

Advertise Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529

WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 08, 2024	L\$187.9586/US\$1.00	L\$189.7251/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 13 NO. 233 MONDAY, JANUARY 08, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00



Président George Manneh Weah

NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah



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





Continental News

Indian navy rescues sailors on board a ship attacked by pirates off Somali coast

Indian navy commandos have rescued sailors on a ship hijacked by pirates off Somalia's coast on Thursday.

could be making a resurgence.

The ship, named as the MV Lila Norfolk and which bears the Liberian flag, was en route to Bahrain before it was reported as

Somali pirate attacks, often launched from Eyl, were a huge problem for international shipping from 2008 to 2011, prompting countries from



Recent attacks on vessels off Somalia's coast have raised concerns that piracy could be returning in the region (file photo)

A navy statement said all 21 crew members had been evacuated from the citadel - the vessel's fortified area.

No pirates were found on the MV Lila Norfolk, it said. A warning had been issued to the pirates before commandos boarded the vessel.

Recent attacks on vessels off Somalia's coast have triggered concerns that piracy

being hijacked east of the Somali port town of Eyl.

Crew members - 15 of whom were Indian - sent a distress signal to a UK marine agency (UKMTO) saying five to six armed people had seized the ship on Thursday evening.

An Indian patrol aircraft was sent to establish contact with them, followed by the guided-missile destroyer INS Chennai.

around the world to send warships to patrol the area.

One expert told Reuters news agency the recent attacks off Somalia could have been prompted by the relocation of navy ships from the US and other countries from the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea to safeguard shipping from Houthi rebels based in Yemen. BBC

UN Sounds Alarm at Rising Hate Speech in DRC

The United Nations' top human rights official voiced alarm on Sunday about rising ethnic tension and calls to violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo following disputed elections.

Massive delays and bureaucratic chaos marred the December 20 ballots to choose the president, lawmakers for national and provincial assemblies, and local councilors.

So far the election commission has only announced the result of the presidential vote -- a landslide victory for incumbent Felix Tshisekedi that the opposition has rejected as a sham.

"I am very concerned about the rise in ethnic-based hate speech and incitement to violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," (DRC) said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

He said the post-election calls for violence were particularly concerning in the

eastern provinces of North and South Kivu -- which have been plagued for decades by armed groups and ethnic killings -- as well as the regions of Kasai and Katanga.

Tshisekedi hails from Kasai and Moise Katumba, one of his main rivals, from Katanga.

"Hateful, dehumanizing and inciteful rhetoric is abhorrent and can only deepen tension and violence in the DRC itself, as well as putting regional security at risk," Turk said.

He urged the authorities "to

thoroughly and transparently investigate all reports of hate speech and incitement to violence and to hold those responsible to account."

Election-related tensions are common in the DRC, which has a history of authoritarian rule and violent government overthrow.

Some 250 different ethnic groups live in the vast country. It sits on considerable mineral wealth but little trickles down the population of around 100 million. VOA



A Police officer throws a rock as opposition supporters run into an opposition leader Martin Fayulu's party house during a demonstration in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

New G7 President Italy to Push Africa Partnerships, Not Aid, Meloni Says

As Italy assumes the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said this week that a focus on developing strategic partnerships with Africa, rather than providing aid, will be key during its one-year tenure.

Developing local economies and raising living standards in Africa, she said, could dissuade prospective migrants from seeking refuge in Europe.

Meloni told a news conference that the Mattei Plan -- named after Enrico Mattei, founder of the state-controlled oil and gas giant Eni -- includes specific projects beyond energy deals. Details

northern Africa in 2023 entered Europe through Italy, according to the United Nations. Italy's stringent immigration laws and restrictions on sea rescue charities have not stemmed the tide.

Meloni's government says it is open to legal immigration to help plug labor gaps in Italy, which has one of the world's oldest and shrinking populations.

Westcott said the plan's underlying motive of reducing illegal migration from Africa is "politically realistic" in Europe.

"The far right ... is using this anti-immigrant card to increase their vote in Europe, and without constructive policies to tackle the problem, there will be more destructive policies introduced," he said.



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni answers questions during a press conference in Rome

will be unveiled later this month at a Rome conference, she said.

Professor Nicholas Westcott of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London welcomed the announcement.

It's an "encouraging development, but it needs to be delivered on," he told VOA, saying that previously "there has been more talk than delivery along these lines."

Westcott, who was formerly the European Union's managing director for Africa, said the EU had put up "a significant sum of money to encourage investment, but it hasn't had much impact yet."

He said the EU needs to "up its game in terms of effective investment in Africa."

"Now is a good time to do it. Africa is starved of investments," Westcott said. "The demands for investment allow for the economies to adapt to climate change, which is already having quite a dramatic impact in Africa."

Most of the nearly 261,000 migrants who crossed the Mediterranean Sea from

Maddalena Procopio, an Africa analyst with the European Council on Foreign Relations, told VOA that Italy wants "to build cooperation and serious strategic relationships in Africa as equals not predators." She cited the energy cooperation Africa has provided Italy that helped it move away from Russian gas.

Procopio said that while migration concerns play a big role for Italy and the EU, "the Mattai Plan is more economically oriented." "Italy and Europe in general are talking a lot about a shift from aid, from development cooperation to economic partnership," she said. "But it's unlikely that we will see a real shift, reduction of aid, so it's more likely to be both."

"The fact that the focus is an economic partnership and not only development cooperation means a good and pragmatic change of approach. Africa has massive needs in terms of financing: infrastructure, energy access, health, education."

Procopio said EU and Western public finance alone will not be sufficient to address such development needs, so private funds will be necessary. VOA

Advertise with us!

EDITORIAL

Elect a people-centered Speaker

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are gearing up to elect a Speaker that will head the incoming 55th Legislature. The race for the speakership is between incumbent Deputy Speaker, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa and Representative Richard Nagbe Koon of Montserrado County District#11.

The election is intended to replace outgoing Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who lost his district in Maryland County during the October 10, 2023 election.

As the lawmakers prepare to vote on January 15, 2024, we urge to elect the right candidate that serve the public interest. This is important to main the doctrine of separation of power and promote the wellbeing of the citizenry.

This does not mean however, that whoever emerges as the next Speaker should be confrontational or combative with the executive. There should be strong coordination with the other two branches of government to keep the nation sailing smoothly.

The Speaker should be people-centered first before exercising party loyalty so as to keep a level head. By doing so he will focus on the bigger picture that is Liberia.

Lawmakers going to vote should look for these qualities and more in the candidates before arriving at a decision who to elect. A person should not be elected merely on friendship.

A Speaker that will champion Liberia's interest will do better. He should be able to navigate his way in diplomatic cycles to win trust and woe foreign investments to the country that will provide jobs for Liberians.

He should know needs of the people besides his immediate constituency and be able to sway his colleagues to act.

The Speaker wields so much power, but should not allow himself to be intoxicated by power that could lead to his destruction. In other words, power should be exercised judiciously.

Lastly, the Speaker should be someone that upholds transparency and accountability in both his public and private dealings to command respectability. Whether it is Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa or Representative Richard Nagbe Koon, these should be some of the characteristics of any emerging as Speaker of the 55th Legislature to preside over the business of the Liberian people.

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 /

+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Read the
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

The World in 2024

NEW YORK - In my old job at the US State Department, colleagues often asked me what was likely to happen in this or that situation. Often, there was no way of knowing, and I reminded questioners that I was Director of Policy Planning, not of predicting.

That said, prediction can be a useful intellectual exercise that serves us well in the coming year.

The US presidential election in November is almost certain to be 2024's most significant event. To be sure, US elections are always consequential given America's power and influence. But what makes this election fundamentally different is that it is likely to be one in which the differences between the major party candidates far outweigh their similarities. Assuming President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump gain their respective parties' nominations, who wins will matter a great deal, both to the United States and to the world.

To be sure, there are some similarities between Biden and Trump. Neither believes in free trade, although Trump, unlike Biden, is an outright protectionist. Both favor a bigger role for government in the economy. Both wanted to exit Afghanistan. They also agree on the need to take a tough line toward China, especially when it comes to trade and investment in critical technologies.

But the differences are far greater. Biden is a career politician who believes in democracy, embraces its norms, and is ready to work across party lines to forge compromises that benefit the country. Trump is an outsider who is fiercely partisan and rejects political norms (such as accepting electoral defeat), often putting himself before the country's democracy.

Biden's foreign-policy approach is centered around America's allies, which he views as a great source of comparative advantage to the US. Trump regards allies more as economic competitors and a drain on America's treasury. Whereas Biden has cast this period of history as a contest between democracy and autocracy, and argued that America needs to help democratic friends around the world, Trump gets along far better with autocrats and seems to envy their political control. The list of issues on which the two differ significantly is long, and includes climate change, immigration policy, and access to abortion, to name a few.

As of this writing, Trump must be viewed as the favorite. His politics and persona are a better match for this populist era. Biden is also weighed down by the perception that he is too old, and by inflation and an unpopular influx of migrants. The biggest question hovering over Trump is the extent to which his legal problems will translate into political problems.

But Americans will not just be voting for a president this autumn. Their ballots will also decide whether Congress will be controlled by the same party. For now, the upper chamber, the Senate, is in the hands of Democrats, while the House of Representatives has a Republican majority. The opposite is likely to be the case after November.

