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**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**

**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 03, 2024	L\$187.6581/US\$1.00	L\$189.3648/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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VOL. 13 NO. 230      WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 03, 2024      PRICE LD\$40.00

## EDC & UP to faceoff in Speakership battle

**-As Chambers electoral dispute hit a snag**

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Cllr. Fonati Koffa      Richard Nagbe Koon

## Weah nominates Samora Wolokolie as L.R.A. new boss

**P11**

Dr. Samora P. Z. Wolokolie

**Yello SANTA**

**Lonestar Cell MTN wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.**

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# Continental News

## Israel to Appear Before World Court to Counter South Africa's Gaza Charges

Israel will appear before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, to contest South Africa's genocide

you, and it will judge you without mercy," Levy said. South Africa has for decades backed the Palestinian cause for statehood in Israeli-occupied

in a post on the social media platform X.

The war was triggered by a cross-border attack by Hamas Islamist militants on October 7, which Israel says killed 1,200 people.

Israel responded with an air and land assault that has killed more than 22,000 people, Palestinian health officials say. While its casualty figures do not differentiate between fighters and civilians, the ministry has said that 70% of Gaza's dead are women and those under 18. Israel disputes Palestinian casualty figures and says it has killed 8,000 fighters.

Levy listed a series of measures Israel's military has taken to minimize harm to noncombatants.

He said Hamas bore full moral responsibility for the war it started and was "waging from inside and underneath hospitals, schools, mosques, homes and UN facilities," Levy said.

He added, without elaborating, that South Africa was complicit in Hamas' crimes against Israelis.

Hamas, designated a terror group by the United States and European Union, denies using Gaza's population as human shields.

territories. It has likened the plight of Palestinians to those of the Black majority in South Africa during the apartheid era, a comparison Israel strongly denies.

The International Court of Justice, sometimes known as the World Court, is the United Nations venue for resolving disputes between states. Israel's foreign ministry has said the suit was "baseless."

Lawyers representing South Africa are preparing for the hearing scheduled for January 11 and 12, Clayson Monyela, a spokesperson for South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said

accusations over the war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, an Israeli government spokesman said on Tuesday.

South Africa asked the court on Friday for an urgent order declaring that Israel was in breach of its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention in its conflict with Hamas.

"The State of Israel will appear before the International Court of Justice at The Hague to dispel South Africa's absurd blood libel," spokesman Eylon Levy told an online briefing.

"We assure South Africa's leaders, history will judge

## Somalia calls Ethiopia a greement act of aggression

Somalia has described an agreement that landlocked Ethiopia made with the self-declared republic of Somaliland over sea access as an act of "aggression". Somaliland seceded from Somalia more than 30 years ago, but is not recognised internationally. It said that Ethiopia agreed to recognise its independence at some point in the future in exchange for military access to the coast. Ethiopia has not confirmed this aspect of Monday's contentious deal.

Instead, the office of Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said it signed what is known as a memorandum of understanding (MoU) "to secure access to the sea and

Hamza Abdi Bare urged people to remain calm.

"I want to assure them that we are committed to the defence of the country. A part of our land, our sea and our air cannot be violated and I will defend it in every legal way," he said at a hastily arranged press conference.

The Reuters news agency reports that addressing parliament later on Tuesday, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said that "no-one has the power give away a piece of Somalia". "Somaliland, you are the northern regions of Somalia. Ethiopia has no recognition for you," he added.

Somalia also said it wanted the UN Security Council and the African Union to discuss the issue.

The exact details of Monday's



Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud addressed MPs following Ethiopia's agreement with Somaliland

diversify its access to seaports". Mr Abiy had previously described sea access as an "existential issue" for his country.

His national security adviser, Redwan Hussein, also said on X that the arrangement could enable Ethiopia to access a "leased military base" on the sea, but gave no further details. An MoU is regarded as a statement of intent and can lead to a legally binding treaty.

The development is being portrayed by both sides as a major diplomatic step.

Somalia, however, has reacted angrily to the MoU as it sees Somaliland as part of its territory. It said it was recalling its ambassador to Ethiopia. The government said the agreement was "null and void" and a violation of its sovereignty.

In a statement it added that it "considers this action as an aggression and... is an impediment to the good neighbourliness, peace and stability of the region which [is] already struggling with many challenges".

Somalia's Prime Minister

agreement that was signed by Prime Minister Abiy and Somaliland's President Muse Bihi Abdi in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, are not known. Mr Abdi said the agreement included a section stating that Ethiopia would at some point in the future recognise Somaliland as an independent country.

Somaliland's foreign ministry said in a statement that the "agreement ensures Ethiopia's access to the sea for their naval forces, reciprocated by formal recognition of the Republic of Somaliland, marking this as a significant diplomatic milestone for our country". It quoted the president as saying that recognition would be in "exchange for 20km (12 miles) sea access for the Ethiopian naval forces, leased for a period of 50 years". BBC

## Tunisian Journalist Detained After Criticizing Minister, Lawyer Says

Tunisian judicial authorities on Monday ordered that prominent journalist Zeid El-Heni should be detained and tried on charges of defamation, days after he criticized the trade minister, his lawyer said.

