait soulevé des préoccupations concernant la configuration du Conseil du comté.

Cependant, le rejet par la Chambre s'est basé sur le fait que le Comité des comptes publics (PAC) n'avait pas encore rendu compte de la question.

De plus, les membres ont déclaré que le début du moratoire avait été demandé par le groupe parlementaire du comté de Bong.

Cette décision souligne l'importance accordée au processus régulier et aux évaluations du comité dans les questions de gouvernance financière.

Le 10 août 2021, le représentant du district n° 3 du comté de Bong, Marvin Cole, a écrit une lettre à la plénière invitant le ministre de l'Intérieur Varney Sirleaf et la surintendante du comté Esther Walker à comparaître devant la plénière et à expliquer la prétendue mauvaise gestion de plus de 80 000 dollars américains des caisses du comté.

Lors de leur comparution, le ministre Sirleaf et la surintendante Walker ont nié toute malversation financière et ont affirmé avoir agi conformément à la loi.

Le ministre Sirleaf a déclaré que le député Cole entretenait une relation étroite avec le sous-préfet aux affaires fiscales du comté de Bong, Paul Sulunteh, qui se plaignait parfois d'être exclu des décisions financières du comté, bien qu'il soit signataire A-1 du compte du comté.

Cependant, les législateurs en session ont voté en faveur de l'audit des comptes du comté pour la période de 2018 à 2021.

## **ONU : l'ambassadeur du gouvernement de transition du Niger désormais persona grata à New York**



Après trois mois dans le flou, une Commission spécialisée de l'ONU a tranché. L'ambassadeur du gouvernement de transition du Niger pourra désormais représenter Niamey à New York. En septembre dernier, l'ONU lui avait interdit l'accès à l'Assemblée générale, observant les directives transmises par le Conseil de sécurité qui continuait à reconnaître comme seul légitime le gouvernement de Mohamed Bazoum.

C'est une négociation qui fait marquer un point au gouvernement du général Tiani, et dont les coulisses reflètent comment le gouvernement de transition du Niger

est en train de s'imposer en Afrique de l'Ouest. La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, qui se réunit une fois par an à New York pour statuer sur les éventuelles disputes de reconnaissance de légitimité des ambassadeurs aux Nations unies, a décidé le 6 décembre de reconnaître l'ambassadeur nigérien du gouvernement de transition.

Celui-ci avait en fait été nommé par Mohamed Bazoum, puis désavoué par lui lorsqu'il avait rejoint les putschistes, créant un flou sur sa légitimité aux Nations unies. La Russie, la Chine et les États-Unis, trois des neuf membres de la Commission, pensaient d'abord ne pas statuer sur le dossier nigérien et laisser une chaise vide au Niger à l'ONU. Mais le Togo et le Nigéria, deux autres membres qui semblent avoir changé leur fusil d'épaule en quelques semaines vis-à-vis du général Tiani. Ils ont poussé les trois puissances à reconnaître officiellement son représentant. Le récent rapprochement entre Niamey et Moscou suite à la visite au Niger du vice-ministre de la Défense russe le 4 décembre a pu convaincre la Russie de donner ce coup de pouce à l'ONU. Les décisions se prenant au consensus et les États-Unis n'ayant pas reçu de directive particulière pour

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Lawmaker-elect Dahn confident of taking seat -as defeated Solomon George loses appeal again

## Lonestar Cell MTN Empowers At-Risk Youth -with Digital Skills and Mobile Entrepreneurship through its Smartphone University

**By Kruah Thompson**  
Montserrado County District 7's newly elected lawmaker, Emanuel Dahn, says the law prevails after the National Elections Commission (NEC) dismissed his predecessor

lodged a complaint to NEC Board of Commissioners on October 14, 2023, citing irregularities and electoral malpractice after his main challenger, Emanuel Dahn, was declared winner of the October 10, 2023 General and Presidential elections.

His lawyer, Cllr. Jonathan Massaqua, spoke on the legal aspects, asserting that an attempt to circumvent the law would deny District 7 representation in the House.

Cllr. Massaqua highlights that defeated Representative George, after being afforded the chance for due process by NEC, failed to provide evidence in his complaint against Supervisor Cyrus Blade.

When asked about the possibility of the case reaching the Supreme Court, the counselor affirms their preparedness, citing the NEC regulations that require the complainant to provide and defend evidence.

"His complaint was not against Emanuel Dahn; his complaint was against the supervisor", he clarifies.