If Trump wins, a Democratic-controlled House might be the most significant limit on his power at the federal level, unless the Supreme Court shows itself to be more conservative than ideological. If Biden wins, a Republican-controlled Senate could make governing very tough.

Beyond the US, there will be dozens of elections around the world in 2024. The first big one will take place in Taiwan in mid-January. Polls

suggest a close race, with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's presidential candidate, William Lai, slightly ahead in a three-way race. But what matters most is that none of the candidates seems eager to do something reckless like declare independence. Still, if Lai becomes Taiwan's next president, China would likely respond by increasing its military, economic, and political coercion of the island.

Two months later, Russia, too, will hold a presidential election. There may well be no easier prediction than that Vladimir Putin will win another term.

Another easy prediction is that Mexico's next president will be a woman after voters go to the polls in June. The two leading candidates are women, left-leaning, and running on platforms that would continue many of the policies of the outgoing president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO).

The coming year will also be defined in no small part by the war between Russia and Ukraine. The third year of the current war is unlikely to be decisive. Neither side can impose its will on the battlefield, and neither is inclined to negotiate.

Ukraine is not prepared to accept anything less than the full restoration of its 1991 borders. It may, however, be forced to adopt a more defensive strategy as Western military support is reduced. Putin appears confident that time will weaken the resolve of Ukraine's supporters in the West. In particular, Putin is waiting to see if Trump wins, in which case he anticipates, with good reason, that US military and economic aid to Ukraine would decline precipitously, if not stop completely.

Then there is the war between Israel and Hamas, now in its third month. At some point, the intensity of the war will fade somewhat and give way to an Israeli occupation of Gaza punctuated by periodic violence.

What follows in Gaza and in the occupied West Bank will be determined in large part by an Israeli election that will almost certainly be held in 2024. If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and a like-minded government continue in power, prospects for diplomacy will be bleak.

The election of a more centrist government, however, would create diplomatic possibilities for the US and its Arab partners, though any diplomatic prospects could be jeopardized by a widening of the war to Lebanon or even Iran.

As for China and US-China relations, 2024 is unlikely to be a year of dramatic change. Chinese officials are for the most part focused on the economy and not looking for a confrontation with the US that could lead to more export controls and investment restrictions. Like Russia, China will have one eye focused on US politics, although many in China are less confident that a Trump victory would necessarily be in China's interest.

The biggest event occurring in the wake of the US election is likely to be the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), which will take place in November in Azerbaijan. It is equally likely that the gathering will not produce results that meaningfully stem the crisis.

Last but not least is Argentina, where a new president campaigned on a platform of radical change. History suggests that when outsiders become insiders, reality often moderates what they do. Of course, Trump provides evidence that this is not always so. Such wrinkles are one reason why these predictions are so difficult.

OP-ED

By Shang-Jin Wei

How Can the World's Growth Engine Do Better?

NEW YORK - The global economy demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2023, as the United States defied expectations and managed to avoid a recession. India, Vietnam, and Japan also achieved impressive economic performance given the circumstances. But while these countries have good reasons to be optimistic about 2024, China will most likely be the single largest contributor to global GDP growth this year.

This may come as a surprise to many, given the wave of increasingly gloomy forecasts for the Chinese economy. To be sure, China may not reach its full potential in 2024. Only by pursuing meaningful reforms and reaffirming economic openness (the two pillars of the country's remarkably successful growth model over the past four decades) can it regain its lost momentum.

The relative contribution of a country to global GDP growth depends on both its share in the world economy and its relative economic growth. In purchasing-power-parity (PPP) terms, China's share of the world economy was 18.8% in 2023, compared to America's 15.4%. With the International Monetary Fund projecting that the Chinese economy will grow by 4.6% in 2024 - more than double the projected growth for the US - China, despite its ongoing slowdown, will likely account for a much larger share of global GDP growth than the US will.

After a quarter-century of stagnation, Japan seems to be experiencing an economic revival. Having finally escaped the deflationary trap that ensnared its economy for more than three decades, the country is projected to grow by 1% in 2024. Nevertheless, its contribution to global growth will be more limited than that of either China or the US, owing to its smaller share of the world economy and slower growth.

Meanwhile, the outlook for the United Kingdom and the European Union appears bleak. Barring an unexpected and unlikely resolution to the war in Ukraine, the best-case scenario for Europe's economy is that it will not impede global growth.

India, which is projected to grow by 6.3% this year, is expected to be the only major economy to grow faster than China. Geopolitical developments have been favorable to India, enabling it to buy cheap Russian oil, get away with measures that would be impossible if they were undertaken by China, and assert itself on the world stage. These favorable developments, together with domestic reforms pursued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, have also led to a surge in foreign direct investment. But, because India's share of the world economy is less than half of China's, its contribution to global growth will be smaller than that of China as well.

Similarly, developing countries such as Vietnam, Tanzania, Guyana, Gambia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso are projected to grow rapidly in 2024. But all account for a very small share of the world economy.

Although China is expected to remain the largest contributor to global GDP growth, it could underperform relative to its growth potential - which I estimate to be around 5.1% - in 2024. Moreover, the positive spillover from Chinese growth to other economies will also be more limited if the country's import growth does not return to pre-pandemic levels.

China's main medium-term economic challenge is its shrinking workforce. Even if productivity growth remains constant, this demographic shift would put downward pressure on GDP growth. Given the current slump in the Chinese property sector, slower-than-expected household spending, and private-sector investment, the chances of another real-estate-driven economic boom appear slim.

But the greatest threat facing the Chinese economy today is a fall into a debt-deflation trap. Because deflation increases the real value of existing debts, banks could become increasingly reluctant to provide loans to businesses and local governments. As indebted households and businesses cut their spending, the toxic combination of debt and deflation could trigger a vicious cycle of lower investment and reduced demand.

Chinese monetary authorities' reluctance to adopt a more expansionary monetary policy is unhelpful. While the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and the country's banking regulator have set key performance indicators on loan scale to stimulate lending, state-owned commercial banks often meet these targets by providing loans to unproductive state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that do not require urgent financing as much as many non-state-owned enterprises.

In fact, SOEs typically receive loans at lower interest rates than the rates on the banks' wealth-management products. Instead of investing these funds in productive projects, they often redeposit them for a higher interest rate, allowing the banks to re-lend to the same SOEs. While this process inflates the banks' reported loan and deposit figures, creating the appearance of effective monetary policy, such practices do little to boost production, employment, and tax revenues.

To avoid a deflation-debt spiral, Chinese policymakers must urgently inject more liquidity into the economy. But for the lending channel to work effectively, China must reform its state-owned banks to ensure that financial institutions focus on profitability and lend to the most productive firms, rather than creating artificial money flows. Unfortunately, China is unlikely to undertake these critical reforms anytime soon.

There is an alternative policy package in the short run. Chinese policymakers could pair an aggressive fiscal policy with the monetization of government debt. This would entail a three-step plan. First, fiscal policy should focus on building low-income housing, upgrading public infrastructure, and settling the outstanding debts of local and national government agencies to private-sector firms. Second, these expenditures could be funded through the issuance of new long-term government bonds. Lastly, the PBOC should purchase these bonds and hold them until maturity, or at least until the economy returns to its potential growth rate.

With more expansionary monetary policy in the short run and structural policy reforms in the medium term, the Chinese economy could move closer to its full growth potential, which would help lift global economic growth as well.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

OPINION

By Simon Johnson,
Daron Acemoglu**Dark Offshore Money Threatens Democracy**

WASHINGTON, DC/CAMBRIDGE - Democracies around the world face two major threats: a crisis of legitimacy, and increasingly aggressive authoritarian regimes. What links both and makes them much more dangerous is the pernicious effect of dark-money transfers, particularly those that pass through offshore tax havens and jurisdictions with excessive financial secrecy. Restricting these tax havens and requiring more transparency on cross-border financial flows should become a major policy priority for all G7 countries in 2024.

The internal threat to democracy is an erosion of legitimacy. In industrial economies such as the United States and Europe, new technologies, rising cross-border capital flows, and lower barriers to trade increased average productivity and created economic growth over the last half-century, but the benefits of this growth were not widely shared. Inequality within these countries has increased dramatically since the mid-1970s, with millions of people now feeling they have been left behind.

Support for democracy is undermined by the belief that the economic game is "rigged," with people who are already powerful and privileged gaining the most - sometimes at the expense of the rest. While this belief may be exaggerated, it accords with the reality of tax evasion.

Tax havens allow rich people not only to build their wealth essentially tax-free, but also to exercise economic and political power away from prying eyes and without any accountability. One list of tax havens includes among its top ten both small Caribbean states and widely-respected countries such as British overseas territories (British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, and the Cayman Islands), the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

The US and the United Kingdom are also complicit. Their financial secrecy rules allow an extraordinary amount of foreign (and illicit) money to find shelter (the US tops this Financial Secrecy Index).

A multibillion-dollar industry has emerged, employing some of the world's brightest lawyers, accountants, and consultants, focused on helping the wealthy and the unscrupulous. Tax havens are particularly useful for people who have ill-begotten wealth derived from bribes, theft, and other forms of corruption. Being able to hide the identity of parties in any financial transaction is a key requirement to operating a successful haven.

This form of financial engineering corrupts democracy. Even worse, it exacerbates the second major threat we face: the strengthening of authoritarian regimes. Dark offshore money makes it easier to support candidates, manipulate public opinion, and persuade people to vote for a dictator.

The dark money of the Russian oligarchs has long been a mainstay of the country's economy and political system. President Vladimir Putin's close relationships with sources of dark money has been well documented.