El-Heni will have his first court hearing on January 10 on the charge of "defaming others on social media," his lawyer Ayachi Hammami told reporters.

Police first arrested him on Thursday after he made comments about the minister on local radio in an interview that was posted on Facebook, Tunisia's state news agency said.

Tunisia's journalists union demanded his immediate release, calling his detention a "violation of legal provisions governing the trial of

reporters."

Freedom of speech and media were key gains for Tunisians after the 2011 revolution that ousted autocratic President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and triggered the "Arab Spring" protests.

But activists and journalists

say freedom of speech has been deteriorating since President Kais Saied seized wide powers in 2021. Saied has said his actions were needed to save Tunisia from chaos under what he calls a corrupt elite. VOA



Journalist Zeid El-Heni is seen in Tunis, June 22, 2023

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# EDITORIAL

## Lessons from the Totota tanker explosion

THE PEOPLE OF Totota, Bong County in Central Liberia, and the entire country generally, are still reeling from the December 26, 2023, gas tanker explosion that has reportedly left at least 70 persons dead, with dozens others receiving medication in hospitals. The tanker had been involved in an accident.

THAT WAS CLEARLY what it was, an accident. But ordinary citizens that lost their lives in the explosion that followed hours later should not have died at all, if discipline had been exercised.

UNFORTUNATELY, DUE to poverty, greed and desperation, they took advantage of the situation and went to scoop gas, which led to their painful burning and death in the explosion. Quite unfortunate and regrettable!

FIRSTLY, NEWS THAT the tanker exploded two to three hours after the accident had occurred, means the huge casualty could have been avoided if the Police and the Liberia National Fire Service had been immediately contacted to cordon the entire scene.

THIS WAS NEVER done, so hungry and poor residents saw the dangerous incident as an opportunity to scoop gas, though illegally, to help themselves, never mind the lost the tanker's proprietor was incurring as a result of the accident.

LACK OF CAPACITY of the Police and firefighters even exacerbated the situation, as these important state security apparatuses stood by and watch, while vulnerable residents, including youth, adults and women trooped for gasoline that did not belong to them.

EVEN WORSE, THE entire episode caught the country's health system that lacks basic life-saving services off balance, occurring just a day after Christmas when essential staff were on holiday.

THERE IS A NEED for mobile teams comprising health workers, Police and firefighters to patrol major streets and highways during festive seasons such as Christmas, New Year and other major holidays in order to rapidly respond to life-threatening situations like accidents, violence and fire disasters such as the tanker explosion in Totota.

THE POLICE SHOULD always been near crowd-concentrated areas such as political party rallies, church crusade grounds, sports and entertainments, not only to protect properties but to save lives.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY if the Police and the Fire Service had been contacted to respond immediately after the accident, the death toll and property damage would be minimized. These are but few lessons we must learn from the Totota tragedy. Our heart goes out to families of the victims, including survivors.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

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

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

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# COMMENTARY

By Emmanuel Macron

## The Pillars of Green Wisdom

PARIS - The ongoing war in Ukraine and the fighting in Gaza following Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack must not distract the world from our collective priorities: reducing our CO2 emissions, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050, preserving biodiversity, and fighting poverty and inequality.

This is the doctrine France is implementing at an international level, through the Paris Pact for People and the Planet and the One Planet summits. The cornerstone of our strategy must be to speed up the ecological transition as well as the fight against poverty. After all, it is now crystal clear that no country will work to protect the planet if the price it must pay leads its citizens into a socioeconomic dead-end.

The world's most advanced economies, which have also been the main CO2 emitters since the industrial revolution, must move away from fossil fuels. If we want to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement, this is nonnegotiable.

Science has set the trajectory: we must move away from coal by 2030, from oil by 2045, and from gas by 2050. While the G7 countries bear the greatest responsibility, China, which is now the second-largest emitter in history, must be fully committed, too.

The threat posed by coal must be addressed first. Today, the 2,000 gigawatts of installed capacity emit enough CO2 to take us above 1.5°C. While the International Energy Agency recommends withdrawing 92 GW per year, 500 GW of additional capacity is already planned.

While it is the G7's responsibility to move away from coal by 2030 (France will have done so in 2027), emerging economies are now the biggest coal consumers. In these countries, we need to speed up the financing of renewables, as well as nuclear power, which, as a manageable and a decarbonized energy source, must play a key role.

We must also put private financing and trade at the service of the Paris agreement. The cost of investment must be higher for players in the fossil-fuel sector. We need a green interest rate and a brown interest rate. Similarly, we need a climate clause in our trade agreements, because we cannot simultaneously demand that our industries become greener while supporting the liberalization of international trade in polluting products.

For the most vulnerable countries, we must create conditions that enable them to finance their climate-change mitigation and adaptation efforts and access the green technologies that are the new engines of growth. This implies going further than traditional "official development assistance" and doing for vulnerable countries what rich countries did for themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic: pursue an unorthodox fiscal and monetary policy.

The results are already there: in two years, following the initiative we took in Paris in the spring of 2021, we have released over \$100 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs, the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset) for vulnerable countries. By activating this "dormant asset," we are extending 20-year loans at near-zero interest rates to finance climate action and pandemic preparedness in

the poorest countries. We have begun to change debt rules to suspend payments for such countries, should a climate shock occur. And we have changed the mandate of multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, so that they take more risks and mobilize more private money.