Meanwhile, atmosphere at the headquarters of the NEC on 9th Street in Monrovia remains tense, as legal battles unfold, leaving District#7 in anticipation of its duly elected Representative, Emmanuel Dahn, taking office in January 2024 without any further hindrance. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Elected Lawmaker Dahn

Representative Solomon George's appeal for the fourth time.

In dismissing the defeated CDC lawmaker's appeal, the NEC cites a lack of evidence and an inability to defend the complaint against its Supervisor, Cyrus Blade.

Defeated Rep. George had

However, Dahn, addressing the media on Tuesday, December 19, expressed that George's repeated appeals aim to disrupt the people's decision, noting that "The law is the law, and nothing can be done to change it."

Dahn: "When the people repose confidence in somebody capable of leading, nobody can change that, no matter the attempts to undermine it."

He stresses that the election results are final, saying "The district has spoken" and calls on his supporters to celebrate.

However, despite anticipating further resistance from George, Representative-elect Dahn says he is committed to reconciliation but won't wait for his opponent to step out.

## AfDB approves John Davies Town -Zwedru Road Construction Project

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on December 14, 2023, approved the John Davies Town in River Gee County -Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County road construction project, which is 48.5km for US\$60.92 million for the Liberia side of the multinational approval.

This road is part of the ongoing construction of the Ganta-Harper Road corridor.

The approval is part of a multinational road project benefiting Liberia and Sierra Leone under phase 4 of the Mano River Union Road Construction Facility.

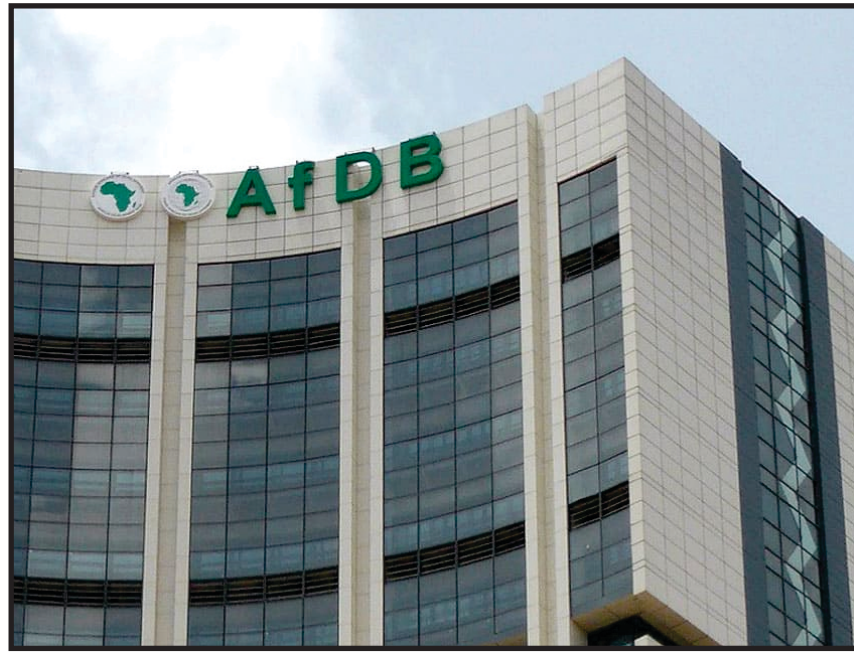
The approval of this segment of the road completes the financing needed to complete the entire Ganta-Harper Road corridor, which is also being funded by the World Bank and the European Union.

The Minister of Public Works, Hon. Ruth Coker-Collins thanks President George Manneh Weah for his visionary leadership in not just securing full financing of

this important and often neglected road corridor, but also constructing the road beginning with the Ganta-Tapitta segment of the road.

Minister Coker-Collins also expressed her deepest gratitude to Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank and the entire Bank for standing with Liberia on its efforts to foster roads construction and connectivity aimed at ensuring

economic growth and development in Liberia and regional trade and integration between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Additionally, the Public Works Minister also thanks the OFID/OPEC Fund for approving US\$20 million for the John Davies Town - Zwedru segment of the road corridor as co-financing with the AfDB. This brings the total approval to US\$60.92 million, with the Government counterpart funding of US\$1.02 million included.



(Monrovia, Liberia, 20 December 2023) - Lonestar Cell MTN proudly announces the graduation of 50 students from its transformative Smartphone University Digital Skills Program for At Risk Youth.

In collaboration with the Destiny Recovery Program located in Battery Factory, Japan Freeway, the initiative sought to empower at-risk youth by providing them with a new smartphone and data, essential digital skills, with a special focus on harnessing the power of smartphones for business and enabling them to become mobile money agents.