Less widely appreciated is the way that non-transparent transactions have allowed the Chinese government to construct a vast global empire of influence. We are only now beginning to see how much low-income countries, especially in Africa, owe to various Chinese-backed entities. Relatedly, the Communist Party of China has reportedly "invested billions of dollars" in global disinformation around the world. This includes efforts focused on recent (and likely future) US elections.

It has also become painfully apparent that a large amount of money flows from Iran to organizations such as Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthi forces in Yemen that are now raining down missiles on commercial ships in the Red Sea. Almost all this Iranian funding moves through dark channels, including (according to US authorities) entities in Turkey and Yemen.

Shutting down these channels would be difficult, but the most effective way to fight dark money - and its financing of authoritarianism, criminality, and terrorism - would be to clamp down on the dozens of tax havens that exist around the world. Doing so would strengthen tax collection in democracies and reduce the resources available to authoritarian regimes.

Ironically, several of these tax havens are at risk from climate change and are demanding international assistance to deal with potential sea-level rise and more damaging storms. If these island states and other jurisdictions wish to participate in fair and reasonable adjustment mechanisms (such as climate-related finance or debt relief), funded in part by the G7, they need to comply with increased transparency requirements.

One key element must be an extension of "know your customer" rules to all these jurisdictions, backed up by appropriate criminal penalties. Specifically, there needs to be full disclosure to G7 tax authorities regarding who owns what assets and who makes which payments to whom.

Alas, some tax evasion is legal, owing solely to the lobbying power of the ultra-wealthy and powerful consultants and accountants, who will no doubt argue that productive businesses will move elsewhere if loopholes are closed. This should be countered with a simple principle that should be shared across the G7: business profits are taxed in proportion to where sales occur.

For example, if you move your headquarters (or ownership of intellectual property) to another country, you should still pay tax in the US based on your business activities in the US. The G7 agreement on a global minimum corporate tax was a step in the right direction here, but there is a lot more to be done.

In the age of artificial intelligence, we should expect many of the rich to become considerably richer. They will also presumably use AI tools to dodge taxes more effectively. Under current international arrangements, this will be easy to do. However, AI can also help uncover tax evasion and avoidance, as well as unusual money flows, which are often illicit.

For tech barons who continuously talk about using AI for good, here is a challenge: support the quick rollout of new AI-based tools for clamping down on tax evasion and tax havens.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MONTERRADO COUNTY) FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

The Intestate Estates of the Late Eugenia Stevenson and the Late Benjamin Wordsworth by and thru their Administrator William Wordsworth and Attorney-in-Fact Marjann W. Bakar of the City Of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....PETITIONERS

VERSUS

International Petrol Line Incorporated, by and thru its CEO, Musa A. Sheriff and all other officers of the Corporation, acting under its authority, of 11th Street, Sinkor, City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, RL.....RESPONDENT

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

PLAINTIFF'S AFFIDAVIT

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, a duly qualified Justice of the Peace in and for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, at my office in the City of Monrovia, Mark M. M. Marvey, Counsellor-At-Law, and one of the Counsels for Plaintiff in the above-entitled cause and made OATH according to law that all and singular the allegations of both law and facts set forth and contained in the foregoing and annexed PETITIONER'S PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF LEASE are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief; and as to those matters of information, she verily believes them to be true and correct.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME AT MY OFFICE THIS 13 DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D. 2023.



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Handwritten signature of Mark M. M. Marvey.

Mark M. M. Marvey / Deponent Counselor-At-Law AND ONE OF COUNSELS FOR PETITIONER

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL MONTERRADO CO.) CIRCUIT SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2023

BEFORE HIS HONOR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY.....RESIDENT JUDGE

The Intestate Estates of the Late Eugenia Stevenson and the Late Benjamin Wordsworth by and thru their Administrator William Wordsworth and Attorney-in-Fact Marjann W. Bakar of the City Of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....PETITIONERS

VERSUS

International Petrol Line Incorporated, by and thru its CEO, Musa A. Sheriff and all other officers of the Corporation, acting under its authority, of 11th Street, Sinkor, City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, RL.....RESPONDENT

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

PETITIONER'S PETITION

The Intestate Estates of the Late Eugenia Stevenson, Benjamin Wordsworth, and Edna Wordsworth represented by and thru their Administrator William Wordsworth and Attorneys-In-fact, Marjann W. Bakar, Petitioners in the above-entitled cause of action, most respectfully prays Your Honor and this Honorable Court for the entry of a decree cancellation of a Lease Agreement consummated between Petitioner and Respondent for factual and legal reasons as showeth to Wit:

Handwritten notes: Filed Dec 1, 2023 1:34 PM Asst. Clerk

1. Petitioner submits that as the duly appointed administrator of the intestate estates of Late Eugenia Stevenson, Benjamin Wordsworth, and Edna Wordsworth, William Wordsworth has (in order to institute this suit), executed a Power of Attorney, in favor of Marjann W. Bakar, who is also a joint Heirs with him. Attached and marked as Petitioner's Exhibit "P/1" Bulk are the copies of the Monthly and Probate Court's April 21, 2023, Letters of Administrator granted Mr. William Wordsworth to Administer all properties the late Edna Wordsworth, including the Estates' 11th Street property; as well as Powers-of-Army mentioned above, to form a cogent part of Petitioner's Petition.

2. Further to Count One (1) above, Petitioner says that Respondent is believed to be a Liberian business primarily engaged in the sale of Petroleum products and is a party, lessee in the June 10, 2023, Lease agreement for the estates' 11th Street and Tubman Boulevard, opposite Ecobank, where the Respondent currently operates a segment of its business on the leased property.

3. That under Section 3 of the June 10, 2013 Lease Agreement (the "Lease Agreement"), Respondent undertook to, and is obligated to pay rentals to Petitioners in advance for the first three years and thereafter to pay rentals in advance annually, as and when due, vis-à-vis, on the 16th Day of June of each year, the effective date of the Lease Agreement as a condition for its continued use and occupancy of the subject property;

4. Additionally, Section 6 of the Lease Agreement further requires Respondent to pay the real estate and realty taxes for the leased property during the time of the lease agreement, which obligations Respondent fully undertook as an obligation for the Lease with Petitioners. However, Petitioner has reasons to believe that Respondent has failed, refused, and neglected to honor this obligation. Hence, Petitioner gives notice that it will subpoena the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to produce the realty and Real estate tax records in connection with the said obligation of the Respondent as emanating from the June 10, 2013, Lease Agreement.

5. Petitioner says that although, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the June 10, 2013, Lease it has dealt with the Respondent in good faith by surrendering its property to the Lessee and ensured its quiet enjoyment; thereby fulfilling its obligations under the Lease Agreement, Respondent on the other hand has grossly breached of Clause 3 of the lease Agreement for the past six (6) years, by its intentional failure, refusal and neglect to make annual rental payments to Petitioners as and when due.

6. Further to Count Six (6) above, Petitioners say that the Respondent has further been in gross breach and violation of Clause 6 of the Lease Agreement from the inception of this Agreement by its refusal to pay taxes on the property as and when due, and Petitioner's request to Respondent to furnish it with copies of the proof of underwriting the agreed tax obligations have gone without answer.

7. Petitioners submit that the pre-condition for Respondent's continuous quiet enjoyment, possession, and use of the leased premises are more fully described/stipulated in Clause 10 of the Lease Agreement, which state as follows:

"the Lessors hereby covenant and warrant that the Lessee, paying the rental and performing all the prescribed terms and conditions herein contained shall have, hold and possess the said demised premises without any hindrance molestation from the Lessors or any person acting under their authority..."

8. Petitioners submit that on several occasions through oral discussions, telephone conversations, email, text exchanges, and other sundry means of communications, it has notified Respondent about the intentional and gross breach of duties/obligations voluntarily assumed under the Lease Agreement, but that Respondent has despite its repeated assurances of honoring its obligations, failed to comply with its undertakings under the lease agreement. There have been various commitments made through emails by the Respondent's CEO, Musa A. Sheriff. Copies of the email exchanges and notices served on Respondent during the period of its breach are accordingly, attached and marked as Petitioners' EXHIBIT P/2" IN BULK to form Part of Petitioners' Petition

9. Petitioners submit and say that in spite of the several communications and the repeated assurances, Respondent has failed to pay as agreed, in advance the rent due and payable as per the term of the lease. However, the Respondent continue to occupy and use the demised premises without fulfilling the condition precedent.

10. Petitioners say and submit that the failure of Respondent to pay annual rental as and when due for the last six years, together with Respondent's gross failure to pay real estate and realty taxes from the very inception of the lease agreement are gross/material breaches of the said Lease Agreement for which a Court's decree for cancellation of the Lease Agreement ought to lie. Petitioner submits that as a consequence of the Respondent decided failure to honor its contractual obligation, despite numerous promises to do so, Petitioner here, filed an action in debt and obtained a judgment against the said Respondent, copies of which proceedings and the resultant ruling is hereby annexed and marked as Petitioners' EXHIBIT P/3" IN BULK to form a cogent Part of this Petitioner's Petition.

11. Petitioner submits that gross/material breaches are ip so facto legal basis for the Cancellation of any contract, and the Lease Agreement, consummated between the parties on June 10, 2013, having been honored by Petitioner by its tendering of the subject premises to the custody, and use of the Respondent for rent, will lie to prevent the said Respondent from unjustly enriching itself at the expense and detriment of the Petitioner and also for breach of the lease agreement by the Lessee. Hence, this Petition for Cancellation of the June 10, 2013, Lease Agreement. And the petitioner so prays.

WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Petitioners pray Your Honor and honorable Court to:

Enter a judgment of liability against the Respondent for breach of the June 3, 2023 Lease Agreement; i) for not honoring its rental payment obligation; ii) also for not honoring its obligations to pay realty and real estate tax (as irrespective of numerous requests to provide Petitioner with receipt/deposit slips have all proved futile);

Enter a Decree of Cancellation against the Respondent, canceling the Lease Agreement of June 10, 2013;

Order that Petitioner be forthwith placed in sole and exclusive possession of the Property Subject lying and situated on the corner of 11th Street Sinkor and Tubman Boulevard in keeping with the June 10, 2013 Lease Agreement;

Rule the cost of these proceedings against the Respondent; and

Grant unto Petitioner any and all other relief this Court may deem just, legal, and equitable.

PECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

PETITIONERS BY AND THRU THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL: BEYOND LAW CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR, BOBBY A. AWAR BUILDING, ADJACENT CONEX FILLING STATION, 5TH STREET SINKOR, MONROVIA, LIBERIA; CELL: 0777-529-389/0886-529-389

CLLR. MARK M. M. MARVEY

ed this ___ day of December A. D 2023

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) MONTERRADO COUNTY)



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW MONTERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER TERM, A.D. 2023

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: GOLDA A. BONAH ELLIOTT..... ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

The Intestate Estates of Eugenia Stevenson the late Benjamin Wordsworth by and thru administrator, William Wordsworth and Attorney-In-Fact, Marjann W. Bakar of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

International Petrol Line Incorporated, by and thru its CEO, Musa A. Sheriff and all other officers of the Corporation, acting under its authority, of 11th Street Sinkor, City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of LiberiaDEFENDANTS

PETITION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

TO: ANY LICENSED/REGISTERED NEWSPAPER OPERATING IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR LEGAL PUBLICATION

FROM: RANDOLPH B. SNEH, ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

GREETINGS:

UPON PAYMENT OF YOUR REQUIRED FEES, YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PUBLISH THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT, WRIT OF SUMMONS AND AFFIDAVIT IN THE ABOVE CAPTION CAUSE OF ACTION/CASE: ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) WEEKS.

AND FOR SO DOING THIS SHALL SERVE AS YOUR LEGAL AND SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY.

COURT SEAL:

DATED THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2024.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Conmany Wesseh defends US \$3.5 million special session fees

-says money is legitimate & legal

By Lincoln G. Peters

Outgoing Rive Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh has defended the amount of US \$3.5 million appropriated to the 54th National Legislature for special session sitting fees.

According to Senator Wesseh, the US\$3.5 million

for special session to discuss matters of urgency, it's normal practice that the executive pays their expenses. But if the legislature itself signed a resolution to come back there is no pay for that.

"When somebody is at a distance location and you tell them to come, you have to pay for their tickets and expenses and that is where that money

to give an impression to the public that what they are paying especially something that is legitimately owed. For the last six months, we entitled to having fuel or gasoline but for the last six months, we have not gotten any. This legitimate and budgeted" he noted.

Speaking further, he noted that the special session that was called by the President was intended to debate on the budget which he said had been done, and other national issues.

Meanwhile, the Rive Gee County lawmaker indicated that if President George M. Weah were to listen to him, he could have avoided some of the things he encountered.

According to him, the people he advised and worked with who listened to him did well while serving Liberia namely former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Dr. Amos C. Sawyer.

He further stated that even President Weah cabinet officials didn't have access to him, because there was a huge protocol around him which made it difficult to advise him.

"The trouble that President Weah has today, he looked for it and finds it himself. His recruitment was dealing with ignorance, arrogance, and corruption. Those three things damaged the administration of President Weah. The key in his appointment he was looking for those three things and so, he didn't and couldn't fight them" he stated.

comes from. But none of those things had been paid. You are telling us to wave it to the Liberian people. I want to see the day that when you are about to be paid your salary in America, you should wave it to the poor people in America" Senator Wesseh noted.

"You got some of that 3.5 million? There is a tendency, especially from the executive

given to the legislature for special sitting is Legal and constitutional, and normal practice at the legislature.

Speaking on the Spoon Conversation over the weekend, he said that there is always controversy around them when it comes to legitimate money owed them.

According to him, when the executive calls the legislature



UNHCR boosts health sector

--Donates to Redemption, ELWA, and Duport Road Hospitals

By Lewis S. Teh

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) over the weekend donated assorted items to key institutions affecting the Du-Port Road Health Center, Redemption, and ELWA Hospitals, respectively.

The donation team was led by UNHCR Country Representative Anthony AkumuAbogi with the sole purpose of beefing up the humanitarian interventions of those benefiting entities.

The latest donations to the three health centers over the weekend began with Redemption Hospital in the

challenges you face and many services you provide to the people of Liberia," he stressed.

The UNHCR Country Representative further promised continued partnership and support to the health centers in the interest of the country.

He also urged the three administrators of the health centers to ensure the donated items properly benefit the patients of their various wards, stressing the need to serve humanity with diligence, dedication, and passion.

Receiving the donations, the Officer-in-Charge of Du-port Road Health Center, Kolu Y. Johnson, and the Administrator of the ELWA Hospital, Rev. James



slum of New Kru Town on Bushrod Island followed by the Du-Port Road Health Center and finally the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville.

The UNHCR Boss presented another huge consignment of items to the facilities, including thermal (fleece) blankets, heavy-duty plastic buckets, laundry and powder soaps, hand gloves, mosquito nets, hand sanitizers, solar lamp portable led, and dry-erase boards.

Giving a unified message to the various administrators during the presentation of the donated items, Mr. Anthony AkumuAbogi emphasized that the gesture of the UNHCR also reflects the goodwill of the One United Nations family in Liberia.

"For us as UNHCR, it is very important to have a partnership with the mission of public and private hospitals like you because we've done the same with other developed institutions, but we've thought to extend it to you too considering the enormous

Freeman Garway, including the Redemption Hospital, lauded the donors for the intervention.

"This step is like a wonder of God, and also a blessing to our patients here. We have lots of challenges, especially inadequate hand gloves, unstable electricity, and lack of mosquito nets are key of our many problems we face here but the intervention of the UNHCR has put a smile on not only our faces as an administration but also the faces of our patients," Madam Johnson said.

The heads of the three health centers further promised to meet the expectations of the UN body by ensuring the donation serves the intended purposes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abogi also donated huge consignments of assorted items, including solar lights, thermal (fleece) blankets, heavy-duty plastic buckets, powder soap, mosquito nets, and hand gloves to Liberia's largest referral hospital - John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Liberia National Red Cross Society, and the Monrovia Prison Center.

MOA refutes claims from Agriculture Liberia CEO

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Just days after the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Agriculture Liberia, Armstrong Jarbah live Facebook postcard, accusing the Ministry of Agriculture of not providing any support to his organization since their agreement in 2022, the Maryland County Agriculture Coordinator Christian Neckie Natt and other heads of the Ministry of Agriculture have condemned the accusations, stressing that it's false and misleading

The CEO of Agriculture Liberia alleged during his recent live Facebook interview that the Ministry of Agriculture has not given him any support since they agreed in 2022.

But the Maryland County Agriculture Coordinator Christian Neckie Natt, expressed his strong disapproval saying Jarbah's claims are false and unrealistic in his appreciation

of the MOA and the government of Liberia.

According to Mr. Natt, Mr. Jarbah had only appreciated the government and the MOA for receiving support at the end of 2023, which he found to be highly inadequate.

He maintained that the CEO of Agriculture Liberia's claims against the ministry are untrue stating that MOA has provided a great deal of support to Agriculture Liberia since June of 2022.

He disclosed that a 75-hectare irrigated and well-laid-out field was given to Agriculture Liberia in June 2022 and the ministry again provided 18-metric-ton capacity rice mill, along with all its accessories, storage, offices, generator, and garage to Agriculture Liberia in October 2022 through a written MOU without a single cost attached.

He pointed out that such disregard for government resources was precisely how they got wasted, as people failed to acknowledge them and hence could not make

appropriate use of them.

"It remains to be seen how the CEO of Agriculture Liberia will respond to this criticism from me if he knows the good

▶ CONT'D page 11



Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Police disrobe 16 officers

Fonati pledges an independent Legislature, if

--For allegedly aiding Queen Johnson's escape

By Lincoln G. Peters
Liberian police authorities have disrobed 16 senior and junior officers, accusing them of aiding and abetting

Services Mr. Ithamar Harding (Unit 187), assuring that he would have turned her over at the police headquarters. Police Spokesman Moses Carter told a press conference Mr. Harding and several other

According to him, on 5 January 2024, Ms. Johnson was arrested at a local entertainment center in Central Monrovia known as Red Lion while having amusement.

He explained that the arrest was carried out by some junior officers of the LNP who were tipped about her whereabouts and responded to the scene.

Mr. Carter said the situation (arrest) was very tense because the place was overcrowded, and Ms. Johnson allegedly had surrogates with her. With professionalism and ethics, he said the officers managed to arrest Ms. Johnson and calm down the situation.

"Having been extracted, Ms. Johnson was requested by senior officer Ithamar Harding who promised to ensure that she was brought to the LNP headquarters for questioning and investigation in relation to the death of the late Joshua Solomon," he stated.