We are going to continue working on this, including within the framework of the new loss and damage fund, where we must mobilize new private insurance mechanisms in the face of climate risk. We will start from the specific needs of the hardest-hit countries. In the first half of 2024, France and Bangladesh will sign an agreement to finance climate-change adaptation and loss and damage, with the French development agency contributing €1 billion (\$1.1 billion) in investment, and the IMF extending up to \$1 billion worth of SDRs in new loans.

This also implies identifying, on a global scale, governance mechanisms for the most crucial challenges we will have to face in the coming years, access to water being one of the most pressing. In this regard, France and Kazakhstan will convene a One Water Summit during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024.

Moreover, we must focus on building the basis of a "bio-economy" that will pay for the services provided by nature. Nature is our best technology to sequester carbon on a large scale. The countries with the most important carbon and biodiversity reserves, especially in the three main tropical forest basins, must obtain much greater resources, determined on a country-by-country basis, in exchange for their stewardship of these vital reserves. France has already launched three contracts of this type at COP28, with Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But reform of the voluntary carbon market is essential. We need to create an international carbon and biodiversity exchange that will allow governmental and private actors to organize voluntary carbon credit swaps, based on sufficiently ambitious criteria to avoid greenwashing, and to remunerate local communities.

The ocean is our most important carbon sink, and we must protect it. France and Costa Rica will convene the third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025, with the aim of updating international law, including on the prohibition of plastic pollution and on protection of the deep sea and seabed. These reforms would also enable the development of national strategies for seaboard protection by countries with exclusive economic zones.

Finally, we will not succeed if we cannot reform the World Bank and the IMF, which play a prominent role in establishing the norms and financing the green transition on a global scale. Eighty years after their creation, these institutions remain underfunded, relative to the size of the global economy and population, and emerging and developing countries continue to be shut out of their governance. But we will not be able to agree on goals and financing until every country negotiating is on an equal footing. To this end, we must review Bretton Woods governance, and ask emerging countries to assume their share of accountability in financing global public goods.

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# NEC dedicates modern workspace

## Starts from back page

as the First Vice President of ECONEC, an elevation achieved in 2021, which was attributed to the advocacy and support from Prof. Yakubu.

She then extended gratitude for his consistent support of NEC-Liberia in various regional initiatives.

In response, Prof. Yakubu expressed deepest gratitude to NEC-Liberia for the honor, while emphasizing the importance of the workspace, particularly its IT facilities, in enhancing operational capacity of electoral staff.

He reflected on the collaborative efforts between INEC and NEC-Liberia during Liberia's 2017 Presidential election and subsequent electoral milestones, including the implementation of a biometric registry in the 2023 general election.

Prof. Yakubu highlighted the importance of cooperation among Electoral Management Bodies in West Africa especially, in light of the complexities of election management, limited resources, and rising costs. He underscored the need for continued partnership and peer support.

The colorful event brought together dignitaries including Amb. Christine N. Umutoni, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Liberia; Mr. Manir Ibrahim, Charge d' Affaires of the Nigerian Embassy in Liberia; representatives of the Liberian Bar Association, members of the Board of Commissioners, senior officials, and other supporters of NEC Liberia. Editing by Jonathan Browne





# APM TERMINALS

Lifting Global Trade



# Profile of Atty. Samora P.Z. Wolokolie, Ph.D., CFE, CA, CPA, FCFIP, FIPA (Aus.), FFA (UK), CTP, L.L.B.

Atty. Dr. Samora P. Z. Wolokolie stands as an accomplished and esteemed Liberian Public Financial expert and Lawyer, marked by an illustrious academic journey and a distinguished career. With over 18 years of



impactful service, Dr. Wolokolie has embodied a resolute commitment to both academia and public service, influencing and inspiring countless aspiring young Liberians through his role as a University Assistant Professor while fulfilling substantial responsibilities within the government and private sector.

Dr. Wolokolie's career, spanning Public Finance, Certified Public Accounting, Forensic Auditing, and Law, showcases his ethical professionalism and dedication. Presently serving as the Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at Liberia's Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, he manages the nation's fiscal economy, designs fiscal policies, and supervises all government accounting operations and expenditure proposals. His previous roles



include Managing Partner at BICON. INC. Liberia, Director of Internal Audit at the Ministry of Finance, and various high-level positions in renowned firms.

In academia, Dr. Wolokolie imparts knowledge at esteemed Liberian universities. His expertise extends to lecturing at prestigious universities and speaking engagements at international forums. He is an acclaimed researcher and is currently an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the Stella Maris Polytechnic University, University of Liberia. His rich career in consulting, risk management, and audit practice across national and international markets reflects his versatility and adeptness in multidisciplinary areas.

Dr. Wolokolie's expertise spans various domains, including business evaluation, corporate strategy, governance, financial management, litigation, and project management. He is currently a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) student, reading Economics at the Faculty of Social Science and Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

# Profile of Atty. Samora P.Z. Wolokolie, Ph.D., CFE,

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and MSc. in Forensic Accounting & Audit in February 2020 and February 2016 respectively, from the Charisma University in the Turks &



Caicos Islands and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Accounting from the Cuttington University in 2007, and a Bachelor of Law (L.L.B.) from the prestigious Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia in March, 2021.