The Smartphone University Digital Skills Program for At Risk Youth is an integral part of Lonestar Cell MTN's commitment to community development and focuses on

becoming mobile money agents, providing a unique opportunity for the graduates to participate in the rapidly growing mobile financial services sector and generate much needed income.

Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, and founder of the program, Lisa R. White, said the program does more than just provide digital skills and social media marketing training.

"We are fostering a new generation of tech-savvy entrepreneurs. The students have not only learned the fundamental skills needed to navigate the digital world but have also discovered the potential of smartphones as tools for economic empowerment," she said.

The 50 graduates, proud alumni of the Destiny Recovery Program in Battery Factory,



equipping participants with mobile technology proficiency, internet literacy, digital communication, and the entrepreneurial skills necessary to thrive in today's competitive digital landscape.

During the comprehensive class, students learned the practical applications of smartphones for business, social media marketing, gaining insights into leveraging these powerful devices to enhance their entrepreneurial ventures.

Twenty-two-year-old Matthew D. Kerkula, a participant in the one-day workshop wished the program could be extended to two days.

"I learned new things. The information presented during the training added a lot for my educational journey," he said.

The Crozier Ville Township native urged Lonestar Cell MTN Smartphone University to bring this training to the rural areas where young people may not have access to a smartphone let alone the digital skills training.

The program also offered specialized training on

Japan Freeway, each received a brand-new Itel A16 Smartphone and 1gb of data to kickstart their journey in the digital realm.

The graduation ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of these determined individuals and marked a significant milestone in their pursuit of a brighter future.

Lonestar Cell MTN believes in the power of education to transform lives. By providing these at-risk youth with the skills and tools they need, we are not just bridging the digital divide; we are opening doors to new possibilities and opportunities," added Ms. White.

Pastor Jerry Saway, Head of the Destiny Recovery Program, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration.

"The partnership with Lonestar Cell MTN has been instrumental in providing our students with valuable digital skills and a pathway to economic independence. We are grateful for the commitment of Lonestar Cell MTN in empowering the

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# Jury finds Cllr. Scott guilty

By Lincoln G. Peters

Jurors in Monrovia have found Liberia's former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and three of her family members are guilty of the murder of the stateswoman's daughter,

official Varlee Telleh to carry out the attack. Both Koijee and Telleh have denied the allegation that they were responsible for the attack at Cllr. Scott's Brewerville residence. Cllr. Scott said she had

and [providing] false information to law enforcement officers about Charloe's brutal murder. Their charges followed months of police investigation into Charloe's murder. Receiving the jury's verdict, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie said the accused were found guilty by the jury panel.

"The trial jurors returned with a verdict from their deliberation room. The law says that the jurors that go into the room should be 12 persons. If not nine or more than nine that come with a verdict of guilty or not guilty, it's that verdict that stands," said Judge Willie.

"As for this verdict that has been brought by the trial jurors, they have left with guilty of the defendants. The defendants are hereby adjudged guilty," he stated.

The prosecution accepted the trial jurors' verdict, but the defense lawyers took an exception to it and vowed to go to the Supreme Court to examine the jurors' decision.

Reacting to the jury's verdict, the Spokesperson of the Scott family, Mr. Nathaniel S. Toes, Jr., said that the family rejected the jurors' verdict, terming it as criminal.

"Nobody [is] going to allow a process that was characterized by bribery, criminal activities. It's clear that the jurors were bribed and tampered with," he alleged without giving any evidence.

"You were here when the Solicitor General of Liberia was accused of tampering with the jurors and he admitted visiting their quarter, but said he did not interact with the jurors," Toes explained.

"Have you asked why the chief prosecutor was asked to leave the proceeding?" he noted.

According to him, the officers who disclosed the visitation of the Solicitor General were replaced with new officers.

He said they would not compromise because the defendants are innocent.

"I am not disappointed but I know that the process was characterized by fraud and [criminality]. I know that instead of justice, we got injustice. We are going to go to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court decision is not satisfactory to us, we will go to the ECOWAS Court."

# Weah pardons Samukai others

President George Weah threatening ailments, old age, and individuals who served a substantial amount of the time for which they were sentenced and demonstrated good behaviour while serving their respective sentences.

The President's move is part of the Presidential Tradition each year to pardon individuals convicted of various crimes by the courts of Liberia and detained at various prison facilities across the country.

The Presidential Pardon is backed by the 1986 Liberian Constitution under Article 59 which states inter-alia that the President may remit any public forfeitures and penalties, suspend any fines and sentences, grant reprieves and pardons, and restore civil rights after conviction for all public offenses, except impeachment.