Mr. Carter said the Police Support Unit (PSU) vehicle moved slowly behind senior officer Harding and Ms. Johnson. "Members of the press, unfortunately, while en route to the LNP headquarters, Ms Johnson was driven off the LNP headquarters allegedly by senior officer Harding. As a result, she absconded the scene," he noted.

junior officers are accused of aiding Ms. Johnson's escape.

"Officer Harding has been disrobed with immediate effect and forwarded to the Professional Standards Division ... with the rest of the other officers for questioning on how Madam Johnson controversially escaped the scene," said Carter.

Carter stated that the disrobed officers have been subjected to the Professional Standards Division of the LNP to account for their ethical misconduct regarding the escape of Ms. Johnson.



the alleged escape from the investigation of Queen Johnson, a supporter of the opposition Unity Party (UP).

In December the Liberia National Police (LNP) declared Ms. Johnson and others wanted about the death of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) supporter Joshua Solomon.

Police said junior officers arrested her at an amusement center over the weekend on Broad Street.

But they claim that she was taken away by Police Chief Inspector for Technical

By Kruah Thompson

In the lead-up to the election of the 55th Liberian Legislature, Deputy Speaker Fonati Koffa has made a fervent commitment to ensure independence of the Legislature, if elected Speaker.

The Grand Kru County District #2 lawmaker is currently in a tight race for the speakership against his opponent, Montserrado County District#11 Representative, Richard Nagbe Koon.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are expected to elect a new Speaker on January 15, to replace defeated Representative Bhofal Chambers.

Addressing a news conference recently, Rep. Koffa expressed deep concern over what he described as partisan politics infiltrating the workings of the Legislature.

According to him, the role of the Speaker should be building consensus rather than promoting partisan interests.

"Parliamentary bodies are governed by the majority, not the minority, and in Liberia, the President does not handpick the Speaker," he emphasized, dispelling any misconception about the selection process.

Koffa stressed that, if elected, his leadership style would remain unchanged, focusing on consensus-building.

Citing the need for a Speaker who can navigate beyond party lines, he called on those advocating for party politics to reconsider their stance because politics thrives on compromise, serving as a bulwark against dictatorship.

At the time, he underscored the Speaker's pivotal role in

ensuring smooth functioning of the Legislature, highlighting the interconnectedness of Presidential and senatorial actions.

Responding to inquiries about potential interference from the executive branch, Koffa rebuffed claims of overreach, assuring that the President's role should not extend to engineering the Speaker's leadership.

The lawmaker said he believes in the independence of the Legislature therefore, he is going to work independently to ensure that the President's agendas are put fairly on the table for debate.

He expressed readiness to engage in the electoral process, and is confident of winning, given



Deputy Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

the current legislative composition.

In an appeal to voters, Koffa highlighted the significance of an independent legislature, stating "We are going into this election to win, lose, or draw." He emphasized the importance of every elected official to have a say in national processes. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Grand Kru County Health Team gets big boost

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Bank has donated several vehicles to the Grand Kru County Health Team to improve quality health delivery system to the people of the county.

The vehicles are intended for the full implementation of the Performance-Based Financing (PBF) Project to enhance quality health service delivery across the county which got underway in April 2023. Speaking to journalists over the weekend in Montserrado, County Grand Kru Health Officer Dr. J. Woyee Wreh lauded the Government of Liberia, the Ministry of Health, and the World Bank for the donation.

The donation included two Toyota Land Cruisers, one new Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep, and 23 Honda Motorbikes.

He said one of the pickups will be assigned to the Medical Doctor assigned at the Rally Time Referral Hospital in Grand-Cess.

According to him, others will be given to the doctor assigned at the Sassa Town

Health Center while the Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep will be given to the County Health Officer.

Dr. Wreh described the donation of vehicles and motorbikes to the Grand Kru health team as significant, saying it will help to reduce the health loads they often experience. According to him in late November of last year, the county's health team received a brand new Toyota Land Cruiser Jeep, bringing the total vehicles received under this project to three Land Cruiser vehicles in the county under the outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Government. Dr. Wreh extended profound gratitude to outgoing President George Manneh Weah for living up to his commitment to improving the health sector and providing the essential logistics that will increase supervision. He lauded the county's legislative caucus, the local authorities headed by Superintendent Doris Ylantu, and the people of Grand Kru County for their continued support of the Health Team in the County.

He noted that more needs to be done to further improve

the health system in the county.

"I am kindly appealing to the Legislative Caucus and the local authorities for them to help buy Solar Plate for the two hospitals in Grand Kru County instead of buying fuel, something which is very expensive for providing electricity for the two hospitals," Dr. Wreh said.

He is appealing to the incoming Unity Party Government to allow patients to pay a minimum of LD\$25 or LD\$30 at all government-run clinics and hospitals across the country as service fees to enable those facilities to run effectively.



CHO-Dr. Woyee Wreh

Read the
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

Français

650 000 \$ US pour l'investiture de Boakai

Un montant total de 650 000 \$ US a été approuvé pour l'investiture du président élu, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, et de son vice-président, le

Koung, ont remporté le second tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2023 qui s'est tenu le 14 novembre sur un ticket d'opposition, mettant fin aux six années de règne du

l'entremise du président Weah, a récemment approuvé le budget du JPTT.

"Le budget du Comité présidentiel conjoint a été approuvé par le président sortant du Liberia, George M. Weah. Le montant moyen du budget est de six cent cinquante mille dollars américains", a déclaré Me Woods.

"Nous sommes reconnaissants au président pour cette mesure prise. Il est également important de noter que ce que nous avons recommandé au président Weah a été approuvé. Il a été approuvé le 8 décembre. Nous saluons l'administration sortante pour sa coopération", a noté Woods.

Selon Me Woods, leur réunion de jeudi a porté sur le rapport du comité d'investiture, affirmant que le budget du comité a été approuvé par le président Weah.

Woods a précisé que le président Weah s'est engagé à accélérer le processus et à assurer la pleine coopération du gouvernement.

Il a révélé que toutes les agences et tous les mécanismes qui devraient être en place pour accélérer le processus sont autorisés et informés de se réunir pour faire de l'investiture un événement sans précédent.

Me Woods a également indiqué qu'ils ont reçu des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

Sen. Jeremiah Koung

sénateur Jeremiah Koung, qui doit avoir lieu le 22 janvier 2024.

Le président sortant du Liberia, George Manneh Weah, a approuvé ce montant qui sera utilisé par l'Équipe conjointe de transition présidentielle (JPTT) pour les activités d'investiture du président entrant, Boakai.

Boakai et son vice-président élu, le sénateur

gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

La divulgation du budget d'investiture approuvé a été faite le jeudi 4 janvier 2024 au C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium du ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia.

Lors d'un point de presse à l'issue de la réunion du JPTT, le coprésident du JPTT, Me Samuel Kofi Woods, a déclaré que le gouvernement du Liberia, par

L'audit ne doit pas être vu comme une chasse aux sorcières

L'évêque de la Conférence annuelle du Libéria de l'Église méthodiste unie, Samuel Jerome Quire, exhorte les administrations sortante et entrante du Libéria à donner la priorité à la responsabilité et à la transparence.

L'évêque Quire, qui préside également le conseil d'administration du Faith and Justice Network, un organisme religieux sous-régional, note que la demande d'audits par le peuple libérien ne doit pas être perçue comme un acte de chasse aux sorcières ou de représailles politiques, mais comme un mécanisme essentiel pour garantir l'intégrité financière et une gouvernance responsable.

Il encourage un effort de collaboration entre les gouvernements nationaux, les églises et les organisations de la société civile du bassin du Mano pour mettre en œuvre des processus d'audit complets

et transparents qui respectent les normes les plus élevées de responsabilité.

Il estime que de telles mesures ne renforceront pas seulement la confiance du public, mais ouvriront également la voie à une croissance et à un développement durables dans la région.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Bishop Samuel Quire

Éditorial

Ce que l'explosion du camion-citerne à Totota nous apprend

L'explosion d'un camion-citerne de gaz le 26 décembre 2023 à Totota, dans le comté de Bong, au NECTre du Liberia, a laissé le pays entier et surtout les habitants de la localité dans un état de choc. On estime que plus de 70 personnes ont péri dans l'explosion, tandis que des dizaines d'autres sont soignées dans les hôpitaux. Le camion-citerne avait eu un accident.

Il s'agissait manifestement d'un accident. Mais les citoyens ordinaires qui ont trouvé la mort dans l'explosion qui a eu lieu quelques heures plus tard auraient pu être épargnés, si la discipline avait été respectée.

Hélas, à cause de la pauvreté, de l'avidité et du désespoir, ils ont saisi l'occasion et sont allés récupérer du gaz, ce qui a entraîné leur brûlure atroce et leur décès dans l'explosion. Quelle tristesse et quel regret !

D'abord, le fait que le camion-citerne ait explosé deux à trois heures après l'accident signifie que le nombre élevé de victimes aurait pu être évité si la police et le service national des pompiers du Liberia avaient été alertés rapidement pour sécuriser tout le secteur.

Cela n'a pas été fait, alors que les résidents affamés et pauvres voyaient l'incident dangereux comme une opportunité pour récupérer illégalement du gaz, sans se soucier des pertes que le propriétaire du camion-citerne subissait à cause de l'accident.