A member of several professional bodies, including the Liberia National Bar Association, Institute of Chartered



Accountants (Ghana), Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (USA), International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation Professionals, Liberian Institute of Tax Practitioners, Institute of the Financial Accountants (UK), and Institute of Public Accountants (Australia).

Dr. Wolokolie has overseen impactful audits for USAID contractors and implemented system improvements in organizations, demonstrating adherence to auditing standards and fostering internal control enhancements.

He has authored two books, "Forensic Accounting Analytics and Pension Fund Administration: A Study of Selected Administrators in Liberia" and "Combating Money Laundering: A Guide to Forensic Investigation Professionals", available on Amazon. Dr. Wolokolie's career highlights include managing audits for USAID contractors, overseeing complex multi-site engagements, and implementing system improvements across public and private sectors.

Samora is married to Mrs. Christine Reeves Wolokolie and has been married for over ten (10) years and the marriage is blessed with two children: Samora P. Z. Wolokolie, Jr. and Christira Siennesh Wolokolie. He is a devoted Christian and a member of the Roman Catholic Church.



**Happy New Year!**  
Here's to a new beginning





# Français

Emmanuel Macron

## Le jeu double du Libéria

Starts from page 8

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.

## Protéger la planète et lutter contre les inégalités, en même temps : pour un nouveau Pacte mondial face à ces défis

PARIS - La poursuite de la guerre en Ukraine et la situation au Proche Orient suite à l'attaque terroriste du Hamas et les bombardements à Gaza ne doivent pas nous faire dévier des priorités qui sont les nôtres : réduire nos émissions de CO2, viser la neutralité carbone en 2050, sauver notre biodiversité et lutter contre la pauvreté et les inégalités. C'est cette doctrine que nous déclinons à l'international, à travers le Pacte de Paris pour les Peuples et la Planète et les sommets One Planet. La clé de voûte de cette stratégie, c'est que nous devons accélérer en même temps sur le plan de la transition écologique et de la lutte contre la pauvreté, car aucun pays n'acceptera de placer sa population dans l'impasse sociale et économique pour protéger la planète.

Cette stratégie repose sur 7 piliers :

1) Les pays les plus avancés, qui sont aussi ceux qui ont le plus émis de CO2 depuis la révolution industrielle, doivent sortir des énergies fossiles. Cet objectif n'est pas négociable si nous voulons tenir les objectifs de l'Accord de Paris. La science fixe la trajectoire : nous devons sortir du charbon en 2030, sortir du pétrole en 2045 et sortir du gaz en 2050. Dans cette catégorie, les pays du G7 ont une éminente responsabilité, mais la Chine est également concernée, parce qu'elle est désormais le deuxième pays émetteur sur le plan historique et qu'elle est dans la moyenne du G7 en termes d'émissions de CO2 par habitant.

2) Traiter en priorité la menace du charbon. Aujourd'hui, c'est 2000 Gigawatt de capacités installées qui émettront, à elles seules, suffisamment de CO2 pour nous faire dépasser les 1.5°C. Alors que l'AIE préconise de retirer 92GW/an, c'est 500 Gigawatt de capacités additionnelles qui sont en planification. Là encore, le G7 a une responsabilité, celle de sortir du charbon dès 2030 (la France le fera, dès 2027). Les émergents ont aussi une responsabilité, car ils sont les plus grands consommateurs de charbon. Dans ces pays, nous devons accélérer le financement des énergies renouvelables mais aussi de l'énergie nucléaire dont le rôle est clé car il s'agit d'une énergie à la fois pilotable et décarbonée.

3) Mettre la finance privée et le commerce au service de l'Accord de Paris. Le coût de l'investissement doit être à l'avenir plus élevé pour un acteur qui s'engage dans le secteur fossile. Nous avons besoin d'un taux d'intérêt vert et d'un taux d'intérêt brun. Cela vaut aussi pour le commerce : nous avons besoin d'une clause climatique dans nos accords commerciaux, car nous ne pouvons pas à la fois imposer le verdissement à nos industries et libéraliser les échanges de produits polluants à l'international.

4) Créer les conditions d'un choc financier pour aider les pays les plus vulnérables à financer leur transition, à accéder aux technologies vertes qui sont les nouveaux facteurs de croissance, et à s'adapter au changement climatique. Cela suppose d'aller au-delà de la traditionnelle « aide publique au développement » et de faire pour les pays vulnérables ce que les pays riches ont fait pour eux-mêmes suite à la Covid19, à savoir mener une politique budgétaire et monétaire non-orthodoxe.