The President has mandated the Attorney General Cllr. Frank Musah Dean Jr., Minister of Justice to ensure the unhindered implementation of the Presidential Pardon, in keeping with judicial procedures.

## Lonestar Cell MTN Empowers At-Risk Youth

Starts from page 10

youth and creating a positive impact in our community," he said.

Lonestar Cell MTN CEO, Rahul De, said Liberia's leading technology company remains committed its corporate social responsibility.

"We will continue to leverage our influence and resources to uplift communities and create a positive impact on society. The Smartphone University Digital Skills Program for At Risk Youth

is a testament to the company's dedication to empowering individuals and fostering economic development in Liberia.

About Lonestar Cell MTN: Lonestar Cell MTN is a leading telecommunications company committed to connecting people to the opportunities that enable them to progress. With a focus on innovation and community development, Lonestar Cell MTN strives to make a positive impact on the lives of its customers and the communities it serves.



Charloe Musu. Eleven out of twelve jurors on the panel concurred through a verdict handed Thursday, 21 December 2023 that Cllr. Scott and Gertrude Newton, Alice Johnson, and Rebecca Youdeh Wisner were responsible for Charloe's murder.

reported to police authorities two incidents of attacks at her home, but no action was taken before the third incident led to Charloe's murder.

However, Cllr. Scott and her three family members were instead indicted by Liberian prosecutors for Charloe's murder.

Following a trial that began in August this year, the jury deliberation lasted for less than thirty minutes for 11 members of the panel to find the accused guilty.

One of the jurors voted that Cllr. Scott and her co-defendants were not guilty.

The majority of the jurors said their decision was based on the evidence presented in the case and their fact-finding from the home of the former Chief Justice.

According to them, the evidence suggested that there was no break-in into the home or compound of Cllr. Scott.

"After careful consideration of the evidence presented during the trial, the jurors do hereby unanimously agree that the defendants are hereby adjudged guilty of the crime murders, criminal conspiracy, and making falsehood to law enforcement officers on this 21st Day of December 2023," the verdict said.

Following multiple police charges regarding her daughter Charloe Musu's murder, Cllr. Scott and three of her family members spent their night in jail on Tuesday, 20 June 2023.

The Liberia National Police (LN) charged them with murder, criminal conspiracy,

Throughout the trial, the accused maintained their innocence and pleaded not guilty to the indictment.

The defense team has announced an appeal to the Supreme Court of Liberia against the verdict.

The defense lawyer's pathologist Dr. Matthias I. Okoye testified in the trial that the stabbings that killed Charloe were caused/done by a muscular male.

He also noted that none of the defendants could cause these wounds.

Dr. Okoye detailed that there was a foreign DNA of a male found in the middle fingernail of the left hand of the victim.

Notwithstanding, the jury decided Thursday that the accused were guilty of Charloe's murder.

Their trial came after sanctioned Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Koijee denied ordering the brutal attack in which Charloe was murdered.

Liberia's former Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) boss Cllr. Jerome Verdier accused Koijee of allegedly ordering Monrovia City Police

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## UP vows robust reconciliation campaign

**By Lincoln G. Peters**

The Unity Party (UP) of President-elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has vowed to undertake a robust national reconciliation campaign to ensure that Liberians are united above the party line.



Rev. Luther Tarpeh

UP chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh told state broadcaster ELBC that the incoming UP administration takes national reconciliation very seriously. According to him, Amb. Boakai believes that there can be no true development and progress in the absence of unity and reconciliation. "We are going to do everything possible to unite Liberia. The

country is fiercely divided beyond political line right in the middle," chairman Tarpeh said recently. "You can see it because we defeated the CDC [Coalition for Democratic Change] with just [a] slim margin and so that shows that in his first address to the nation informed Liberians that there is nothing called green and blue Liberians, but Liberians are one. "We will rule on the mantra of unity and reconciliation because there can be no development in the absence of unity," said Chairman Tarpeh. "We will ensure that Liberians are united beyond every line including social-economic, and political and religious lines," he noted. Meanwhile, chairman Tarpeh has disclosed that Amb. Boakai and his vice president-elect Sen. Jeremiah Koug will be certificated on 27 December 2023. The UP asked the National Elections Commission to plan Boakai and Koug's certification to a new date due to their absence when winners of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections were scheduled to receive their certificates on 8 December. Chairman Tarpeh said the President-elect is currently in the United States cementing relationships and recalibrating Liberia's relationship to restore development and process.

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