Le manque de capacité de la police et des pompiers a même aggravé la situation, car ces institutions de sécurité essentielles de l'État sont restées spectatrices tandis que des résidents vulnérables, y compris des jeunes, des adultes et des femmes, se sont rués pour obtenir de l'essence qui ne leur appartenait pas.

Pire encore, l'ensemble de l'épisode a pris au dépourvu le système de santé du pays qui manque de services de base de secours, survenant juste un jour après Noël, lorsque le personnel indispensable était en vacances.

Il est nécessaire de déployer des équipes mobiles composées de travailleurs de la santé, de policiers et de pompiers pour patrouiller dans les principales rues et autoroutes pendant les saisons festives telles que Noël, le Nouvel An et d'autres grandes vacances afin de répondre rapidement à des situations mettant la vie en danger, telles que des accidents, des violences et des catastrophes liées au feu, comme l'explosion du camion-citerne à Totota.

La police devrait toujours être proche des zones à forte concentration de foule, telles que les rassemblements politiques, les terrains de croisades religieuses, les événements sportifs et de divertissement, non seulement pour protéger les biens mais aussi pour sauver des vies.

Nous sommes convaincus que si la police et les pompiers avaient été contactés pour intervenir immédiatement après l'accident, le nombre de décès et les dommages matériels auraient été réduits au minimum. Ce ne sont là que quelques-unes des leçons que nous devons tirer de la tragédie de Totota. Nos pensées vont aux familles des victimes, y compris aux survivants.

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 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

Read the
NewDawn everyday
&

Advertise with us!

Français

Starts from page 8

650 000 \$ US pour

rapports des différents groupes de travail, ajoutant qu'ils ont établi plus de douze groupes qui ont travaillé avec divers ministères et agences du gouvernement sur des domaines systématiques de la gouvernance.

"Nous espérons que lors de la prochaine réunion, nous aurons toutes les informations nécessaires pour aller de l'avant. Nous avons reçu ce qui était le plan du rapport final. Nous avons un comité qui a été mis en place", a-t-il dit.

Me Woods a déclaré que des progrès significatifs ont été réalisés et qu'ils veilleront à une transition pacifique.

Pour sa part, le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères sortant, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemaya, a exprimé son enthousiasme et sa gratitude aux dirigeants

entrants pour leur niveau de coopération et de relations de travail cordiales pour l'avènement d'un nouveau leadership.

"Nous continuerons à donner au public les informations nécessaires en ce qui concerne les progrès du JPTT. Nous avons eu une réunion avec le président du Liberia, M. Weah, et Boakai et elle a été très fructueuse et productive", a déclaré Kemayah.

"Nous ne faisons pas une faveur au peuple libérien, mais c'est plutôt une obligation inconditionnelle. Ce n'est pas la dernière et il y en aura beaucoup d'autres. Mais nous sommes très heureux du niveau de coopération et de l'esprit de nationalisme", a-t-il déclaré.

J'espère que cette traduction est claire et précise. Veuillez me faire savoir si vous avez d'autres questions.

Starts from page 8

L'audit ne doit pas

progrès de l'État.

L'évêque méthodiste a souligné que le gouvernement entrant doit prendre des mesures proactives pour la stabilité de la nation et faciliter des dialogues constructifs avec les dirigeants des jeunes, les organisations de la société civile et les dirigeants communautaires pour comprendre et résoudre les problèmes sous-jacents qui alimentent la glorification de la mauvaise conduite au Libéria. L'évêque Quire souhaite également que l'administration entrante lance des programmes qui canalisent l'énergie et l'enthousiasme des jeunes vers un engagement positif, la responsabilité civique et le développement des compétences, favorisant un sentiment de but et de contribution à la construction de la nation.

Il a déclaré qu'après son investiture le 22 janvier 2024, le président élu Boakai devrait lancer des campagnes éducatives visant à promouvoir une citoyenneté responsable, une conduite éthique et l'importance d'un engagement pacifique chez les jeunes, en mettant l'accent sur la valeur du dialogue et de la responsabilité civique.

Il a exhorté les dirigeants à tous les niveaux à adopter des comportements qui respectent les principes d'engagement éthique, de respect de l'État de droit et de résolution pacifique des différends, servant d'exemples pour la jeune génération.

Il a déclaré qu'en tant que pays uni, il incombe à tous les

Libériens de prendre des mesures proactives pour s'attaquer rapidement à ces problèmes, ajoutant qu'en cultivant une culture de citoyenneté responsable, d'engagement éthique et de dialogue constructif, les Libériens peuvent protéger l'unité, le progrès et la prospérité de la nation.

"Travaillons ensemble pour inculquer des valeurs qui nous propulseront vers un avenir plus brillant et plus uni alors que nous nous engageons dans ce nouveau chapitre de l'histoire de notre nation." Il a appelé la communauté chrétienne au sens large à faire de la foi la pierre angulaire de ses actions, ajoutant qu'en entrant dans l'année 2024, nous réaffirmons notre engagement envers l'amour, la compassion et le service aux autres. "Notre foi nous lie ensemble dans un but partagé, nous permettant d'être des phares d'espoir et des agents de changement positif", a-t-il déclaré. Il a rappelé à tous les citoyens et résidents étrangers qu'ils font partie intégrante de la communauté vibrante et diversifiée du pays, les exhortant à "embrasser l'esprit de solidarité, favorisant un environnement de compréhension, de respect et de collaboration. Ensemble, luttons pour un Libéria qui prospère grâce à l'unité, la diversité et le progrès collectif."

Par ailleurs, le conseil d'administration du Faith and Justice Network a présenté ses condoléances aux familles et à la communauté touchées par la terrible explosion d'un camion-citerne de carburant à Totota, dans le comté de Lower Bong, le mardi 26 décembre 2023.

L'évêque Quire a noté que la perte de plus de 60 précieuses vies dans cet incident est une immense tragédie qui a profondément ébranlé tout le monde.

Le candidat à la présidence de la Chambre promet de satisfaire les employés législatifs



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Deputy Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

Le candidat à la présidence de la Chambre des représentants, le conseiller Koffa, a promis de traiter équitablement les employés législatifs qui affirment ne pas avoir été traités équitablement en ce qui concerne les avantages.

Le vice-président de la Chambre a fait cette promesse à la suite d'une manifestation organisée par le personnel sur les terrains du Capitole le jeudi 4 janvier 2024. À la suite d'une séance supplémentaire de la Législature, les employés ont exprimé leur insatisfaction, alléguant qu'ils n'avaient pas reçu de paiement pour les deux derniers mois, malgré les dispositions constitutionnelles à cet égard.

Ils ont également allégué que les sénateurs et les représentants ont déjà été indemnisés pour la séance supplémentaire. Leurs avantages présumés impayés ont conduit à la manifestation sur la colline du Capitole.

En réponse à la manifestation, le vice-président Koffa a rassuré les employés que s'il était élu président, il travaillerait étroitement avec le comité des Règles, de l'Ordre et de l'Administration pour traiter leurs préoccupations.

Me Koffa, le candidat du parti Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) pour le poste de président

de la Chambre des représentants, est vivement contesté par son actuel supérieur, le président sortant Bhofal Chambers.

Chambers a remis en question à plusieurs reprises la préparation de Koffa pour le poste législatif supérieur, l'accusant d'un prétendu conflit d'intérêts concernant ses intérêts juridiques avec des institutions privées et publiques.

Mais Koffa a rejeté les assertions de Chambers. Son rival est le représentant réélu du comté de Montserrado, Richard Koon, soutenu par le parti d'opposition Unity Party (UP), qui dirigera le gouvernement entrant après l'inauguration présidentielle du 22 janvier 2024.

Koffa a reconnu des limitations pendant son mandat de vice-président mais s'est engagé à rectifier les griefs s'il est élu.

En tant que vice-président, il a déclaré être limité dans le traitement des problèmes. Mais le législateur du comté de Grand Kru a promis de collaborer avec le comité des Règles, de l'Ordre et de l'Administration de la Législature s'il est élu.

Il a déclaré qu'une série de mesures sera proposée pour atteindre la parité pour le personnel.

"Il y a plusieurs problèmes à la Chambre des sénateurs qui doivent être résolus, y compris le transport et le système de paiement pour les sessions. Notre personnel n'a pas été traité équitablement, et il y a plus que nous pouvons faire", a déclaré Koffa.

Il a exposé des plans pour introduire des mesures visant à aligner le personnel législatif sur le reste du gouvernement, reconnaissant un système de paie défectueux au Capitole.

Me Koffa est également convaincu que le système de paie au Capitole présente quelques problèmes, ajoutant que pour embaucher le personnel nécessaire pour leur bureau, ils sont contraints de déduire de leurs salaires pour augmenter les salaires des employés.

Côte d'Ivoire : des habitants dénoncent des démolitions abusives en lien avec la CAN



En Côte d'Ivoire, les autorités du district autonome d'Abidjan ont annoncé, samedi 6 janvier, aux habitants du quartier précaire de Boribana qui occupent illégalement le domaine public, selon le gouvernement, qu'ils seraient « déguerpis », le lundi 8 janvier et chassés de ce vaste terrain qui se trouve aux abords du Quatrième pont d'Abidjan. Samedi, les quelque 28 000 habitants de Boribana ont réuni la presse pour annoncer qu'ils refusaient la destruction, sans compensation, d'un quartier précaire qui existe depuis plus de 60 ans. Ils soupçonnent les autorités de vouloir « nettoyer » la ville avant le lancement de la CAN, qui doit débuter dans six jours. Dans le sous-quartier de Boribana, les petites maisons aux toits de tôle sont désormais coincées entre la lagune Ebrié

et l'imposant Quatrième pont qui doit ouvrir à la circulation dans les prochains jours. Parmi les 28 000 habitants, beaucoup y sont nés, y ont grandi et ont passé leur scolarité. L'annonce des services du ministre-gouverneur Cissé Baongo de détruire le quartier dans les prochaines 72 heures, a créé un vif émoi.