Nous avons d'ores et déjà des résultats : en deux ans, nous avons débloqué plus de 100Mds \$ de « droits de tirage spéciaux » du FMI pour les pays vulnérables, comme nous en avions pris l'initiative à Paris au printemps 2021. En activant cet « actif dormant », nous débloquons des prêts sur vingt ans à taux d'intérêt proche de zéro pour financer l'action climatique et la préparation face aux pandémies dans les pays les plus pauvres. Nous avons commencé à changer les règles de la dette pour suspendre les paiements en cas de choc climatique dans les pays les plus fragiles. Nous avons changé le mandat des banques multilatérales de développement, comme la Banque mondiale, pour qu'elles prennent plus de risques et qu'elles mobilisent

Nous allons continuer ce travail, y compris dans le cadre du nouveau fonds sur les pertes et préjudices, où il nous faut mobiliser, au-delà des financements publics, de nouveaux mécanismes d'assurance privée face au risque climatique. Nous partirons des besoins spécifiques des pays les plus touchés : dès le premier semestre 2024, la France signera avec le Bangladesh un premier paquet pour l'adaptation au changement climatique et les pertes et préjudices, avec un investissement de l'agence française de développement de 1 milliard d'euros, et de nouveaux prêts du FMI débloqués grâce aux droits de tirage spéciaux, à hauteur de plus d'un milliard de dollars.

Cela suppose d'identifier aussi des mécanismes de gouvernance à l'échelle mondiale sur les défis les plus vitaux qui vont s'imposer dans les prochaines décennies, à commencer par celui de l'accès à l'eau : la France et le Kazakhstan organiseront à ce sujet un sommet One Planet en marge de la prochaine AGNU en septembre 2024.

5) Construire les bases d'une « bioéconomie » qui rémunère les services rendus par la nature. C'est clé, car la nature est notre meilleure technologie pour séquestrer le carbone à grande échelle. Les pays qui disposent des plus grandes réserves de carbone et de biodiversité, notamment dans les trois grands bassins de forêts tropicales, doivent obtenir beaucoup plus de ressources en échange de la conservation de ces réserves vitales. Cela passe par des contrats pays par pays. Nous en avons d'ores et déjà lancés trois à la COP28 avec la Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, le Congo-Brazzaville et la République démocratique du Congo.

Cela passe aussi par une réforme en profondeur du marché volontaire pour l'échange de crédits-carbone : nous avons besoin d'une bourse internationale du carbone et de la biodiversité qui permette aux acteurs publics et privés d'organiser des échanges volontaires de crédits-carbone sur la base de critères suffisamment ambitieux pour éviter le greenwashing et rémunérer les populations locales.

6) Protéger l'océan, qui est notre tout premier puit de carbone. La France et le Costa-Rica organiseront conjointement à Nice en juin 2025 la troisième conférence des Nations unies sur l'Océan, avec l'objectif d'adopter un compact pour l'Océan qui actualise le droit international, notamment sur l'interdiction de la pollution plastique et la protection de la haute mer et des fonds marins, et qui permette d'obtenir des stratégies nationales sur la protection des littoraux de la part des pays qui disposent de zones économiques exclusives.

7) Enfin, cette méthode ne pourra être appliquée par tous que si nous réformons la gouvernance du système de Bretton Woods, à commencer par la Banque mondiale et le Fonds monétaire international, qui ont un rôle éminent pour fixer les standards et pour financer la transition écologique à l'échelle globale. Or, quatre-vingt ans après sa création, cette architecture financière est sous-dimensionnée face à la taille de l'économie, de la population mondiale, et largement fragmentée, car nous n'avons pas ouvert la porte aux pays émergents et en développement dans la gouvernance de ces institutions. Or, nous ne pourrions pas nous mettre d'accord sur des objectifs et des financements si tout le monde n'est pas sur un pied d'égalité à la table de négociation. Nous devons donc revoir la gouvernance de Bretton Woods, et réciproquement, demander aux pays émergents de prendre leur part de responsabilité dans le financement des biens publics mondiaux.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Boakai pledges LRD10m, 200 bags of rice

### -to tanker explosion victims

By Lincoln G. Peters

President-Elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai pledges ten million Liberian dollars and 200 bags of rice to victims of the Totota tanker explosion in

symbolic spiritual burial ceremony for all those, who lost their lives in the tragic incident, by depositing reaves in memory of the deceased. He expresses regret over the incident and encourages the

place preventive measures.Unity Party National Chairman, Rev. Luther Tarpeh, on behalf of the party commits US\$700 or an equivalent of more than 130,000 Liberian Dollars to the victims. Rev. Tarpeh urges all Liberians to prioritize safety education to avert a reoccurrence in the future."For and on behalf of the Unity Party, we pledge the amount of seven hundred (700) United States Dollars or a little over 130,000.00 Liberian Dollars. This money will be made available on Monday", he notes.

Rev. Luther Tarpeh admonishes all Liberians to begin the process of educating one another to avoid a reoccurrence of similar situations in the country.He says the commitment is from the Party, as its own way of sympathizing with the tanker explosion victims and bereaved families.A gas tanker transporting about 9,000 gallons of petroleum was involved in an accident on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 in Totata, Bong County, Central Liberia, veering off the main route before exploding hours later, burning about 70 persons to death and scores of others admitted in hospitals across the country. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Bong County, on behalf of his family.The Totota tanker explosion took the lives of over 50 persons in Central Liberia.President-Elect Boakai, accompanied by Ms Katuma Boakai and other officials of the Unity Party, including its chairperson Rev. Luther Tarpeh, visited Bong County on Sunday, December 31, 2023 and sympathized with bereaved families. During the visitation, Amb. Boakai and his entourage led a

bereaved families to take courage in the Lord, Jesus Christ."We have come to sympathize with you and to say sorry for what had happened. For and on behalf of my family, we will provide ten million Liberian dollars and 200 bags of rice towards the process. This is our own way of identifying with bereaved families", he says. The President-elect underscores a need to investigate root cause of the explosion in order to put in

## Boakai to unveil roadmap for development

By Naneka A. Hoffman

President-Elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai says in coming weeks and during his inauguration on January 22, 2024 he will lay out a roadmap that will fully articulate his government's pathway to peace, development, and progress.