« Personne ne décide de naître pauvre » « Humainement parlant, ce n'est pas possible. Même un animal, quand on veut le déplacer, entretenir son enclos, il faut trouver un point de chute d'abord. Nous sommes des humains, nous avons des droits, nous sommes des Ivoiriens, nous sommes nés ici, personne ne décide de naître pauvre. On n'a pas d'endroit où aller, on va aller où ? C'est la question qui est là. Nous allons rester ici. S'ils veulent nous enterrer ici, ils nous enterreront ici. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que nous, nous allons rester ici », s'indigne Ignécin Adama, père de famille de 51 ans. « Nous avons essayé d'expliquer cela à la police. Nous avons essayé de rentrer en contact avec les autorités du district d'Abidjan. Personne ne nous a écoutés et on n'a pu joindre personne », alerte de son côté Keïta Moribo, représentant du quartier.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia: Presidential Appointment in The Eleventh Hour of Transition

By J. Patrick Flomo

To govern the transfer of power leading up to a president-elect's inauguration, the 55th Legislature must enact a Presidential Transition Act rather than leaving it up to Executive Order. Having the peaceful transfer of power as the epoch of democratic elections, a statutory law is necessary to govern the process to ensure everything is done legally.

The transfer of power (to paraphrase Theodore White) - the power to marshal and mobilize, the power to send men and women to kill and be killed, the power to tax and destroy, the power to create and the responsibility to do so, into the hands of one man or woman is awesome and the process should not be left to the whims of whoever is in power at the moment. This 54th Legislature must therefore enact legislation in order to ensure that the process is adequately safeguarded at all times.

Due to the silence of the Constitution regarding presidential transitions, as well as the absence of a Statutory Act to guide the transitional process in Liberia, the incumbent has constitutional rights to appoint and nominate—even at the eleventh hour before the end of his or her presidential term. But is that apropos? An epoch of a Constitutional Republic entails the sacred and ritualistic transfer of power, which cannot be left to the whims of those who happen to be in power in any given moment. There comes a time when it is we, the PEOPLE, who must decide. Now is the time to act!

A presidential transition in a Constitutional Republic refers to the transfer of the awesome power of the Republic from the incumbent president to the president-elect. I would describe this period as one of anxiety, uncertainty, frustration, and at times ecstasy. It is a period when the Republic's constitutional authority seems to be in fog because the incumbent still has the authority to make decisions—but at what level? Would he or she be able to order the military into action, or appoint a position of significant importance that would need senate confirmation?

President Weah's nomination of Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean to replace Joseph Nagbe as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, at the 11th hour of his presidency, has raised a question of presidential constitutional power in transition. Liberia does not have an official act that stipulates how every step of the transition should be exercised. There is no ambiguity in the Constitution when it comes to George Weah's right to make an appointment, since it is silent on the matter; however, is it completely appropriate for him to take action at this time? If the Senate does not hold confirmation hearings for the nominee, what happens then? As a result of the actions of such drama, there is sure to be controversy and constitutional debate in the future.

The exercise of electing a new government can be conflicting, because emotions tend to take precedence over rationality. Without statutory law to govern transitional protocol, the transition is sure to become problematic. The razor-thin victory John F. Kennedy had over Richard Nixon in the 1960 presidential election caused Congress to create the Presidential Transitional Act of 1963 to ensure smooth transition. Since Liberia does not have a similar act, Ellen John-Sirleaf had to issue an Executive Order 91 in order to guide the process. During the transition from George Weah to Boakai, a document known as Executive Order 123 was issued by Weah in 2023.

Despite learning in 2017 that Liberia does not have a Presidential Transition Act and, despite knowing that there will be a presidential election in 2023, the lawmakers have failed to pass such a law. In my opinion, this is an absurdity of legislative incompetence of an unprecedented magnitude.

For the first time in more than a century, Liberia held its first multi-party election in 1985. As a result, the era of one-party elections had come to an end. My astonishment is that we did not take into account the fact that there will be multi-party elections hereafter, and the transition of the presidency will become an integral part of the ritual of our political system. In 2017, when the outgoing president had to issue an Executive Order to facilitate the transition, it should have raised concern in the Legislature that this is not a prudent way to transfer the awesome power of the Republic from one government to another. It strikes me as hypocritical that any member of the Legislature who had served for more than 10 years are questioning Weah's nomination at the 11th hour of his tenure.

Since the Constitution of Liberia does not address the question of presidential transition, the people of Liberia look forward to the incoming 55th Legislature bringing it up in the next legislative session for discussion and debate. It is necessary for us, the people, to take part in this debate in order to exert pressure on the legislature so that the bill can be passed.

A Constitutional Republic such as Liberia, where power is ceremonially transferred from the incumbent to the president-elect, is an epochal event in the course of all elections. As the state of transition unfolds, you can get a sense as to how the incoming government will begin its work from the moment it takes office.

The question of presidential nominations or appointments during the period of transition should be at the forefront of the debate—if and when the 54th Legislature takes up the question.

The author J. Patrick Flomo resides in Columbus, Ohio, USA

zamawood@gmail.com, (614) 707 3636



The author

DATE WITH THE NATION
WITH D. WAHNE, JR.

A Visit With The Liberianization Policy

The Liberianization Policy is 47 years old. Initiated by President William Richard Tolbert Jr. in 1976, the policy is designed to be the fulcrum to achieving a Liberianize economy and build strong indigenous-based business institutions that would takeover and possess the economy of the country dominated by foreign owned business institutions.

Why did President Tolbert think the Liberianization Policy was necessary? What did he hope to achieve? What were the historical imperatives that informed his decision?

Were there signs of potential dangers that the policy was designed to address and avert? This article may provide some lights on the basic questions asked.

Before 1870, the Liberian economy was devoid of foreign business institutions and foreign direct investments. Liberians were in charge of economic activities which included exports and imports. Ship building, trading, and exports of rice, oil and other products were solely Liberians.

Foreign businesses were not allowed beyond the Port of entry to trade. Boundaries were set that foreign traders could not cross. The Port of Entry Law established limitations for foreign businesses which was also a shield against interactions with indigenes.

There was absolute protection of Liberian businesses against foreign competition and dominance.

When President E. J. Roye took office in 1870, he nursed the idea of changing the status quo to expand the economy and to absorb the indigenes as citizens. He therefore initiated the Absorption and Open Door Policies to assimilate natives and to attract foreign direct investments.

These two policies led to the downfall of his government. Presidents after Roye, including Arthur Barclay tried to implement these two policies, but were opposed vehemently by conservatives until William V. S. Tubman took Office in 1944 and ensured their implementation with strong hands and political will.

Since the establishment of the Open Door Policy which brought millions of dollars in foreign direct investments, indigenous-based businesses were swallowed up. Liberia became a foreign based economy with less Liberian participation. As a result of this situation, Liberia's politics to date is controlled remotely by these giant foreign business institutions.

In 1976, President Tolbert decided to take policy decisions that would reposition the Liberian economy with Liberians having an upper lead. The Liberianization Policy was his adopted strategy. About 17 businesses were exclusively set aside for Liberians. This would be a gradual process of growth that would lead to Liberian domination provided implementers took it seriously and interpreted the vision adequately. The same year the Liberia Business Association was established to ensure the effectiveness and smooth execution of the policy.

Placed within the domain of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation, the policy has, over a period of 47 years, been transformed into a foreignization policy with all exclusive businesses for Liberians taken over by foreigners, using Liberians as fronts. The regulatory arms of the policy have been weakened and compromised up to present.

Since its establishment, what has the policy achieved for Liberians? Are we any close to taking over our economy? Do we have an independent structure with legislative mandate to monitor, protect, advocate, source opportunities and implement the policy?

President George Manneh Weah came with a determination to achieve a total Liberianization, but unfortunately, those who should implement his vision that Liberians would no longer be spectators in their economy failed to understand the vision.

They proceeded in the same path of previous administrations and expected a voodoo kind achievements. Today, the question is being asked to the embarrassment of the President. Are Liberians no longer spectators?

The Liberia Institute of Public Administration submitted a proposal to the President through the Ministry of State on the Liberianization Policy. It proposed the setting up of an independent structure such as the Liberianization Agency for the Development and Supervision of Indigenous Businesses.

That Agency would be the implementer of the policy, manage the funding for the growth of small Liberian businesses, provide training for Liberia entrepreneurs, stand as a collateral institution for loan procurement, assist in sourcing business loans for Liberian businesses, ensure repayments, provide technical supervision for the growth of Liberian businesses, take measures to arrest the practice of Liberians fronting for foreign firms as Liberian businesses, and work with the Legislature to grant Liberians equity share participation rights in concession agreements.

The debate of establishing an independent agency has been rejected in high circles on the strength that government is too large to accommodate a new agency. The politics that goes with it to maintain its base at the MoC is complex and ferocious.