Ambassador Boakai made the disclosure recently at his certification and Vice President-Elect, Jeremiah Kpan Koung by the National Elections Commission.The NEC certificated Messers Boakai and Koung on December 27, 2023, as winner of the November 14, 2023 Presidential Run-off Election.Speaking during the official certification program, NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said, the commission is reminded to continue to uphold its values, transparency and credibility as well as accountability in every aspect of the electoral process in the country.

Masam Browne Lansanah notes that on December 8, 2023, the Commission certificated winners of the Senatorial and Representatives categories in

accordance with the statute under Section 2.9 of the new elections law.

She said the commission remains grateful to all electoral stakeholders for their well meaningful contributions to ensuring successful elections in Liberia.

Speaking further, President-elect Boakai said many Liberian men and women, who he describes as soldiers of democracy, for paying the ultimate price so the country's democracy could survive the various threats and onslaught by agents of violence and deaths.

"Our lives and service must reflect a fitting tribute to the many heroes and heroines on whose shoulders we now stand. We must nationally celebrate a watershed moment in our history and our search for democratic consolidation", he adds.

The President-elect says Liberia has had its share of difficulties that landed the country and in a sea of democratic uncertainties regionally and globally, but Liberians demonstrated to the world that they can be different by offering a model and setting good examples.

The UP Standard Bearer hid

political adversaries particularly, President George Weah, who he said, conceded even before the last vote was counted, and has also committed his government to a peaceful transition, adding "We expect that the will of the People has prevailed, and we must all listen."

The certification program was graced by representatives of the United Nations in Liberia; Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves, President of the Liberia Council of Churches and President of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Monrovia Community Mass Choir, Cllr. Ernestine Morgan-Award, Commissioner, and Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves Co- Chairperson, respectively of the National Elections Commission. Editing by Jonathan Browne



## Harper City Corporation battles expired goods

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The outgoing mayor of Harper City, Maryland County has embarked on an effort to combat food-borne diseases and other life-threatening conditions within Harper City, burning expired goods for the first time in eleven years.

Addressing the media on Friday, 22 December 2023 at the Harper City Corporation waste and contaminated food and non-food items disposal sites, Harper City Inspector Isaac Weah lauded the staff and management of Harper City Corporation and the business community for their collaborative effort during the first day of the expired goods collection excise.

Mr. Weah pointed out that the collection of those expired goods from the stores and shops will also be extended in the Harper general market in ensuring that the city is cleared of expired goods.

Inspector Isaac Weah explained

Liberia, Maryland County Coordinator, thanked the city government for its tremendous effort and the step taken in collecting expired goods from the market.

He also called on the city authority to be vigilant in the process because there will be lot of obstacles and temptation from the business community. Mr. Mawollo said some of the businesspeople who are constantly selling expired goods are wicked and heartless.

For his part, Melchizedek H. Toe, Mayor of Harper City, narrated that it's important for the city authority to make it free from both consumable and non-consumable commodities. He urged every resident in Harper City to work together with the city authorities in the process.He continued that the city mayor alone can't do all the works.

"So if you want the mayor [to]



that there are a series of complaints from the citizens concerning the expired goods sold on the market in Harper.He said residents of Harper are always accusing the city corporation of taking bribe from the business community, an act that they claimed is preventing the city government from doing its job effectively.Mr. Abraham C. Wilson, president of the Liberia Marketing Association in Maryland, expressed gratitude to the city authority for the bold steps taken for the first time in the last eleven years.He affirmed the Liberia Marketing Association's (LMA's) commitment to the process of collecting and disposing of goods and assured his office's fullest support to the Harper City Corporation (HCC).

Thomas B. Mawollo, head of the Civil Society Organization of

clean grave yards, clean the stores, the shops, it will be difficult for me alone ooo," he said.

"Let me say to our people, the city ordinance apart from the Constitution of Liberia is the second biggest law within the city, and the city ordinance gives us right for us to take expired goods from in the city," he narrated.

"It even gives us right to inspect boats that are and other marine transport vessels bringing goods in Harper to determine if the products are expired or not. And it is the function of the City Inspector," Mayor Toe explained further.

He stressed the corporation's optimism to the process of collecting and legally disposing expired goods.

According to Mayor Toe, violator shops and stores will be closed if they oppose the city operation and violate the ordinance.

## Starts from page 11 Weah nominates Samora

implementing system improvements across public and private sectors. Dr. Wolokolie is married to Mrs. Christine Reeves Wolokolie and this union has existed for over ten (10) years, blessed with two children: Samora P. Z. Wolokolie, Jr., and Christira Sienneh Wolokolie. He is a Christian and a member of the Roman Catholic Church in Liberia.

He has authored two books, "Forensic Accounting Analytics and Pension Fund Administration: A Study of Selected Administrators in Liberia" and "Combating Money Laundering: A Guide to Forensic Investigation Professionals", available on Amazon. His career highlights include overseeing complex multi-site engagements, and

# CDC & UP to faceoff in Speakership battle

By Othello B. Garblah

With less than three weeks to President-elect Joseph N. Boakai's inauguration, the outgoing

financial expert. Cllr. Fonati Koffa: Cllr. Koffa is currently the Deputy Speaker of the 54th Legislature, a second-term lawmaker from the outgoing ruling Coalition for Democratic

been seen flying through the windows. Thus, it remains to be seen if these pledges will actually translate into votes.

However, Unity Party's quest for the Senate Pro-Tempore position, a fight the CDC is willing to easily let go could be an added advantage for Cllr. Koffa's speaker's dream. Although, it is not cast in stone because recent history has shown that the ruling party can control both houses-UP and CDC are good examples.

Representative Richard Nagbe Koon Rep. Koon is currently representing the people of District #11 in Montserrado

Legislature. Like his competitor, he is a second-term lawmaker from the incoming ruling Unity Party. A seasoned financial expert, Rep. Koon is a Lecturer at the University of Liberia MBA Program, he also teaches Accounting at the Undergraduate level.

Besides lecturing at various levels at the University of Liberia, Rep. Koon is an auditor. He audits clients accounting records, conducts bank reconciliation, prepares budgets, etc.

Koon has been a long-standing member of the incoming ruling Unity Party, winning Montserrado District #11 for the UP in 2017.

Rep. Koon has vowed to cut the speaker's budget which currently stands at US\$2.5 million per annum, saying that the money is too much for an office considering the competing national priorities.

His chances: Koon comes to the speakership race with huge support from incoming President Boakai. But with his party's minority number in the house, he would heavily rely on the commitments of the current opposition bloc and some independent lawmakers to see him through the finish line.

However, his chances remain bleak with the CDC willing to direct all its energies on the House Speakership race and cave in for UP to take the Senate, Koon finds himself at the mercy of his colleagues.

Unless the UP digs deeper and works overtime to change the variables in Koon's favor, the CDC is set to take the House. This would mean a tough negotiation for Boakai's regime to get some of its legislative agendas over. To be continued.

# Weah nominates Samora Wolokolie as L.R.A. new boss

By Jonathan Browne

President George Manneh Weah nominates Dr. Samora P. Z. Wolokolie Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia says the nomination is subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate, as required by the Liberian Constitution.

If confirmed, Dr. Wolokolie will replace the late Thomas Doe Nah, who occupied the position since 2020, and passed last month following a protracted period of illness.

Dr. Wolokolie is the current Deputy Minister of Finance for Development Planning; a position he occupies since the inception of the out-going CDC administration in 2018.

He is an accomplished and esteemed Liberian Public

Internal Audit at the Ministry of Finance, and various high-level positions in renowned firms.

In academia, Dr. Wolokolie imparts knowledge at esteemed Liberian universities. His expertise extends to lecturing at prestigious universities and speaking engagements at international forums. He is an acclaimed researcher and is currently an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Stella Maris Polytechnic University, and the University of Liberia, respectively. His rich career in consultancy, risk management, and audit practice across national and international markets reflects his versatility and adeptness in multidisciplinary areas.

Dr. Wolokolie's expertise spans various domains, including business evaluation, corporate strategy, governance, financial management, litigation, and project management.

Currently, he is a candidate for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) reading Economics at the Faculty of Social



Cllr. Fonati Koffa

Richard Nagbe Koon

Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the incoming Unity Party administration are gearing up for another battle-this time, the speakership.

Both parties have put forward Deputy Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa (CDC) of District #2 Grand Kru County and Representative Richard Nagbe Koon (UP) of Montserrado District #11.

Both men have emerged as the leading candidates ahead of the Speakership race for Liberia's 55th Legislature after the electoral dispute involving incumbent Speaker Bhofal Chambers suffered a setback before the Board of Commissioners at the National Elections Commission just days before the festive season.

Weeks before the NEC Board of Commissioners ruling, the outgoing CDC had already abandoned their man -Speaker Chambers leaving him to fight off his own legal battles, while coronating his Deputy, Cllr. Koffa as the party's choice for the speakership to the disappointment of outgoing Speaker Chambers.

The emergence of Rep. Koon has been enough to narrow the race to two horses, pitching the CDC against the UP exactly two months after the November 14 Presidential runoff that saw the latter wrestling power from the former.

The candidates: -Both Koffa and Koon come with their respective qualifications and experiences from various professional backgrounds, but not devoid of skeletons in their closets though.

Cllr. Koffa, is a seasoned lawyer with both local and international experiences, while Rep. Koon is a seasoned

Change (CDC) party. A seasoned lawyer and founding partner of the International Law Group (ILG).

Cllr. Koffa was a founding member of the now-fragmented Liberty Party. He rose to political prominence during the last days of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's regime when he served as chief prosecutor in the Sable Mining case.

Koffa would soon abandon the Liberty Party in 2017 to first contest as an independent candidate in his native Grand Kru County before later officially joining the CDC.

Koffa would later become a deputy speaker with strong backing from incumbent President George Weah, as he focused his left eye on the Speakership. He enjoyed a close relationship with outgoing President Weah.

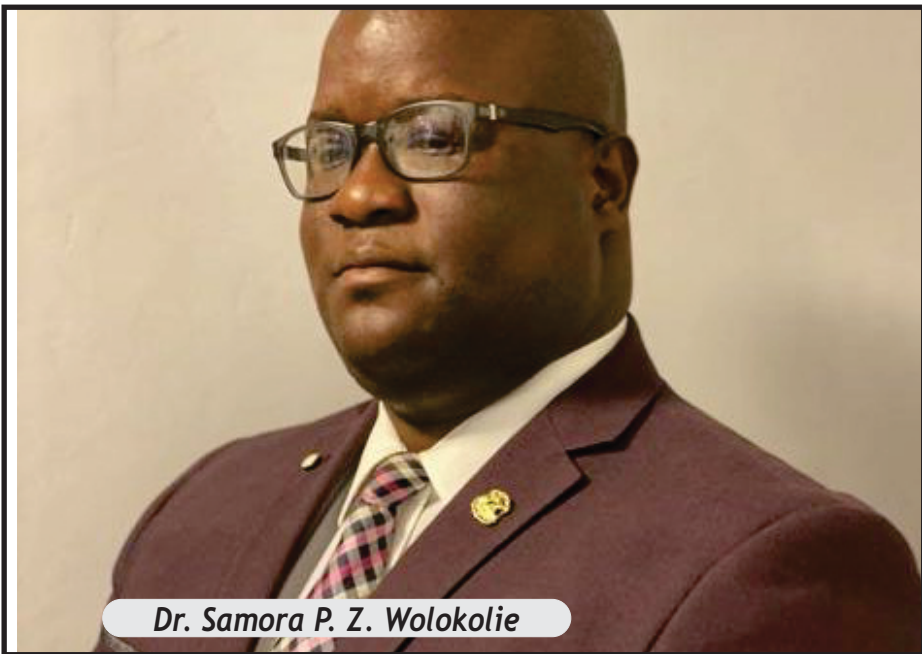
A man with many suites, Koffa has a checkered past, one that is believed, he has lived to regret after being refined.

His chances: Cllr. Koffa comes to the race with a huge support from the outgoing CDC which currently has about 27 or so representatives in the Lower House. A candidate only needs 40 of the 73 members' votes to win the speakership.

With Bhofal Chambers seemingly out of the way, and CDC's intent on retaining the third highest seat in the land, they would need at least 13 independent lawmakers to join them.

Deputy Speaker Koffa has boasted of having the numbers to get him over the line for the Speakership. About 40 lawmakers are said to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging their support to his candidacy.

But this is Liberia, where integrity in politics has often



Dr. Samora P. Z. Wolokolie

Financial expert and Lawyer, marked by an illustrious academic journey and a distinguished career.

With over 18 years of impactful service, Dr. Wolokolie embodies a resolute commitment to both academia and public service, influencing and inspiring countless aspiring young Liberians through his role as an assistant university professor, while fulfilling substantial responsibilities within government and the private sector.

His career, spanning Public Finance, Certified Public Accounting, Forensic Auditing, and Law, showcases his ethical professionalism and dedication. Presently serving as Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at Liberia's Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Wolokolie manages the nation's fiscal economy, designs fiscal policies, and supervises all government accounting operations and expenditure proposals.

His previous roles include Managing Partner at BICON. INC. Liberia, Director of

Science and Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. He also holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and MSc. in Forensic Accounting & Audit in February 2020 and February 2016 respectively, from the Charisma University in the Turks & Caicos Islands and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Accounting from the Cuttington University in 2007, and a Bachelor of Law (L.L.B.) from the prestigious Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia in March, 2021.

Besides, Dr. Wolokolie is a member of several professional bodies, including the Liberia National Bar Association, Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana), Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (USA), International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation Professionals, Liberian Institute of Tax Practitioners, Institute of the Financial Accountants (UK), and Institute of Public Accountants (Australia).

Dr. Wolokolie has overseen impactful audits for USAID contractors and implemented system improvements in organizations, demonstrating adherence to auditing standards and fostering internal

## NEC dedicates modern workspace

**-lauds partners and staff** transparently and credibly.  
**T**he National Elections Commission pays homage to the Chairperson of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, for his



immense contributions to the African region, including electoral commission in Liberia. NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, made the commendation when she dedicated a modern workspace over the weekend at the Commission, lauding staffers for the level of hard work that has finally paid off with inauguration of the workspace that will enable the NEC operates smoothly,

symbol of strong collaboration as part of commitment to democratic principles, across Africa. However, Chairperson Browne Lansanah reiterates that the dedication wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of staffers and counterparts especially, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Nigeria through its Chairperson, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, who ably helped in setting up the workspace that allows the NEC to archive one of its goals of having the facility. "We are immensely thankful for the indispensable contributions made by Prof. Yakubu and INEC Nigeria in sustaining Liberia's democratic journey," she says.

She also hails Prof. Yakubu's leadership as President of the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC), praising his role in promoting resource-sharing among Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in the region.

The tribute also celebrated Liberia's position

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 4**

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