With this resistance, one would wonder what the fate of the policy would be. If late President Tolbert should visit with us today, he would ask for the dividends of the Liberianization Policy he established 47 years ago.

Unfortunately there would be nothing to show as this policy is stuck in a web of jargon, mediocrity, fantasies, compromises, and political complacencies. It would take the political will of leaders to boldly confront the obstacles or be bought to keep it as it is. What would the Boakai's approach be? Would he be different or will this policy remain stuck forever in a selfish battle at the Ministry of Commerce?

As the saying goes in Liberia, we cannot do the same thing over and over and expect a different result. We must be innovative. The Boakai's Administration is under obligation to rescue and I think the nation's economy needs to be rescued from foreign domination.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2023. www.project-syndicate.org

Read the
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

Movers and Shakers of 2023

Liberia made a dramatic turn at the close of the year that has kept the world spellbound, particularly West Africa and the entire Africa with the conduct of peaceful democratic elections, void of outside involvement, the first ever in the last 27 years (1997 - 2023).

elections amid barrage of challenges, including financial, logistical, and human capacity but did a miraculous job is Madam Browne Lansanah. Both personalities deserve our choice because they stood tall in ensuring that Liberia did not go down for any selfish interest.

Despite coming under immense pressure from diverse

They chose to hold elections differently, for the sake of the Motherland and its people, ignoring recent trends in West Africa where electoral disputes or dissatisfactions from the democratic process led to mistrust and subsequent military coups or attempted coups. Neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone are classic examples.

Liberia is stable today because of magnanimous concession made by President Weah even before the final results of the runoff poll, a move that is never heard of among his contemporaries in ECOWAS. This was a demonstration of leadership unmatched.

That singular move by Mr. Weah angered members of his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) who still think the Standard Bearer conceded hastily, believing that a second term in power is a right, rather than a privilege from voters.

However, President Weah exhibited true leadership in spite of outcry from within, telling fellow CDCians that the game is over and it's time to park and leave, giving way to President-Elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koug of the Unity Party, because the Liberian people have spoken clearly and loudly thru their votes. That was the decisive moment that has kept not only Liberia peaceful and kicking but the entire West Africa, for which we believe strongly that the outgoing President deserves our recognition.

Already transitional work and discussions between the outgoing administration and the incoming administration are ongoing to pave the way for smooth turnover on January 22, 2024, Inauguration Day. It took statesmanship in President Weah to make these pathways possible.

Congratulatory messages have been pouring in since the announcement of final results of the 14 November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election and official declaration of Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai as President-elect of Liberia with Mr. Weah peacefully conceding. *Story by Jonathan Browne*



Président George Manneh Weah

NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah

The progress or destruction of a nation is often orchestrated either by a group of people; sometimes led by an individual or done thru collective contribution of all.

sources, the NEC under her leadership kept focus in delivering free, fair, and transparent elections that the administration had promised.

She did so both in the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Legislative Elections and the November 14, 2023, Presidential runoff election, won by the opposition Unity Party with no contention whatsoever, from the losing side that graciously conceded.

That Liberia is peaceful, stable, and filled with hope, looking into the future with dreams of economic prosperity, development, security, good governance and better standard of life is firstly because of the commitment of these two leaders, and generally, the entire citizenry who desire a progressive nation.

Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah and her team of dedicated staff at the NEC demonstrated love for country, and integrity that has won them admiration on the Continent and beyond, symbolizing a departure from the ugly past that plunged Liberia into a devastating civil war on 25 December 1989.

In the case of Liberia, 2023 was a very memorable period that has been recorded in history that the region and the whole of Africa reference each time issues of elections are discussed with key actors receiving due credits.

The editorial staff of the NEW DAWN dived into the ups and downs of the year under review and picked two patriotic citizens of the Land, President George Manneh Weah and the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission Davidetta Browne Lansanah as Movers and Shakers of 2023, for their respective heroic and distinct roles in the country's democratic advancement.

Mr. Weah had earlier made a promise at the United Nations General Assembly last October to hold free, fair, and transparent elections in 2023, which he did, bringing pride not only to Liberians but the region. Besides, the woman who presided over the

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

S/Court can prohibit

Starts from back page

performing its duty by the Supreme Court.

"The Liberian Constitution provides in Article 65 in part its judgment role; and Article 66 goes further to say that: The SC shall be the final arbiter of constitutional issues," said Sen. Wesseh.

"The Legislature shall make no law nor create any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted to it," he continued.

According to Sen. Wesseh, the the court is seized of this matter that some colleagues want the Senate to proceed with.

He said he thinks that the Senate is by law required to await a determination of this matter by the Supreme Court.

Sen. Wesseh had two quarries on the confirmation hearing of President Weah's nominee for the Supreme Court bench.

They were whether the Senate should go ahead with the confirmation in the face of the Supreme Court actions on the matter, or whether a vacancy exists on the Supreme Court bench that requires filing.

In answering those questions, he said the Senate should not go ahead with the confirmation hearing. He also said that his friend and brother have not been well for the past couple of years, noting that he has been absent from the bench for at least eight consecutive months.

Sen. Wesseh explained that Nagbe wrote the President on 21 December 2023 requesting retirement, the President wrote the Senate on 26 December nominating his replacement, and the Chief Justice wrote the President on 27 December announcing Nagbe's retirement.

"Should we read anything into this, coming a day after the nomination letter is made public supporting and advising the President on the actions, he took on the matter without any reference to a controlling law?" argued Sen. Wesseh.

"I fully support Senator Sherman on this. He obviously benefited and shares his forty years of experience as a Counsellor of the Supreme Court Bar," he added.

Sen. Wesseh said to the best of his knowledge, there is no vacancy in law and fact, adding that without going into the details of the Judicial Law and Civil Service Law covering retirement, he would look at the chronology of the relevant events/communications from and about Justice Nagbe.

"My friend and brother has not been well for the past couple of years. He has therefore been absent from the Bench for at least eight consecutive months."

"He wrote the President on December 21, 2023, requesting retirement; the President wrote the Senate on December 26 nominating his replacement; the Chief Justice wrote the President on December 27. Should we read anything into this, coming a day after the nomination letter is made public supporting and advising the President on the actions, he took on the matter without any reference to a controlling law?"

He added that the Chief Justice's apparent unilateral action came a day after the President's nomination when the opinion of the Court was not sought.

MOA refutes claims from Agriculture Liberia CEO

Starts from page 6

the ministry has done for him," Mr. Natt said. The Maryland County Agriculture Coordinator clarified that the role played by Deloitte in the Agriculture Liberia (AL) MOA LACF grant was misinterpreted by Mr. Jarba and that it was Deloitte who incorporated them.

He stated that Deloitte's role was to conduct due diligence on the business plans submitted by the business plan experts hired by the MOA. The actual champions of AL's application for the grant were the MOA Maryland team, the STAR project, and the Minister of Agriculture. He further expressed dismay at the tendency of Liberians to downplay their efforts and glorify foreigners.

While emphasizing that credit should be given where it is due, and in this case, it is to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Liberia.

the County Focal Person of the MOA STAR project, Agriculture Liberia (AL) said the matching grant was approved in May 2023 and disbursement started July of the same year. He pointed out that with several verbal communications with AL Country Director (Mr. Chealy Brown Dennis), the CAC and Mr. Pshorr are still waiting for the inputs and equipment to be transported to Maryland. He disclosed that materials including 444 bags of fertilizers of different kinds, 4 motorcycles, a truck, a tractor, two power tillers a mini harvester, and a mini paddy thresher among others, are still being received and currently kept by Armstrong CEO of Agriculture Liberia and his team in Nimba. This situation has raised serious concerns by farmers in the county, who are questioning why Nimba when the vendor was supposed to deliver on site in Maryland.

For his part, Mr. Flomo C. Pshorr,

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

S/Court can prohibit confirmation hearing

--Sen. Wesseh the exercise was "dead wrong."

By Ethel A. Tweh

Outgoing River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh has dismissed "some pedestrian view" that once an agency or branch of government is constitutionally charged, it can not be prohibited by the Supreme

President George Manneh Weah's recent nomination of Justice Minister Dean to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court has attracted mixed reactions, with the opposition Unity Party (UP) challenging the Senate's planned confirmation hearing

replace ailing Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe on the high court bench, but there have been questions about whether there is any vacancy at the high court.

In the wake of the events, some members of the public believed that the court could not stop the Senate from carrying out its constitutional duty to conduct confirmation hearings.

But the River Gee County Senator noted that as law-abiding citizens of this Republic who are privileged to serve their people in the high offices of the Senate, they must "never, ever disobey" or be seen to disobey the order of courts.

Wesseh said the Senate should obey the court's order, whether the order is expressed, implied, or constructive.

In a note written to the Senate Judiciary Chair Senator Cllr. Varney G. Sherman, Wesseh said there has been some pedestrian view that once an agency or branch of government is constitutionally charged, it can not be prohibited from



Senator Conmany B. Wesseh

Court from performing its duties. Giving his perspective on the Supreme Court's recent intervention halting Cllr. Frank Musa Dean's planned Senate confirmation hearing, Senator Wesseh argued that the "pedestrian view" suggesting that the Supreme Court could not halt

of Cllr. Dean through the Supreme Court.

The Court subsequently issued a stay order on the Senate hearing and ordered the relevant parties to appear before the court.

When confirmed, Dean will

▶ CONT'D page 11

Pay with MoMo!

Dial *156*3#

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

© 0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 © 0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia